



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

Sent electronically only

October 10, 2023

Jim Levine  
Montezuma Carbon LLC  
2000 Powell Street  
Suite 920  
Emeryville, CA 94608

**SUBJECT: Administrative Review – Supplemental Notice of Incomplete Application**  
Montezuma NorCal Carbon Hub Project  
Underground Injection Control (UIC) Permit Application  
Class VI Pre-Construction Permit Application No. R9UIC-CA6-FY23-4

Dear Jim Levine,

On June 28, 2023, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9 (EPA) sent Montezuma Carbon, LLC (MC) a Notice of Incomplete Application regarding the subject permit application. After reviewing MC's responses submitted via the Geologic Sequestration Data Tool (GSDT) on August 31, 2023, we have determined that the application is still incomplete. Please see the list of additional information we require in the Enclosure to this letter.

Please submit the requested information by November 9, 2023. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Kaylee Glenney at (415) 972-3944, or call me at (415) 972-3971.

Sincerely,

David Albright  
Manager, Groundwater Protection Section

Enclosure: Request for Additional Information

cc (via email): CalGEM Northern District  
Alex Olsen, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Janice Zinky, CA State Water Resources Control Board

**ENCLOSURE**  
**Request for Additional Information**

**General Information**

- 40 CFR 144.31(e)(6) requires that the application includes a list of all permits or construction approvals received or applied for under the following programs:
  - Hazardous Waste Management program under RCRA
  - UIC Program
  - NPDES
  - PSD Program
  - CAA Nonattainment Program
  - NESHAPS Preconstruction Approval under the CAA
  - Ocean Dumping Permits under MPRSA
  - Section 404 Dredge and Fill Permits
  - Other Relevant Environmental Permits, including State Permits

The application does not mention the CAA Nonattainment Program, NESHAPS Preconstruction Approval, or Ocean Dumping Permits. Please confirm they are not applicable to this project or update the application to include information about them.

**Geologic Narrative/Site Characterization Information**

- 40 CFR 146.82(a)(3)(iii) requires that the application address the following types of data on the injection and confining zone(s), or describe plans to collect data on the following:
  - Depth
  - Areal extent
  - Thickness
  - Mineralogy
  - Porosity
  - Permeability
  - Capillary pressure

The application doesn't include the capillary pressure of the Domengine Sandstone injection zone or the thickness of the Capay Shale confining zone. Please update the application to include this information or describe plans to collect this data.

**Additional Information Requested but Not Required for Administrative Completeness**

In addition to the items identified above, which are required to address the initial permit application requirements, we are requesting other information necessary for processing the UIC permit application. This information is not necessary for the application's administrative completeness, so the timeline for submittal of this additional information can be extended, if needed, however delay in providing the additional information could result in delays processing the permit.

### ***Carbon Dioxide Source(s) Information***

EPA's regulations for Class VI permits require the owner or operator, prior to the issuance of a permit for the construction of a new Class VI well, to submit information about the source(s) of the carbon dioxide stream and an analysis of the chemical and physical characteristics of the carbon dioxide stream (40 C.F.R. §§ 146.82(a)(7)(iii) and (iv)). In addition, 40 CFR 146.86(b)(1)(ix) requires that the application include the quantity, chemical composition, and temperature of the CO<sub>2</sub> stream. The application indicates the CO<sub>2</sub> source will be 100% CO<sub>2</sub>. The information provided thus far about potential carbon dioxide sources and estimates of the chemical and physical characteristics of these sources is adequate for administrative completeness of the permit application. However, please note EPA will need identification of the specific carbon dioxide source(s) that are proposed for injection and data on their physical and chemical characteristics, or a more detailed estimation of these characteristics, well before making a preliminary permit decision.