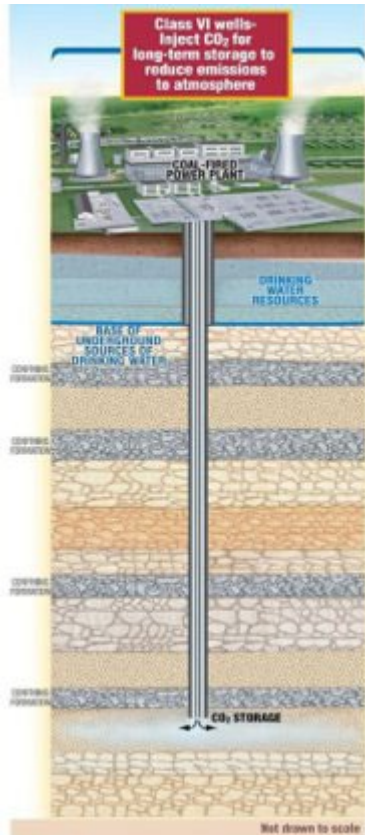




Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water: Underground Injection Control Update

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Infrastructure Development Division | February 2024








EPA's Class VI Program

EPA's Underground Injection Control (UIC) Class VI program is a key part of the Biden-Harris Administration's goal to reach a net zero emissions economy by 2050.

The Agency's program balances prioritizing carbon sequestration and other carbon mitigation technologies while achieving the fundamental mission of the EPA to protect public health and the environment and specifically, the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) mandate to protect Underground Sources of Drinking Water (USDWs).

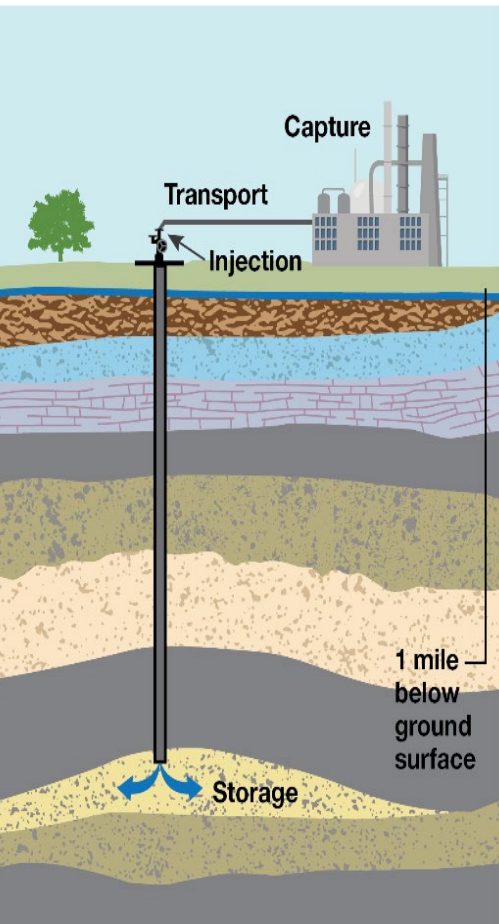
Outline

-  Class VI Implementation Activities
-  Primacy
-  Class VI Grant
-  Federal Coordination
-  Fed Talent Training



Class VI Implementation Activities

Class VI Permitting Activity



EPA continues to see an increase in Class VI permitting activity. As of 2/16/24 EPA is reviewing 125 applications across 42 projects.

- 🌿 2 permits issued in IN for Wabash Carbon Services – 1/6/24
- 🌿 4 draft permits available for public comment in CA for Carbon TerraVault Elk Hills 26R until 3/20/24

EPA aims to review complete Class VI applications and issue permits, when appropriate, within approximately two years.

EJ Guidance for UIC Class VI

EPA released Environmental Justice Guidance for UIC Class VI Permitting and Primacy in August 2023 to:




- Outline EJ considerations and expectations for UIC well owners/operators and EPA staff;
- Communicate EPA's guidance to states, tribes, and territories that have primacy for UIC programs; and
- Expand upon the tools presented in the Class VI EJ Quick Reference Guide.

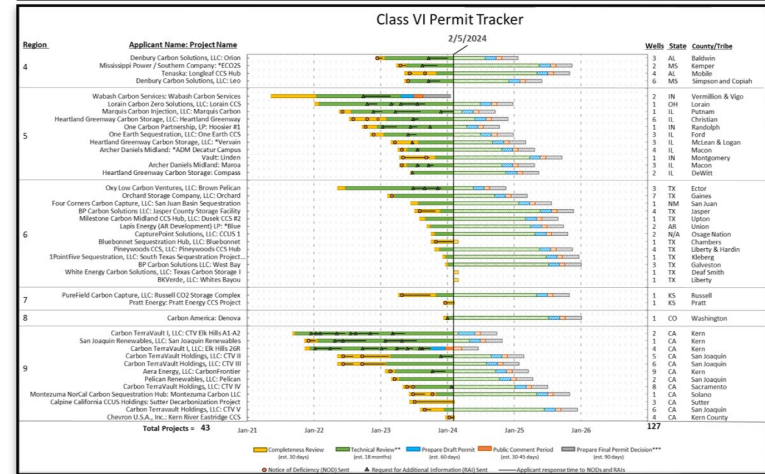
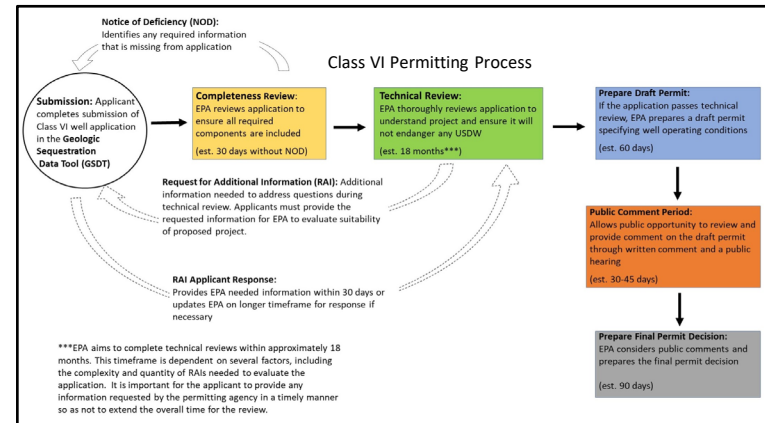


PDF download of Memorandum on Environmental Justice Guidance for UIC Class VI Permitting and Primacy

Class VI Website Updates

EPA has updated the Class VI website to:

-  Speak to the value of operators conducting EJ activities in advance of submitting a Class VI permit application;
-  Add further clarity around the permitting process; and
-  Increase transparency of applications currently under review.





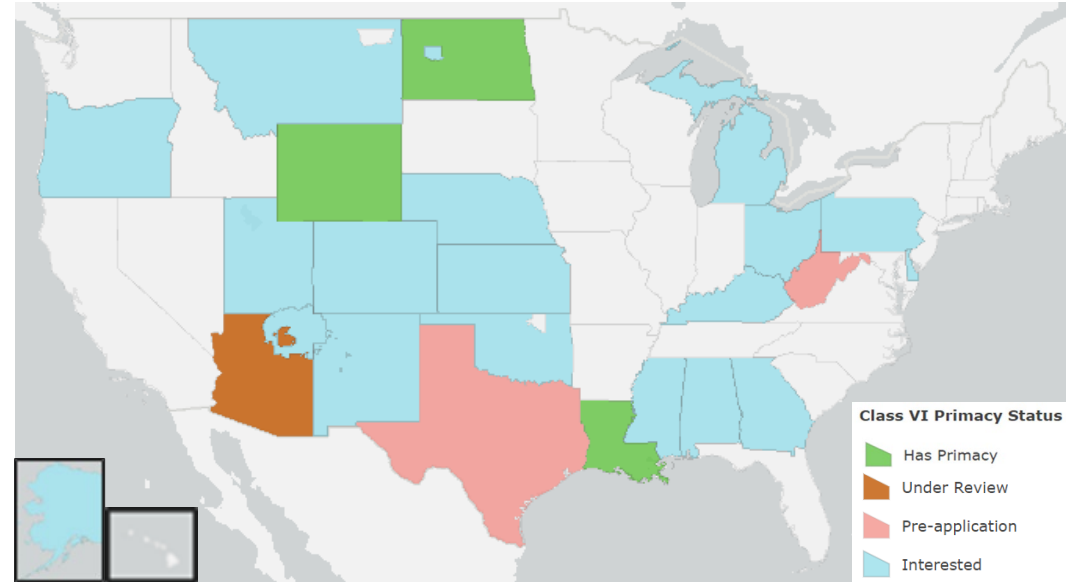
Current Activities

- 🌿 Developing a public-facing data repository that will contain Class VI permit application and injection well documents (e.g., permit application attachments, draft and final permits, permit violation information, and reporting data);
- 🌿 Updating existing EPA Class VI Guidance documents to incorporate recommendations from EJ Guidance;
- 🌿 Developing a sample permit application and other trainings to provide applicants with additional insight into EPA's expectations and needs for making Class VI permitting decisions; and
- 🌿 Continuing to evaluate EPA's permit application review process to find opportunities to improve efficiencies and maintaining internal resource, such as checklists and trainings, to support UIC permit writers.

Primacy



UIC Class VI Primacy

- North Dakota, Wyoming, and Louisiana have Class VI primacy
- Application for Arizona is under review
- EPA expects to receive two additional Class VI primacy applications this year



Current Activities

EPA continues to work on improving our evaluation process to ensure clear and timely decisions. EPA's website contains an overview of the application process, links to checklists and crosswalks, templates for each piece of the application process, as well as a tracker for current primacy packages. Additionally:

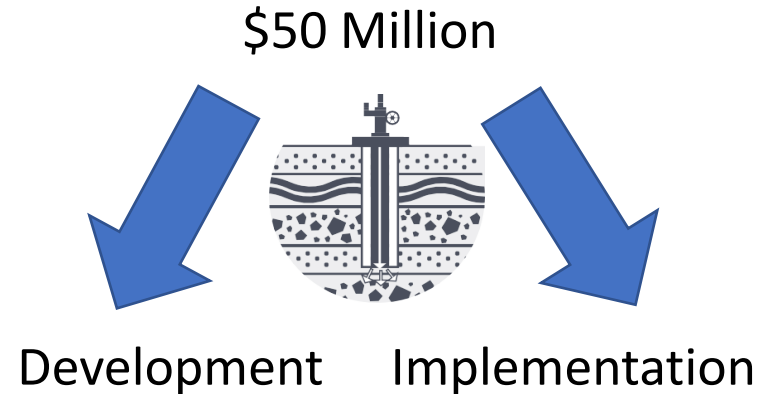
-  EPA is developing a UIC web-based regulatory crosswalk to streamline application development and review
-  EPA is updating the Primacy Manual to include Environmental Justice and long-term liability considerations

Class VI Grant

UIC Class VI Grant for States and Tribes

On 11/2/23, EPA [announced](#) the \$50 million Class VI Grant Program authorized by BIL.

- Eligible recipients are the 25 states/Tribes that submitted Letters of Intent to EPA: AK, AL, AZ, CO, DE, GA, KS, KY, LA, MHA, MI, MS, MT, ND, NE, NM, NN, OH, OK, OR, PA, TX, UT, WV, WY
- Allotments: \$1,930,000 for each state/Tribe
- EPA already reviewing one grant application



Federal Coordination

Federal Coordination



- 🌱 EPA continues to work with its partners to make timely UIC Class VI permit decisions and identify ways to improve the efficiency of making environmentally sound permitting decisions.
- 🌱 EPA has partnered with the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management and the DOE National Labs (via an interagency agreement) to support the review of Class VI permit applications.
- 🌱 EPA attends bi-monthly Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS) interagency group meetings. This group consists of staff representatives from federal agencies with equities in CCUS.
- 🌱 EPA continues to participate in public meetings and workshops hosted by other federal agencies designed to foster meaningful two-way engagement with shared learning on carbon management topics.






Fed Talent Training

Fed Talent Training

- EPA continues to expand the library of online training available to Federal and State program staff
- UIC catalog currently includes 18 training modules. Most recent additions:

-  Radioactive tracer surveys used for testing external mechanical integrity
-  Public Participation for UIC Permitting. The training highlights numerous ways for UIC permittees to better ensure an inclusive public participation process

- Additional training currently under development:

-  Environmental Justice and Communications Planning
-  Noise and Temperature Logs and Cement Evaluation Tools for mechanical integrity testing
-  Introduction to Class V Wells





Thank you!