

## Review of Carbon Review of Carbon TerraVault (CTV) Responses to EPA's Questions about Proposed Testing and Monitoring Activities at the A1-A2 Class VI Project

In January 2022, EPA provided questions to CTV (*blue, italic text*) about proposed injection and post-injection monitoring activities submitted with CTV's Class VI permit application (dated August 30, 2021) for the proposed Carbon TerraVault (CTV)-Elk Hills Class VI geologic sequestration (GS) project. CTV provided an updated Testing and Monitoring Plan and PISC and Site Closure Plan to EPA on March 31, 2022. EPA's evaluation of how the updated plans address its questions is presented in **red** below. CTV responded to EPA's request on November 4, 2022. EPA's evaluation of the response is in **green text**. Requests for revisions and additional information are presented in **green, bold, and italic** below.

### Carbon Dioxide Stream Analysis

To meet the requirements of 40 CFR 146.90(a), CTV plans to analyze the carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) stream quarterly for the constituents identified in Table 1 of the Testing and Monitoring Plan, which is replicated below.

Parameter	Analytical Method(s)
Oxygen	ASTM D1945
Nitrogen	ASTM D1945
Carbon Monoxide	ASTM D1945
Total hydrocarbons	ASTM D1945
Methane	ASTM D1945
Hydrogen Sulfide	ASTM D1945/D6228
CO <sub>2</sub> purity	ASTM D1945
Total Sulfur	ASTM 3246

There are no EPA-approved analytical methods for CO<sub>2</sub> injection streams, and the methods listed on Table 1 are not included among EPA-approved wastewater analytical methods in 40 CFR Part 136 (nor are they used in other Class VI CO<sub>2</sub> injection permits). Many of the analytes are to be analyzed using ASTM D1945, which is the Standard Test Method for Analysis of Natural Gas by Gas Chromatography. Based on the physical states of natural gas and CO<sub>2</sub>, this test may be appropriate for CO<sub>2</sub> injectate analysis; however, no specific information or justification was provided in the application materials and there is no publicly available (free-of-charge) information available about these ASTM methods.

Table 4 of the Quality Assurance Surveillance Plan (QASP), Summary of Analytical Parameters for CO<sub>2</sub> Stream, also lists analysis of ethanol using method EPA 8260B. Although there is no EPA-approved analytical method for ethanol analysis in wastewater, this method is acceptable.

CTV is evaluating several sources of CO<sub>2</sub> as injectate for the project, and states that it will notify EPA prior to switching or adding CO<sub>2</sub> sources so that the sampling procedures can be reassessed. EPA will require that a sample be analyzed prior to initiation of injection.

CTV states that it will increase the sampling frequency if there is a significant change in the chemical or physical characteristics of the CO<sub>2</sub> injectate, a change in the CO<sub>2</sub> injectate source, or if the facility or injection well experiences a downtime over more than 30 days. Any change in the injection fluid would require advance notice and written approval from EPA.

#### **Questions/Requests for the Applicant:**

- *Please add analysis of ethanol using EPA method 8260B to Table 1 to be consistent with Table 4 of the QASP. Ethanol was added as an analyte as requested, using ISBT methods. However, Table 4 of the QASP references ASTM methods, and should reflect the methods described in the Testing and Monitoring Plan. (See the discussion of the updated QASP below.)*
- *CTV states that quarterly sampling will begin three months after the date of authorization of injection; please revise this timeline to begin three months after the commencement of injection so that the testing schedule is consistent with injection operations. The applicant made the requested edit in the first paragraph, but not in subsequent discussions under Sample Location and Frequency.*

#### **Follow-up Questions for the Applicant:**

- *Please make global edits (e.g., under Sample Location and Frequency) to reflect that quarterly injectate sampling will begin three months after commencement of injection. CTV made edits in the subsection, "Sampling Location and Frequency" and globally across Attachment C to clarify that quarterly sampling will begin three months after the commencement of injection. The response is acceptable.*

#### **Considerations based on the results of Pre-Operational Testing/Modeling Updates:**

- *EPA will require a baseline injectate sample to be analyzed for the same parameters as in the Testing and Monitoring Plan prior to commencement of injection.*
- *If this sample or any updated information about injection formation fluids indicates that any injectate constituents may lead to geochemical reactions that could affect operations or change aquifer properties, additional analytical parameters for the injectate analysis may be requested.*

## **Injection Well Testing**

The subsections below describe: the planned quarterly corrosion monitoring; continuous recording of injection pressure, rate, and volume to evaluate internal mechanical integrity; and annual external MITs that will meet the requirements at 40 CFR 146.90(b), (c), and (e). This portion of the testing and monitoring evaluation addresses both injection wells (Well 357-7R and Well 355-7R); however, CTV will need to provide a Testing and Monitoring Plan for each well, with unique well-specific testing (particularly for corrosion monitoring and continuous monitoring) that reflects each well's design.

## Corrosion Monitoring

CTV proposes to conduct corrosion monitoring using the coupon method. The corrosion coupons will be in the pipeline that feeds CO<sub>2</sub> injectate to the injectors. Corrosion monitoring will occur between the compressor and wellhead, according to Table 1 of the QASP.

Samples of the materials used in the construction of the pipeline and injection well that are exposed to CO<sub>2</sub> injectate will be monitored for corrosion using corrosion coupons. Representative materials will be weighed, measured, and photographed prior to installation. The coupons will be sent to a lab and photographed, measured, visually inspected, and weighed to a resolution of 0.1 milligram. The specific methods by which the samples will be handled are not described in the testing and monitoring plan; however, Table 5 of the QASP indicates that analytical methods include NACE TM0169/G31 and EPA 1110A SW846.

CTV says that, if the corrosion rate is greater than 0.3 mils/year, it will initiate consultation with regulatory agencies (but does not specify which agencies), and may run a casing inspection log to assess the thickness and quality of the casing.

The proposed coupons will be composed of the materials summarized in Attachment C, Table 3. The materials identified for corrosion monitoring were compared to the list of proposed construction materials for the injection well in Attachment G (Construction details) for Well 357-7R (submitted with the initial permit application on August 30, 2021) and Well 355-7R (submitted December 2, 2021). The first two columns of the table below are adapted from Table 3 of the Testing and Monitoring Plan (list of equipment coupon with material of construction), with review notes in the right-hand columns.

Coupon (Attachment C, Table 3)	Construction Material (Attachment C, Table 3)	Review Notes based on Information in Attachment G	
		Well 357-7R	Well 355-7R
Pipeline	CS A106B	Not identified	Not identified
Casing	N80 Steel	Intermediate and Long-string: N80 (pg. 2)	Intermediate and Long-string: N-80, K-55 (Table 5)
Tubing	13 CR-95	13 CR-95 (pg. 2)	L-80 (Table 6)
Wellhead	Stainless steel	Not identified	Not identified

The coupons proposed for corrosion monitoring of the casing and tubing match those described in Attachment G for injector 357-7R. However, it appears that Well 355-7R has different construction, and a corrosion testing program specific to the 355-7R injector is needed. Although the materials of construction for the pipelines and wellheads are not described in Attachment G, it is assumed that coupons would be selected to represent these materials.

### Questions/Requests for the Applicant:

- *Please describe the corrosion coupons for a corrosion testing program specific to the 355-7R injector. Additional details were added to the sample description text regarding the coupon usage and application. CTV also provided additional details on Table 3 including N80 steel for*

*casing and chrome alloy for the tubing; however, these do not match the materials described in the well construction descriptions.*

- *For completeness, please include the details about the analytical methods for corrosion coupon monitoring that are described in Table 5 of the QASP into the Testing and Monitoring Plan. Attachment C references an ASTM method for prep/cleaning/evaluating corrosion test specimens. This differs from the QASP, which references NACE and EPA methods.*
- *Please provide the list of construction materials to be used for the pipeline and wellhead so that they can be compared to the proposed coupon materials for the corrosion testing program. Table 3 has been updated to include coupons made of carbon steel for the pipeline and chrome alloy for the wellhead; the response is acceptable at this point in the permit application review. EPA will need to verify that the corrosion coupons for the pipeline and wellhead are appropriate to the materials described in the well specifications when they are provided.*

**Follow-up Questions for the Applicant:**

- ***Please explain how using N80 steel coupons and chrome alloy are appropriate for monitoring the casing and tubing of each of the wells, as constructed.*** *CTV added text to Attachment C explaining that K-55 grade sections of the 7" casing will be above the packer and behind tubing and will not be directly exposed to the CO<sub>2</sub> injectate. The wellbore materials expected to come into contact with the CO<sub>2</sub> injectate include the N80 grade long string casing and the CRA tubing. Table 3 reflects this information (and is consistent with well construction information submitted by CTV in December 2022), and the response is acceptable.*
- ***Please modify the Testing and Monitoring Plan or the QASP so that the analytical methods for corrosion monitoring are consistent.*** *CTV edited the "Sample Handling and Measurement" section to reference NACE TM0169/G31 and EPA 1110A SW846. The response is acceptable.*

### Continuous Monitoring to Evaluate Internal Mechanical Integrity

CTV will install and use continuous recording devices to monitor: injection pressure, rate, and volume; the pressure on the annulus between the tubing and the long string casing; the annulus fluid volume added; and the temperature of the CO<sub>2</sub> stream, as required by 40 CFR 146.88(e)(1), 146.89(b), and 146.90(b).

Surface injection pressure will be set to a minimum of 1,200 psi, eventually reaching 2,000 psi at the cessation of injection operations, as noted in the discussion of "Operational Procedures" in the permit application narrative. For Well 357-7R, the surface and downhole pressure gauges will ensure the maximum allowable injection pressures of 3,800 psi (surface) and 6,100 psi (downhole) are not exceeded. For Well 355-7R, the surface and downhole pressure gauges will ensure the maximum allowable injection pressures of 2,900 psi (surface) and 6,108 psi (downhole) are not exceeded.

Additionally, a surface pressure gauge will be installed on the annulus to monitor the annular pressure and ensure the integrity of the packer and tubing. However, the annular pressure needed to signify a mechanical integrity issue is not indicated by CTV.

The maximum injection rate of 30 million standard cubic feet per day (mmscfpd) and average injection rate of 10-15 mmscfpd will be monitored by a surface flowmeter. The calculation of injection volumes will be calculated using the injection flow rate and CO<sub>2</sub> stream density and will be used to ensure the maximum expected injection volume does not exceed 10 million tonnes.

Temperature gauges will be employed at surface and downhole to monitor the temperature of the injectate and ensure it is consistent with the expected temperature of the CO<sub>2</sub> stream at a given depth.

Additional evaluation of the well monitoring equipment will be provided in the Well Construction reports for the injection wells.

Table 2 of Attachment C lists sampling devices, locations, and frequencies for continuous monitoring and is replicated below.

Parameter	Device(s)	Location	Min. Sampling Frequency	Min. Recording Frequency
Injection pressure	Pressure Gauge	Surface and Downhole	30 seconds	30 seconds
Injection rate	Flowmeter	Surface	30 seconds	30 seconds
Injection volume	Calculated	Surface	30 seconds	30 seconds
Annular pressure	Pressure Gauge	Surface	30 seconds	30 seconds
CO <sub>2</sub> stream temperature	Temperature gauge	Surface and Downhole	30 seconds	30 seconds

**Questions/Requests for the Applicant:**

- Please clarify the location/depths of the downhole temperature and pressure gauges listed on Table 2. These should also be depicted on the well schematics. Table 2 contains information regarding whether the gauges are at surface or downhole but does not include the actual depths. This information will need to be provided—and included on the well schematics—once the final well construction and equipment have been determined. CTV updated Table 2 to present the downhole depths of sampling devices for both injection wells. These depths match the Injection & Monitoring Well Schematics\_v2 document added by reference to the Monitoring Devices, Location, and Frequency subsection. The response is acceptable.
- Please explicitly define the annular pressure deviation that would warrant a mechanical integrity investigation. CTV did not provide the requested information.

**Follow-up Questions/Requests for the Applicant:**

- Please define the annular pressure deviation that would warrant a mechanical integrity investigation, as requested. CTV expanded the Annular Pressure Monitoring subsection to explain the annular monitoring methodology and the pressure deviations that would warrant investigation. These deviations include a pressure decrease to 0 psi, pressure drops below 100 psi that cannot be stabilized after three attempts, and pressure increases above 1000 psi. The response is acceptable.

**Considerations based on the results of Pre-Operational Testing/Modeling Updates:**

- The maximum pressure thresholds identified for continuous monitoring and the annulus pressure in Attachment C may need to be adjusted to reflect the final permit conditions (e.g., if they change based on the results of pre-operational testing).

**External MITs**

To verify external mechanical integrity as required at 40 CFR 146.89(c) and 146.90, CTV proposes to perform MITs annually. CTV also proposes to perform these same MITs prior to commencing injection.

Table 6 of Attachment C lists the MITs to be performed and is reproduced below.

Test Description	Location
Temperature Log	Along wellbore via wireline well log
Radioactive Tracer Survey (RTS)	Along wellbore via iodine

On page 9 of Attachment C, CTV only indicates that it will run a temperature log (and not a radioactive tracer log) and notes that if it elects to conduct an alternate MIT, it will request approval from EPA. (EPA notes that, if CTV opts to use an alternative MIT, the Class VI permit would need to be modified to incorporate this test.) CTV presents procedures for MIT temperature logging but does not describe the radioactive tracer logging procedures.

**Questions/Requests for the Applicant:**

- *Please revise the temperature logging procedure to include a minimum of 4 hours between runs. Additionally, please provide more extensive temperature logging procedures, e.g., in accordance with the document, "Appendix E – Temperature Logging Procedures – U.S.E.P.A. Region IX," which is available online at: <https://archive.epa.gov/region9/water/archive/web/pdf/appendixetemplogreqs.pdf>. The text has not been updated to incorporate the details about the temperature logging procedures that EPA requests, and some of the logging details that EPA requires have been left out.*
- *Please provide a detailed description of the MIT testing procedures for RTS. RTS appears to have been removed as a MIT testing procedure and was replaced with continuous distributed temperature sensing. This is acceptable as a secondary MIT, since temperature logs are an approved MIT method. However, consistent with 40 CFR 146.89, CTV must perform the temperature log on the injection well.*
- *The Emergency and Remedial Response Plan includes scenarios for monitoring well MI failures, however no MIT of the monitoring wells is described in the Testing and Monitoring Plan. Please provide procedures and plans for performing MITs in the deep monitoring wells. The revised plan indicates that CTV will use DTS (a fiber optic continuous temperature monitoring system) on the monitoring wells; while this is not an approved MIT method (i.e., that would meet the requirements on 146.89 for the injection well), it may be appropriate for monitoring well MITs, but additional information is required (see below).*
- *Please include MITs on the monitoring wells and the EOR wells to be used for deep monitoring as part of the Testing and Monitoring Plan. The text was updated to include DTS on the deep monitoring wells, no MITs are explicitly described for the EOR wells to be used for monitoring.*
- *Attachment G describes Annulus Pressure Testing Procedures for Monitoring Well 327-7R-RD1 & 342-7R-RD1. Please also include internal and external MITs during the injection and post-injection phases and describe these in Attachments C and E. This was not included in the updated attachments.*

**Follow-up Questions/Requests for the Applicant:**

- ***Please explicitly state in the introduction to this section of the Testing and Monitoring Plan***

*that CTV will, at a minimum, perform a temperature log on the injection well (i.e., not that it will perform “one of two methods in Table 6”). CTV added the requested statement to the new External Mechanical Integrity Testing section, indicating that, at a minimum, CTV will perform a temperature log on the injection wells. The response is acceptable.*

- ***Please provide additional detail about the temperature logging procedures or indicate in the plan that CTV plans to perform temperature logging exactly as described in the EPA guidance.*** CTV added the subsection “Description of Temperature Logging with Wireline” to provide the requested level of detail about the temperature logging procedures. The subsection now includes specific procedures that are consistent with EPA guidelines, and the response is acceptable.
- ***Please provide additional information on the DTS and its suitability as a secondary MIT method.*** CTV added the subsections “Description of Temperature Logging using Distributed Temperature Sensing (DTS)” and “Description of Passive Temperature Logging using DTS” to justify the use of DTS as a MIT method for the monitoring wells. CTV clarified that DTS will not be installed on the Monterey Formation A3-A11 wells, though DTS will be installed on other monitoring wells for passive external MI monitoring. The response is acceptable given that CTV DTS is used in addition to performing temperature logging, as required at 40 CFR 146.89.
- ***Will DTS be employed in the EOR wells that CTV plans to use for monitoring? If so, please state this in the plan.*** CTV clarified that DTS will be installed on the tubing string from surface to the packer on the injection wells, the injection zone monitoring wells, and the above confining zone monitoring wells. CTV added a subsection on Internal MIT for Monterey Formation A3-A11 Monitoring Wells to explain that the A3-A11 monitoring wells are not configured with tubing and packer that would allow SAPT or annulus monitoring; therefore, they plan to perform fluid sampling for CO<sub>2</sub> which will serve as a proxy for internal MI of the A3-A11 wells. The presence of CO<sub>2</sub> in the wellbore would indicate leakage, in which case they would notify EPA. Specific testing details and parameters for fluid sampling in wells A3-A11 are given in Tables 8 and 9, respectively. The response is acceptable. However, based on Table 4 of the PISC and Site Closure Plan, it does not appear that CTV plans to perform fluid sampling in the deep monitoring wells in the post-injection phase.
- ***Please include internal and external MITs for Monitoring Well 327-7R-RD1 & 342-7R-RD1 during the injection and post-injection phases and describe these in Attachments C and E as requested.*** CTV stated in their response document that Well 342-7R-RD1 is not a monitoring well in the project, and it appears to have been removed throughout the permit application. Only Monitoring Well 327-7R-RD1 is planned for use in the Etchegoin Formation. The updated Attachment C now has two separate subsections for internal and external MITs. Table 6 describes internal MITs that will be performed on Well 327-7R-RD1 and includes testing frequencies for the injection and post-injection phases. Table 7 gives potential external MIT methods that may be performed on monitoring wells; however, external MITs for monitoring wells are not explicitly identified. CTV states that they will utilize an approved method under 40 CFR 146.89(c), and CTV may seek future EPA approval for use of DTS.

**Additional Follow-up Questions/Requests for the Applicant:**

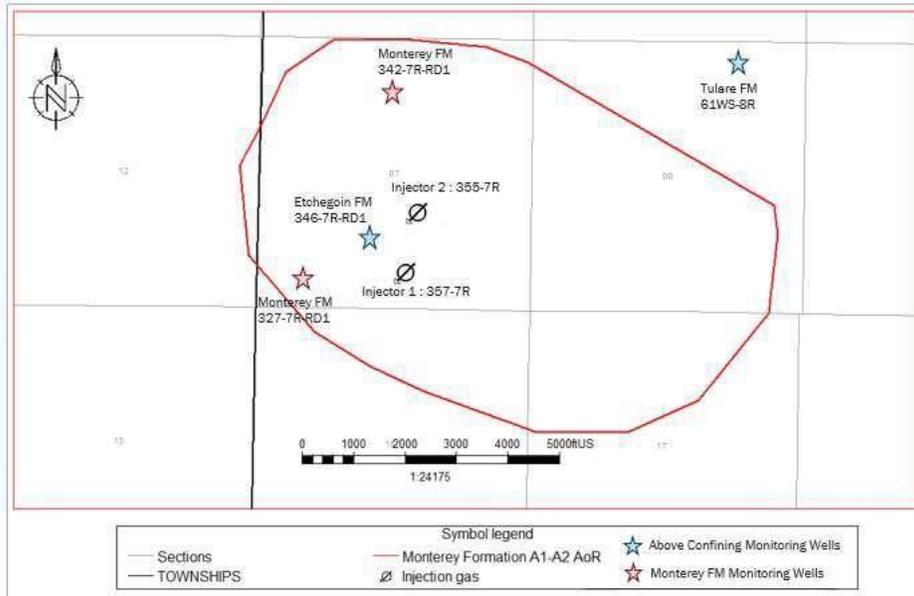
- Please confirm that at least one external MIT will be performed on the monitoring wells.
- Please include quarterly sampling in the A3-A11 wells on Table 4 of the PISC and Site Closure Plan to provide consistency/continuity of injection-phase monitoring.

## Groundwater Quality Monitoring

CTV proposes to monitor groundwater quality in existing wells above the confining zone using direct and indirect methods. To meet the requirements of 40 CFR 146.90(d), CTV proposes to perform the following monitoring above the confining zone:

- Annual injection-phase water quality monitoring and continuous pressure and temperature monitoring via one well located outside of, and to the northeast of, the delineated AoR in the Upper Tulare Formation (the lowermost USDW) and the Lower Tulare Formation. Post-injection water quality sampling will continue annually and continuous pressure monitoring in the USDW is proposed.
- Continuous monitoring of pressure and temperature in the Etchegoin Formation within a monitoring well located to the west of the injection wells.

Attachment E does not describe any monitoring in the Etchegoin or the Monterey Formation A3-A11 Sands after cessation of injection. However, EPA will likely require that post injection phase monitoring



be an extension of injection phase monitoring to confirm continued demonstration that USDWs are not endangered and to inform the non-endangerment demonstration required at 40 CFR 146.93(b)(3).

Figure 2 of the QASP shows the locations of all monitoring wells associated with the project and is reproduced below.

The Etchegoin Formation monitoring well appears to be situated within the AoR and in the anticipated path of the CO<sub>2</sub> plume and pressure front (based on information in Attachment B). The Upper/Lower Tulare Formation monitoring well is outside of the delineated AoR to the northeast of the injection wells, and down plume. Given that the Tulare Formation does not hold much water within the AoR, this

location, while not in the same direction as the deeper monitoring wells may be most appropriate to allow geochemical sampling, although it is unlikely that CO<sub>2</sub> will travel that far down the limb of the anticline. CTV states that additional Upper Tulare monitoring wells will be drilled if increased pressure is observed in the Etchegoin Formation monitoring well or water quality changes in the Tulare Formation that is due to Monterey Formation A1-A2 CO<sub>2</sub> injection. However, it is unclear how a linkage of water quality/pressure changes to CO<sub>2</sub> injection (and not other activities) would be made.

The applicant proposes to monitor water quality in the Upper/Lower Tulare Formation and the Monterey Formation during the injection and post-injection phases. The analytical and field parameters and methods described in Tables 5 and 8 of Attachment C (injection-phase monitoring of the Tulare and Monterey Formations, respectively) are nearly the same as those in Tables 2 and 5 of Attachment E. Additional information about monitoring in the Monterey Formation is described under “CO<sub>2</sub> Plume Tracking” below. CTV also proposes to perform a baseline water analysis in the Etchegoin Formation monitoring zone and in the Tulare Formation monitoring well.

Table 5 of Attachment C (Injection-phase Tulare Formation monitoring) is reproduced in the first two columns of the table on the next page. Because consistency of monitoring parameters above and within the injection zone is appropriate for detecting leakage of the CO<sub>2</sub> plume, EPA evaluated proposed injection and post injection monitoring in the Tulare and Monterey Formations together. EPA’s notes and recommendations are provided in the right-hand column; see also the discussion of “Quality Assurance Procedures” below for additional comments on the parameters to be monitored.

The parameters appear to be generally appropriate for groundwater quality monitoring needs for GS projects, and are consistent with other Class VI monitoring programs, except as noted below. As the permit application narrative describes (pg. 39), the Monterey A1-A2 Sands are dominated by quartz and feldspar, which are stable in the presence of CO<sub>2</sub> and carbonic acid. Note that, as additional information is gathered based on the reviews of other parts of the permit application or pre-operational data collection, recommendations or requirements for additional analytical parameters may be provided.

Parameters	Analytical Methods	Evaluation Notes/Recommendations
<b>Tulare Formation</b>		
Cations (Al, Ba, Mn, As, Cd, Cr, Cu, Pb, Se, Tl)	ICP-OEC EPA 200.7/6010B	200.7 and 6010B are both ICP-AES methods, not ICP-OEC. Please explain what ICP-OEC is or revise the table. <b>These were changed to ICP-MS and EPA Method 6020.</b>  In Table 17 of the QASP, the final cation is Ti, not Tl as in Attachment C. Please clarify/be consistent. Also, this is "T1" in the tables of Attachment E; please correct the typographical error. <b>Not addressed. Standardized to Ti in the QASP, Attachment C, and Attachment E.</b>  Cations of Sb are also mentioned in Table 17 of the QASP; please add this to the ground water monitoring parameters in Attachments C and E. <b>Not addressed. Sb added to Attachment C and Attachment E.</b>  200.7 is an EPA-approved wastewater analytical method, while 6010B is not. EPA requests that Method 200.7, Rev 4.4 (1994) be specified. <b>These were changed to ICP-MS and EPA Method 6020.</b>
Cations (Ca, Fe, K, Mg, Na, Si)	ICP-OEC EPA 200.7/6010B	See above. <b>These were changed to ICP-OES and EPA Method 6010B.</b>
Anions (Br, Ca, F, NO <sub>3</sub> , SO <sub>4</sub> )	Ion Chromatography, EPA Method 300.0	Attachment E and Table 17 of the QASP also include anions of Cl; please add this to Attachment C for consistency and completeness. <b>Added.</b>  Tables 2 and 5 of Attachment E reference EPA Method 300; please revise the method to be consistent with Attachment C (i.e., Method 300.0). Also, please specify that EPA Method 300.0, Rev. 2.1, Part A (1993) will be used. <b>Addressed.</b>
Dissolved CO <sub>2</sub>	SM 4500-CO <sub>2</sub> -C	No comments.
Total Dissolved Solids	SM 2540 C	Attachment E refers to SM 4500 C for TDS; EPA requests the use of SM 2540 C for consistency. <b>Addressed.</b>
Alkalinity	SM 2320 B	Attachment E refers to SM 2510, which is for conductivity, not alkalinity. EPA requests that CTV revise Attachment E to reference SM 2320 B for consistency. (SM 2320 B is an approved wastewater method.) <b>Addressed.</b>
pH (field)	EPA 150.1 / SM4500-H+B	No comments.
Specific Conductance (field)	SM 2510 B	SM 2510 B is named by SM as a laboratory method, and it is not clear whether SM 2510 B can be conducted in the field. EPA Method 120.1 may be more amenable to field screening if SM 2510 B is not. Please clarify if field use of SM 2510 B is possible or revise the table (i.e., field vs. lab designation) or the method. <b>Not addressed. Changed to APHA 2510.</b>
Temperature (field)	Thermocouple	No comments.
Dissolved Methane	RSK-175/Gas Chromatography	This method was developed by EPA but is not an EPA approved method for wastewater analysis. Please provide information to support the use of this method for dissolved methane analysis. Alternatively, consider using EPA-approved method SM 6211 B and/or 6211 C. <b>Parameter was removed. Change not made.</b>

EPA recommends in Class VI guidance that monitoring well construction and planned plugging procedures for monitoring wells be reviewed as part of the permit application evaluation to confirm that

these wells will not provide conduits for fluid movement that could endanger USDWs. No monitoring well construction or plugging information was provided in the permit application materials.

CTV should note that the Central Valley Water Board indicated in its consultations with EPA on a prior Class VI project that any newly drilled monitoring wells must be approved by the Water Board and, while existing wells would not need to be approved, the Water Board expressed interest in any plans to use existing wells as monitoring wells.

Attachment C also describes the water quality sampling procedures, the laboratory to be used, and chain of custody procedures. This information is detailed in the QASP as well.

#### **Questions/Requests for the Applicant:**

- *Please update Tables 5 and 8 of Attachment C and Tables 2 and 5 of Attachment E as noted in the table above. Further, the same analytes and methods should be used for monitoring of all formations - to provide consistent data to support modeling reviews and a non-endangerment demonstration. Tables 5 and 8 have been updated; however, some additional changes are needed, as noted above.*
- *In addition, please include additional ground water quality parameters to support a robust monitoring program, as follows:*
  - *$\delta^{13}C$ , which is mentioned in the QASP, but not in Attachments C and E. This was added to Table 8; the response is acceptable.*
  - *Water density (which is referenced in the Testing and Monitoring Plan as an expected water quality change due to plume movement on pg. 12). This was not included.*
  - *Dissolved  $O_2$  and  $H_2S$ . Dissolved  $O_2$  is a primary indicator of water quality.  $H_2S$  occurs in the subsurface, may be common in oil fields, and has the potential to be mobilized, and, is listed as a toxic substance by the CDC.  $H_2S$  was added to the parameters in Tables 5 and 8; dissolved  $O_2$  was not added as a parameter but is listed under field measurements where it should be measured. The response is acceptable.*
- *Please include the groundwater monitoring well 61WS-8R in Figure 4 of the PISC and Site Closure Plan. This was not added to Figure 4 as requested.*

#### **Follow-up Questions for the Applicant:**

- ***Please provide monitoring well construction and plugging plans to confirm that these wells will not provide conduits for fluid movement that could endanger USDWs. CTV provided Monitoring Well Construction and Plugging Plans for monitoring wells 327-7R-RD1, 335X-7R, and 353A-7R (Attachment G). The plans are consistent with EPA templates for well construction and plugging. However, it is noted that there are some discrepancies between the data tables in the Monitoring Well Construction and Plugging plans and similar data tables within the well schematics that CTV submitted in May 2022. Additionally, the plans state that the cement type used for plugging will be API Spec 10A. The tables within the well schematics, and within the plans, indicate Class G type cement will be used. Although equivalent to each other, the schematics should reference the same type as described in the plans (API Spec 10A).***
- ***Please update Tables 5 and 8 of Attachment C and Tables 2 and 5 of Attachment E to incorporate the notes above, i.e., add specific conductance (field), Sb, and water density and revise the chemical symbol for titanium. CTV made some of the requested changes and***

revisions to Table 5 and 9 (formerly Table 8) of Attachment C and Tables 2 and 5 of Attachment E (as noted above).

- **For clarity, please also include the depths of pressure/temperature monitoring gauges on Tables 4, 7, and 9 (only the fluid sampling depths are shown, and a separate depth row for the pressure/temperature gauges would clarify this monitoring).** CTV updated the relevant tables (now Tables 4, 8, and 10) to include depths for pressure and temperature monitoring, with separate rows for each measurement; pressure and temperature monitoring will occur at the same depths. The response is acceptable.
- **Please update the USDW fluid sampling depth for the Tulare Formation well in Attachment E Table 1 to 940 – 960 feet to be consistent with Attachment C.** CTV updated Table 1 of Attachment E to be consistent with Table 4 of Attachment C. The response is acceptable.
- **Why was dissolved methane removed as a ground water analytical parameter?** CTV states in their response document that dissolved methane is not considered a necessary component to understanding leakage from the CO<sub>2</sub> reservoir into the USDW. However monitoring for methane would be consistent with other Class VI projects and is recommended in the UIC Class VI Testing Guidance document.
- **Please include well 61WS-8R in Figure 4 of the PISC and Site Closure Plan.** CTV clarified in their response document that the 61WS-8R monitoring well is not being considered for the project. The USDW monitoring well planned for the project is shown on Figure 1 of Attachment C, Figure 3 of Attachment E, and Figure 2 of the QASP. The response is acceptable.

#### **Additional Follow-up Questions/Requests for the Applicant:**

- **Please update the groundwater analytical parameters to include testing for dissolved methane with an EPA approved method.**
- **Please update the monitoring well schematics data tables to address the inconsistencies with the plugging plans in Attachment G.**
- **APHA 2510 is a laboratory (not a field) method. Please revise the Tables 5 and 9 and/or the Sampling Methods section on pg. 10 to state that this test is planned for a laboratory setting and not the field, or, specify a new testing method for field use.**
- **Please add water density as a testing parameter to Tables 5 and 9 of Attachment C, Tables 2 and 5 of Attachment E, and Table 3 of the QASP.**
- **CTV stated in their response to questions about MITs (see above) that Well 342-7R-RD1 is not a monitoring well in the project. Therefore, there is only one Etchegoin monitoring well, to the southwest of the injectors. Please include a description of how CTV will monitor for water quality changes above the confining zone in the northwestern portion of the plume.**

#### **Considerations based on the results of Pre-Operational Testing/Modeling Updates:**

- **If new information or updates to the geochemical modeling based on pre-operational testing raises additional concerns about subsurface geochemical processes (e.g., potential changes in subsurface properties or potential contaminant mobilization), the list of groundwater quality analytical parameters may need to be updated to ensure that all applicable parameters are included.**

## CO<sub>2</sub> Plume and Pressure Front Tracking

The applicant describes proposals for CO<sub>2</sub> plume and pressure front tracking that include: (1) the use of direct and indirect methods for tracking the pressure front within the injection zone [40 CFR 146.90(g)(1)]; and, (2) direct pressure front monitoring in two monitoring wells and seismic monitoring to indirectly track the extent of the CO<sub>2</sub> plume [40 CFR 146.90(g)(2)].

For post-injection site care, CTV will employ direct and indirect methods to track the extent of the carbon dioxide plume and the presence or absence of elevated pressure. In Attachment E, Table 4 details the methods that will be used to monitor the CO<sub>2</sub> plume post-injection, and Table 6 details the methods that will be used to monitor the associated pressure front. Injection reservoir pressure monitoring will occur to ensure confinement of the reservoir and consistency with computational modeling results. As seen in Table 6 of Attachment E, seismicity monitoring will also occur via surface and shallow borehole seismometers. Table 5 of Attachment E lists the analytical methods that will be used for the injection zone fluid monitoring and analysis.

## CO<sub>2</sub> Plume Monitoring

CTV proposes to monitor the plume via direct and indirect monitoring in the Monterey Formation:

**Direct plume tracking** methods include:

- Annual fluid sampling during the injection and post-injection phases in Monterey Formation A1-A2 Sands via two monitoring wells (327-7R-RD1 and 342-7R-RD1, located to the southwest and the northwest of the injection wells, respectively).
- Quarterly fluid sampling during the injection phase in EOR producers in the Monterey A3-A11 Sands. The location of the EOR wells is not described.

**Indirect plume monitoring** includes:

- Pulse neutron logging in the Monterey Formation A1-A2 Sands via the same monitoring wells. This logging will be conducted every two years during the injection phase and every 5 years during the post-injection phase.

The parameters and associated analytical methods are presented in Table 8 of Attachment C. They are identical to those proposed for Tulare Formation water quality monitoring described under “Ground Water Monitoring” above. Deep and shallow water quality monitoring should be for the same parameters to provide consistent data on which to evaluate potential fluid movement out of the confining zone.

Figure 2 of the QASP (reproduced under “Groundwater Monitoring” above) shows the location of the monitoring wells in the Monterey Formation A1-A2 Sands. CTV asserts that modeling indicates that the CO<sub>2</sub> plume will reach each of these monitoring wells by the second year of injection.

## Pressure Front Monitoring

CTV plans to conduct **direct pressure front monitoring** by continuously monitoring pressure and temperature during the injection and post-injection phases within the Monterey Formation A1-A2 Sands via pressure gauges in monitoring wells 327-7R-RD1 and 342-7R-RD1.

**Indirect pressure front monitoring** will be accomplished via seismic monitoring throughout the AoR. CTV states that it will monitor seismicity with surface and shallow borehole seismometers it plans to install, as well as monitor seismic data from the Southern California Earthquake Data Center (SCEDC) network. This continuous monitoring will continue throughout the injection and post-injection phases.

Pressure-front monitoring activities are summarized in Table 9 of Attachment C and Table 6 of Attachment E.

**Questions/Requests for the Applicant:**

- Please refer to EPA's questions and recommendations under "Groundwater Monitoring" above regarding water quality analysis and revise Table 8 of Attachment C and Table 5 of Attachment E accordingly. *Additional revisions are needed, as described in the comments above.*
- Please elaborate on the monitoring in the Monterey Formation A3-A11 Sands as described on page 12 of Attachment C. Specifically, where are the EOR producers from which CTV plans to sample the Monterey Formation A3-A11 Sands? At what depths will sampling be performed, and what parameters will be analyzed for? (The analytical parameters should be consistent with other monitoring.) Please describe who owns these wells, and whether they will be operational throughout the injection and post-injection periods? Please include the locations of these wells on the relevant figures in Attachments C and E and the QASP. *The applicant provided a new Figure 3 that shows the locations of these wells, and their depths are presented in Table 7. The updated plan indicates that the same analytes will be monitored as shown in Table 8. The response is acceptable (pending requested updates to Table 8).*
- Please describe the seismic monitoring network discussed on pg. 16 of Attachment C, including the number and location of the seismometers that CTV proposes to install. *The requested information was not provided.*
- Please explain the timeframe for which a seismicity baseline will be established, and if historical seismicity will be incorporated into this baseline. *CTV says that historical seismicity within the area will be accounted for in the baseline assessment, but does not explain how.*
- Page 15 of Attachment C says that CTV plans to perform direct pressure monitoring in the Monterey Formation A1-A2 Sands, and Table 9 indicates that pressure and temperature monitoring will be performed. Please revise the statement on pg. 15 to be consistent with the table – to include temperature as well as pressure. *The revision has not been made to mention temperature monitoring as detailed in Table 9.*
- EPA recommends that the sampling/measurement depths be included in Tables 7 and 9 of Attachment C and Tables 4 and 6 of Attachment E for clarity and completeness. *Depths were added as requested to Attachment C Table 7; but were not added to Table 9 of Appendix C or Tables 4 and 6 of Attachment E. Note also that, in the updated attachment, CTV identified different injection zone monitoring wells (i.e., 353A-7R and 335X-7R); these wells are located close to the wells identified in maps in the initial plan.*
- Please make the following changes to the proposed plume and pressure front tracking in Attachments C and E:
  - Perform frequent sampling and logging (e.g., quarterly, or semi-annually) early in the injection phase (i.e., at least until the CO<sub>2</sub> plume passes the monitoring well locations).

*This would allow the acquisition of additional data to validate the modeling, provide early warning of unanticipated fluid movement, and be consistent with other Class VI projects. **The requested change was not made.***

- *Conduct a 3D seismic survey or a vertical seismic profile during injection operations for comparison to the 2019 3D seismic survey described in the application narrative. **The requested change was not made.***
- *Conduct quarterly water quality sampling in the A1-A2 Sands for plume tracking to be consistent with the A3-A11 monitoring activities as well as provide additional data points to validate modeled predictions, and to eventually support the demonstration of non-endangerment. **CTV updated Table 7 to align sampling frequencies in the Monterey Formation A1-A2 and A3-A11.***

#### **Follow-up Questions/Requests for the Applicant:**

- ***Please revise Table 8 of Attachment C and Table 5 of Attachment E to address EPA’s comments under groundwater quality monitoring above. CTV made some of the requested revisions. See EPA’s evaluation and Follow-up Questions for the Applicant in Groundwater Monitoring above.***
- ***Please describe the seismic monitoring network and explain how historic seismicity within the area will be accounted for in the baseline assessment. CTV expanded the subsection “Induced Seismicity and Fault Monitoring” to describe the proposed seismic network and explain the seismic analysis, which includes a baseline study and continuous monitoring. CTV specified that 7 borehole and near-surface seismic sensor locations will make up the seismic network. Seismic data will be collected for at least 12 months from the seismic network prior to injection to establish baseline seismicity. Historical seismic data will be obtained from the Southern California Seismic Network and reviewed to assist in establishing the baseline. The response is acceptable.***
- ***Please revise the statement on pg. 15 to describe temperature and pressure monitoring as described above. CTV updated the text to clarify that both pressure and temperature of the plume will be monitored. The response is acceptable.***
- ***Please add sampling/measurement depths to Table 9 of Appendix C and Tables 4 and 6 of Attachment E as described above. CTV added a depth column to Table 10 (formerly Table 9) of Attachment C and Tables 4 and 6 of Attachment E. The response is acceptable.***
- ***Please update the plume and pressure front tracking discussion to include the requested frequent sampling and logging early in the injection phase and a 3D seismic survey or a vertical seismic profile as described above. CTV updated Table 4 of Attachment E to reflect quarterly fluid sampling for direct plume monitoring but did not include a 3D seismic survey or a vertical seismic profile.***

#### **Additional Follow-up Questions/Requests for the Applicant:**

- ***Please include a map of the 7 seismic monitoring locations in Attachment C.***
- ***Please update the plume and pressure front tracking discussion to include a 3D seismic survey or a vertical seismic profile.***

## Air/Soil or Other Testing and Monitoring

Based on the currently available information about the geologic setting (i.e., the depth of the injection formations and the lack of evidence for the presence of transmissive faults or fractures), surface air

and/or soil gas monitoring are not needed to detect movement of fluid that could endanger USDWs within the AoR.

**Considerations based on the results of Pre-Operational Testing/Modeling Updates:**

- *If, based on the results of planned pre-operational testing, uncertainties about the geologic setting are identified, the need for air and/or soil gas monitoring or other monitoring will be reconsidered.*

## Quality Assurance Procedures

The review team evaluated the QASP submitted with the permit application to verify that all the testing activities, analytes, etc., included in the QASP are consistent with proposed injection and post-injection phase testing and monitoring. All the injection and post-injection testing and monitoring activities (except for pressure falloff testing) are addressed in the QASP and the QASP covers activities recommended by EPA. EPA noted a few discrepancies between the tables in the QASP and the activities described in Attachments C and E. These are summarized in the table below:

QASP Table	EPA comments
Table 1. Summary of testing and monitoring.	Cement bond logs and standard annulus pressure tests of the injection wells are listed in the QASP, but these tests are not described in Attachment C. Please clarify if these tests are planned to be performed, either as part of pre-operational or injection-phase testing, or revise the QASP accordingly. <b>Cement evaluation was removed from the updated QASP.</b>  Please add PFOT and RTS to Table 1. <b>PFOT was added to Table 1 (RTS is no longer planned).</b>
Table 2. Monitoring Well Summary.	Monitoring the A3-A11 Sands via the EOR wells is not included on Table 2 of the QASP; please include this for consistency. <b>Table 2 was updated as requested.</b>
Table 3. Summary of analytical and field parameters for ground water samples.	Please update the placeholders for specific cations and anions in Table 3 to reflect Table 17 of the QASP. <b>Zinc needs to be added to Table 17. Zinc was added to Table 17 as requested.</b>  This table should address sampling in formations other than the Tulare Formation (per recommendations above). <b>Table 3 was updated as requested.</b>  There is a typo in the pH (field): the method "SPA 150.1" should be "EPA 150.1" <b>This has been corrected.</b>
Table 5. Summary of Analytical Parameters for Corrosion Coupons.	Please include the QC Requirements on Table 5. <b>This has been added as requested.</b>

<p>Table 17. Summary of sample containers, preservation treatments, and holding times for ground water samples.</p>	<p>There are a few discrepancies between the analytical parameters mentioned on Table 17 of the QASP and in Attachments C and E. EPA recommends the following changes for consistency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please revise the parameter NO<sub>2</sub> in Table 17 of the QASP to be consistent with NO<sub>3</sub>, which is a planned analyte, per Attachments C and E. <b>This has been corrected.</b></li> <li>• Add cations of K (in Tables 5 and of Attachment C and Tables 2 and 5 of Attachment E) to Table 17. <b>This has been added as requested.</b></li> <li>• Please also make other necessary revisions to Table 17 of the QASP to address EPA’s requests related to analytical parameters under “Ground Water Monitoring” above. <b>See comments related to Table 17 edits under Groundwater Quality Monitoring.</b></li> </ul>
<p>Other</p>	<p>Please fix the formatting of the Table of Contents for Section B.1. a. <b>This has been corrected.</b></p>

**Follow-up Questions/Requests for the Applicant:**

- **Please update Table 4 of the QASP to reflect use of ISBT methods for injectate analysis.** CTV updated Table 4 to use equivalent ISBT methods described in Table 1 of Attachment C. The response is acceptable.
- **Please revise Table 17 of the QASP to include zinc and Ti (not Tl) to be consistent with Attachment C.** CTV included Zn and corrected Ti. The response is acceptable.

**Additional Follow-up Questions/Requests for the Applicant:**

- **Please update Table 3 of the QASP to indicate that APHA 2510 is a laboratory (not a field) method.**