



FACT SHEET

Proposed Decision to Issue UIC Permit Pratt Zero Carbon, LLC, Class VI Well Pratt, Pratt County, Kansas – March 2026

REGION 7: Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Nine Tribal Nations

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 invites the public to review and comment on its proposed decision to issue an Underground Injection Control (UIC) Class VI well permit to Pratt Zero Carbon, LLC (PZC), located near the city of Pratt, Pratt County, Kansas.

Class VI wells inject carbon dioxide (CO₂) into deep rock formations. This injection process is also called geologic sequestration. If issued, the permit would authorize a 12-year injection period for the CO₂ stream generated during ethanol production at this site.

EPA has authority to protect underground sources of drinking water (USDWs) and make permitting decisions based on underlying geology. Other federal, state, and local agencies have authority relevant to surface activities, such as transportation, and to address protection of other resources such as surface water and air quality.

BACKGROUND

PZC has requested a UIC permit for the operation of a Class VI geologic sequestration well located approximately ½ mile from the facility in Pratt, Kansas. The permit, if issued, would allow injection of CO₂ for long-term storage into the Shawnee Group, a rock formation between 3,282 and 3,670 feet below ground surface, and the Lansing Kansas City Group, a rock formation between 3,804 and 4,165 feet below ground surface. PZC would be permitted to inject up to 225,000 metric tons of CO₂ per year over the injection period of 12 years, for a total permitted injection volume of 2.7 million metric tons of CO₂. This proposed project includes monitoring wells within and above the injection zone, as well as five shallow groundwater monitoring wells.

Pursuant to the draft permit, during the 12-year injection period and for 50 years after injection has

ceased, known as the post-injection site care (PISC) period, PZC will need to test and monitor the condition of the wells, the injection pressure, and the location and size of the injected CO₂ plume.

These requirements are to ensure that the injection wells work properly during and after injection, determine if changes in operation or monitoring are needed to protect USDWs, observe how the movement of the CO₂ compares to projected modeling, and confirm that it is safe to close the project site at the end of the PISC period.

PERMIT ISSUANCE PROCESS

To reach a proposed permitting decision and prepare the draft permit, EPA performed a thorough review and verification of the project-specific technical, financial, and scientific information submitted by PZC. EPA determined the proposed injection would comply with UIC regulations under the Safe Drinking Water Act (40 CFR 144).

Injection and Confining Zone: Carbon-dioxide injection is limited to the Shawnee and Lansing Kansas City Groups. These formations are separated from the lowest USDW, the Fullerton and Holdrege Formations, by approximately 3,000 feet of rock, including multiple zones of shales, tight limestones, and thick anhydrite and salt layers.

EPA has reviewed information provided by PZC, including maps, well logs, and subsurface modeling. EPA determined that the regional and local geologic features at the site are appropriate to receive the proposed volume of CO₂ without fracturing the injection formation, and the confining zones will provide suitable containment to not endanger USDWs, as required under 40 CFR 146.83.

Area of Review and Corrective Action: The proposed Area of Review (AoR) extends to an area of 1.4 square miles identified by modeling that

used regional information to predict CO₂ plume and pressure front movement in the subsurface as per 40 CFR 146.84(c)(1).

Records indicate that two wellbores within the modelled AoR require corrective action. The draft permit proposes phased plugging and abandonment plans for each wellbore, as per 40 CFR 146.84(d).

Re-evaluation of the AoR through the assessment of operational and monitoring data is required every five years for the life of the project to verify CO₂ plume and pressure front behaviors, as per 40 CFR 146.86(e). Significant changes from the initial predicted model would trigger the need to revise project-specific plans and potential modifications to the permit, as per 40 CFR 144.39.

EPA has determined this permit application adequately meets the requirements of 40 CFR 146.84.

Construction Requirements: Well designs and existing and proposed construction plans are to be constructed and remediated with materials and cements that can withstand exposure to CO₂ and formation fluids and that prevent the movement of fluids into or between USDWs for the life of the project, as per 40 CFR 146.86. The well will be equipped with an automatic surface shut-off system that will shut off the well if any permitted operating parameters exceed permit limitations.

Monitoring and Reporting Requirements: PZC will implement a Testing and Monitoring Plan that stipulates testing, observation, analysis, and frequencies through direct and indirect methods for well integrity (40 CFR 146.89), injection zone integrity (fall-off testing), CO₂ stream composition, corrosion, injection pressure, flow rate, volume, annulus and differential pressures, shallow and deep groundwater quality, USDW quality, soil gas, ecological stress, seismicity, and other testing and analyses. PZC will report all data to the EPA in accordance with 40 CFR 144.54 and 146.91. The Testing and Monitoring Plan proposed by PZC meets the requirements of 40 CFR 146.90.

Emergency and Remedial Response: PZC has developed a site-specific Emergency and Remedial Response Plan (ERRP), an enforceable part of the permit, that describes the responses

that would be taken to address adverse events and identifies key staff, equipment, and other resources available to support emergency and remedial response events. EPA finds that the provisions within the ERRP would facilitate expeditious responses and prevent or mitigate harm to public health and USDWs, as per 40 CFR 146.94.

Plugging and Abandonment: PZC has proposed an Injection Well Plugging Plan for environmentally protective well plugging at the cessation of injection operations. This plan meets the requirements in 40 CFR 146.92. Wells will be plugged using approved materials that are compatible with CO₂ and formation fluids to ensure wells do not serve as a conduit for fluid movement into USDWs.

Post-Injection Site Care and Site Closure:

Under the proposed permit, PZC will be required to implement the PISC Plan that, following the cessation of injection, would convert the injection well into a monitoring well; monitor groundwater quality; and track the position of the CO₂ plume and pressure front for at least 50 years.

After 50 years, a demonstration of USDW non-endangerment can be made based on monitoring and site-specific data, and the EPA may authorize the site for closure. The authorization for closure would require PZC to plug all monitoring wells with appropriate materials to ensure they cannot serve as conduits for fluid movement and would restore the site to its original condition. The PISC Plan, as proposed by PZC, meets the requirements in 40 CFR 146.93.

Financial Responsibility: PZC has demonstrated, and will maintain, adequate financial responsibility to perform all needed corrective action on wells within the AoR (\$1.875 million), injection well conversion (\$150,000), plug the injection well (\$500,000), perform all required post-injection site care (\$22.3 million), close the site (\$1.5 million), and conduct any needed emergency and remedial response measures (\$10.6 million) to satisfy the requirements in 40 CFR 146.85. The permit requires that these cost estimates are updated annually. These provisions ensure that resources are available to perform these USDW-protective activities without using public funds.

Endangered Species Act: The Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1531) and its regulations require EPA to ensure that any action it authorizes does not jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or adversely affect their critical habitat(s) as per 40 CFR 144.4(c) and (e). After reviewing PZC's third party site assessment, EPA has determined that the proposed project is not likely to adversely affect any listed species that could occur in areas potentially impacted by the project.

National Historic Preservation Act: The National Historic Preservation Act (16 USC 470), and its regulations, require EPA to consider the effects of its undertakings on historic properties as per 40 CFR 144.4(b). After reviewing PZC's third party site assessment, EPA has determined that the proposed project will not affect any historic properties.

PROPOSED PERMIT ISSUANCE

In accordance with 40 CFR 124.15, the proposed permit would become effective immediately upon issuance if no public comments are received that request changes to the draft permit. However, should the EPA receive public comments and determine the issuance of the permit is still appropriate, the permit would become effective 45 days after the date of issuance. In accordance with 40 CFR 144.36(a), the permit would be in effect for the 62-year duration of the project unless they are otherwise modified, revoked, reissued, or terminated as provided in 40 CFR 144.39, 144.40, and 144.41. Authorization to inject under the permit may be granted following construction of the well and compliance with additional requirements as outlined in the permit and regulations in 40 CFR 146.82, 146.86, 146.87, and 146.89.

PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

EPA encourages public participation and will hold an information session from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m., followed by a public hearing starting at 7:00 p.m., on Apr. 9, 2026, located at:

Pratt Community Center
619 North Main Street
Pratt, KS 67124

For reasonable accommodation requests contact Euleashia Embry at 800-223-0425 or embry.euleashia@epa.gov.

Please use the contact information below to register to attend the public information session and/or the public hearing. EPA is also soliciting written comments on the proposed permit for this project. The Administrative Record for this action will remain open for public comment until **Apr. 19, 2026**. Written comments must be submitted no later than Apr. 19, 2026, to www.regulations.gov or the EPA contact listed below.

The Administrative Record, which includes the proposed permit, permit application, and all relevant documents and correspondence related to this permitting action, is available for public review at the EPA Region 7 Office in Lenexa, Kansas, and online at www.regulations.gov, under docket number **EPA-R07-OW-2026-1585**.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact:

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