



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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Notice #: UIC-06-15EE

UIC Log#: UIC-212-TE-M8; UIC-212

First Notice Date: December 31, 2015

PUBLIC NOTICE of DRAFT UIC PERMIT and EMERGENCY PERMIT EXTENSION Underground Injection Wells at Sugar Camp Mine, Macedonia, IL

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency hereby gives notice of intent to issue an Underground Injection Control (UIC) well permit to Sugar Camp Energy and RGS Land & Minerals, Ltd. for the Sugar Camp Mine (Sugar Camp), 11351 N. Thompsonville Rd., Macedonia, Illinois, and has extended the emergency UIC well permit held by Sugar Camp in accordance with 35 IAC 704.163 until December 31, 2016.

On May 20, 2014, the Illinois EPA issued an emergency UIC permit to allow the applicants to construct and eventually operate two UIC wells on a temporary basis in an effort to manage an unexpectedly large volume of groundwater infiltrating the mine, putting miners at risk; if discharged to surface waters, this wastewater would violate the state's water quality standards for chloride and dissolved solids. The wells began injection of wastewater; one on August 26, 2014, the other, January 28, 2015. The emergency permit was originally to have expired May 20, 2015 but was extended to December 31, 2015 and by this action, to December 31, 2016. These extensions have been made to allow for the development of a non-emergency UIC permit which will authorize the long-term operation of these two wells, the construction of two additional wells to inject into the same geological formations and, upon approval of the new wells' construction, to operate them. That draft permit is now available for public comment.

Sugar Camp injects wastewaters between 7,500 and 12,900 feet underground into limestone and sandstone formations via the wells. These geological formations are overlain by a 160 foot thick confining layer of shale bedrock, minimizing the potential for injected fluids to migrate upward and into potable water aquifers. The existing groundwater in the injection formations contains high levels of dissolved solids and is not suitable for potable use.

The draft UIC permit allowing the long-term operation of the two original wells and the construction and eventual operation of two additional wells and their associated permit application materials are available for review at the **Franklin County Board Office** (see Gayla Sink), **Franklin Co. Courthouse, 202 W. Main, Benton, IL.**

Anyone interested may submit written comments on the draft UIC permit to Illinois EPA during the 30-day comment period. **Please send written comments to the address listed below postmarked by midnight February 1, 2016.** In response to public requests or at the discretion of

Illinois EPA, a public hearing can be held to clarify one or more issues concerning the draft UIC permit. A request for a public hearing must be made in writing and must state the nature of the issue(s) to be raised at the hearing; written requests should be sent to the address listed below. Public notice will be issued at least 45 days before any hearing.

The Agency's permit file information (Administrative Record) is available for inspection by appointment only at IEPA's Springfield office. All data submitted by the applicants for this UIC permit is available as part of the Administrative Record. If you would like to schedule an appointment to inspect the Record, or if you have any questions regarding the draft permit, please contact:

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| Mara McGinnis (#5) | Phone: 217/524-3288 |
| Illinois EPA | TDD: 217-782-9143 |
| 1021 North Grand Avenue East, P. O. Box 19276 | |
| Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276 | |

All comments submitted will become part of the Record and will be evaluated by Illinois EPA in making the final permit decision. The Agency will respond to comments on the draft permit decision and indicate whether additional documents have been included in the Record. Anyone who submits written comments will be notified of the final permit decision and the permit decision appeal process.

The Underground Injection Control program was established by the Safe Drinking Water Act in order to prevent contamination of underground sources of drinking water from waste injection activities. Illinois EPA is authorized to administer certain aspects of the UIC program in Illinois, including those governing the wells at the Sugar Camp Mine. Illinois' UIC regulations may be found at 35 IAC 702, 704, 705 and 730. Additional information concerning UIC wells can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/uic>