



REGION 9

SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105

April 24, 2026

Transmitted Via Email and GSDT Upload

Joseph Jephson
California Resources Corporation (CRC)
Aera Energy/Carbon Frontier
27200 Tourney Road, Suite 200
Santa Clarita, CA 913558
Joseph.Jephson@crc.com

**RE: Underground Injection Control (UIC) Permit Application R9UIC-CA6-FY23-1.1-1.9
Class VI Pre-Construction Permit Application
Permit Application Review Schedule**

Dear Mr. Jephson:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 (EPA) is reviewing the CarbonFrontier UIC Class VI permit application received via the Geologic Sequestration Data Tool (GSDT) for nine new injection wells in Kern County, California.

EPA deemed your permit application administratively complete on March 21, 2023, pursuant to 40 CFR §124.3(c) and 144.31(d). Since then, EPA has developed a new process to expedite Class VI permit application reviews and determinations. This new process uses an updated completeness tool to help determine the next steps and schedule for each application. The tool is based on EPA's experience and does *not* change the previously issued completeness determinations; rather, the information supports an understanding of the technical review timeline needed and clarity on whether an application will need significant revision before the agency can conclude technical review. EPA recently evaluated all Class VI applications under review, including your application, with this tool. Based on EPA's evaluation, your application likely includes adequate information to qualify for an expedited review.

Region 9 has developed a revised tentative decision schedule for this application, provided below. Please note that the final permit decision may only be issued after the conclusion of technical review, public participation, and EPA review of public comments. The decision schedule is not legally binding, though EPA anticipates that the tentative decision schedule provided to the applicant following evaluation with the completeness tool will be followed in most cases.

Permit Decision Schedule

Permitting Milestone	Anticipated Date
Technical review completed	7/13/2026
Draft permit decision issued; start of public comment period	9/14/2026
Public hearing (if applicable)	10/14/2026
Public comment period closes	10/14/2026
Final permit decision, including responses to public comments received	12/14/2026

During the permit application technical review, EPA may request additional information. If you do not provide the information necessary for a permit decision in a timely manner and/or are not responsive to requests for additional information (RAIs), your permit decision timeline will be extended. To support the application review process, please do not make any changes to the permit application, including the narrative, plans, or any attachments/appendices, unless requested to do so by EPA as part of an RAI. If you wish to make non-substantial changes outside of any changes requested by EPA, contact the permit writer to discuss the proposed changes and how they may affect the permit decision timeline. Aera Energy will be kept apprised of the status of EPA's review of the permit application and any changes to the anticipated schedule.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Kaylee Ball at ball.kaylee@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

David Albright
Manager, Ground Water Protection Section

cc (via email): Beau Gentry, Aera Energy LLC
Chris Jones, CalGEM Central District
Alex Olsen, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Jason Dunn, CA State Water Resources Control Board
Eric Morita, CA State Water Resources Control Board