



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

Sent via email only

January 12, 2024

Mehagan Hopkins
Carbon Capture and Sequestration Permitting Lead
Chevron New Energies
9525 Camino Media Bakersfield, CA 93311

Re: Administrative Review - Notice of Incomplete Application
Chevron Kern River Eastridge CCS Project
Underground Injection Control (UIC) Permit Application
Class VI Pre-Construction Permit Application No. R9UIC-CA6-FY24-1.1-1.4

Dear Mehagan Hopkins:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9 (EPA) has received the Chevron U.S.A., Inc. (Chevron) UIC Class VI Pre-Construction permit application via the Geologic Sequestration Data Tool (GSDT) on December 15, 2023 for four (4) proposed injection wells located within the Kern River Oil Field in Kern County, California. EPA has reviewed the permit application, pursuant to 40 CFR §124.3(c), and determined it is incomplete. Please provide the additional information identified in the Enclosure to this letter to make the application administratively complete.

Please submit the requested information by February 12, 2024. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Calvin Ho at (415) 972-3262, or call me at (415) 972-3971.

Sincerely,

David Albright
Manager, Groundwater Protection Section

Enclosure: Request for Additional Information

cc (via email): David Wessels, Chevron U.S.A., Inc.
Alexei Vyssotski, Chevron U.S.A., Inc.
Chris Jones, CalGEM Central District
Emily Reader, CalGEM
Alex Olsen, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Janice Zinky, CA State Water Resources Control Board

ENCLOSURE
Request for Additional Information

General Application Information

- A listing of all permits or construction approvals received or applied for under the following programs: [40 CFR §144.31(e)(6)]
 - (i) Hazardous Waste Management program under RCRA.
 - (ii) UIC program under SDWA.
 - (iii) NPDES program under CWA.
 - (iv) PSD program under CAA.
 - (v) Nonattainment program under CAA.
 - (vi) NESHAPS preconstruction approval under CAA.
 - (vii) Ocean dumping permits under MPRSA.
 - (viii) Dredge and fill permits under 404 of CWA.
 - (ix) Other relevant environmental permits, including State permits.

Please specify for each of the listed programs above whether a permit or approval has been received or applied for (or if it will be) and if not, please clarify that no permit or approval is required.

Planned Well Operations Information

- A proposed maximum daily injection rate by volume and/or mass of the CO₂ stream for each injector. [40 CFR §146.82(a)(7)(i)]
- A proposed average injection pressure for each injector. [40 CFR §146.82(a)(7)(ii)]

Testing and Monitoring Plan Information

- Procedures for running the oxygen activation log. [40 CFR 146.90(e)]
- A narrative description of planned direct method(s) to track the CO₂ plume. [40 CFR 146.90(g)(1)]
- A narrative description of planned indirect method(s) to track the CO₂ pressure front. [40 CFR 146.90(g)(2)]

Injection Well Construction Information

- Temperature of the CO₂ stream (before injection). [40 CFR §146.86(b)(1)(ix)]

Considerations of Other Federal Laws

Please note that the information described in this section is not considered as part of the application completeness evaluation but should be contemplated by the permit applicant and permitting authority early in the UIC permitting process.

40 CFR §144.4 requires that EPA consider the potential applicability of several other federal laws, including the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act (FWCA). Below is some guidance for specific consideration of ESA and NHPA compliance.

Endangered Species Act (ESA)

The ESA requires EPA to ensure, in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), that any action authorized by EPA is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or adversely affect its critical habitat. To facilitate EPA's consideration of ESA compliance, EPA suggests that the permit applicant use FWS's project planning tool to map out their project area and do a search for potential endangered species within the project area. The tool can be accessed here: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>.

Based on the results of the search, the permit applicant may need to hire a Wildlife Consultant to provide additional analysis or otherwise show how their project will not cause harm to endangered species with habitat located near the project site. Please provide a report depicting the results of the FWS project planning tool, including a map of the project area and any listed endangered or threatened species habitat near the site. Please include any comments or reports made by a Wildlife Consultant, if applicable.

National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)

NHPA §106 requires a federal agency to take certain steps before it commits to any "undertaking," including the issuance of a permit or license, that has the potential to adversely affect property that is listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register for Historic Places. The NHPA requires EPA, before issuing a permit, to adopt measures when feasible to mitigate potential adverse effects of the permitted activity and properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The Act's requirements are to be implemented in cooperation with State Historic Preservation Officers and upon notice to, and when appropriate, in consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

To facilitate EPA's consideration of NHPA compliance for a proposed project, EPA suggests that the permit applicant identify the Historic Places designated in the National Register for Historic Places (<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/database-research.htm>) in close proximity to the project site. Based on the results of their review of the National Register of Historic Places listings in the county where the project site is located, the permit applicant may need to hire an archaeologist to provide additional analysis or otherwise show how their project will not adversely affect the identified historic places located near the project site. Please provide a list of the Historic Places near the project site. Please include any comments or reports made by an archaeologist, if applicable.

Additional Comments

- Some cells in Table 22 of the Narrative show "Error! Reference source not found".
- There are missing table numbers in the first paragraph on page 7 of the Construction Details.