



EPA Extends Public Comment Period on Draft Reissuance of Land Ban Exemption

Romulus, Michigan

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 5, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604, is accepting comments on its proposed reissuance of a land ban exemption for Class I hazardous fluid injection wells for Republic Industrial & Energy Solutions LLC (RIES) located at 28470 Citrin Drive, Romulus, Wayne County, Michigan. Two wells are currently used to inject hazardous wastewater received at the RIES facility. RIES provided a petition requesting to reissue its land ban exemption for these two wells. The public comment period for this exemption is being extended because RIES provided revised operational conditions and related computational modeling during the public comment period on EPA's proposed exemption decision.

With this document, EPA is extending the comment period on the proposed RIES land ban exemption reissuance through December 17, 2025, for the limited purpose of obtaining public comment on additional information that may be relevant to the development of EPA's final decision. The additional information includes data, analyses, or information received during the comment period. The additional information was therefore not available at the time of the previous public comment period announcement.

RIES has submitted a comment during the comment period. In the comment, RIES proposes to change the combined maximum monthly average injection rate of both RIES wells and maximum combined annual injection volume. The comment proposes that the maximum injection rate be decreased from a monthly average of 166 gallons per minute (gpm) to 130 gpm. The comment also proposes that the maximum combined annual injection rate be reduced from 87,249,600 gallons per year to 68,374,800 gallons per year. EPA plans to incorporate the proposed maximum monthly average injection rate and the proposed maximum combined annual injection volume in a revised exemption, subject to EPA's confirmation that the computational model RIES submitted in the comment period includes reliable predictions under 40 C.F.R. § 148.20(a).

Among other new information, EPA reviewed records showing a stratigraphic test hole was drilled in 1915 approximately 5.8 miles from the site of the RIES wells and an oil production

well was drilled in 1937 approximately 7.07 miles away from the site of the RIES wells. The records indicate that the maximum depths of these wells would have been within the confining zone or injection zone for the RIES wells. To address these wells, RIES provided revised petition documents to EPA which included updated proposed operational conditions for the RIES wells and revised modeling incorporating these new conditions. As discussed below, the operational changes reduce the “cone of influence” of the RIES wells so that it does not reach the wells located 5.8 miles and 7.07 miles away.

The updated modeling resulted in RIES calculating a smaller “area of review” (AoR) delineated by the combined maximum extent of both the predicted critical pressure front and injected waste plume after 10,000 years. This new AoR has a smaller radius of approximately 5.69 miles, except where the 10,000-year predicted waste plume extends an additional 0.40 miles south from the critical pressure front. The lower average injection rate of 130 gpm would be included as a condition in an exemption. RIES also conducted a well search over the revised AoR and provided completion and plugging reports showing that the three wells it found in the revised AoR are properly constructed or plugged or that there is sufficient intact thickness of the confining zone separating the bottom of these wells from the top of the injection zone.

It should not be assumed that the specific information identified in this document is the full sum of information received in comments that will be considered or that will influence the Agency’s decisions on the exemption. In the interests of ensuring that the public has had a full and complete opportunity to comment on the information that EPA has so far identified as impacting EPA’s decision on the exemption, EPA is extending the comment period for the limited purpose of allowing the public to comment on the new information and the anticipated updated conditions to the proposed exemption. EPA is not reopening the comment period on any other aspect of the exemption. This is not an opportunity for the public to supplement their comments on other aspects of the exemption, or to raise issues that could have been raised during the original comment period. Comments submitted on any issues other than those specifically identified in this document will be considered “late comments” on the proposed exemption. EPA will not respond to such comments, and they will not be considered part of the administrative record.

You may submit written comments about EPA’s planned exemption reissuance on or before December 17, 2025, by 11:59 PM Eastern Time to Docket No. EPA-R05-OW-2025-1775 at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-R05-OW-2025-1775>. If you are unable to submit electronically via the docket or would like additional information including that maintained in the administrative record, please call Colin Murphy at (312) 886-6941. You may review the proposed exemption reissuance at <https://www.epa.gov/node/88753#public-notice>.