

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
PUBLIC NOTICE
UNDERGROUND INJECTION WELL PERMIT MODIFICATION
Sugar Camp Mine in Macedonia

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hereby gives notice of intent to issue a modified Underground Injection Control (UIC) Area permit for Sugar Camp Mine. Sugar Camp Mine is located at 11351 North Thompsonville Rd in Macedonia. The facility mailing address is 11351 North Thompsonville Rd, Macedonia, IL 62860. The Illinois EPA issued a UIC Area permit to Sugar Camp Energy, LLC (SCE), on May 20, 2015, authorizing the operation of two injection wells (UIC#1 and UIC#2) and the construction of two additional injection wells in the future. The purpose of these wells is to inject groundwater, containing high chlorides and dissolved solids, collected from the on-site coal mine, into limestone and sandstone formations located between approximately 7,500 feet to 12,900 feet underground. These geological formations are overlain by a 160-foot-thick confining layer of shale bedrock, minimizing the potential for injected fluids to migrate upward.

SCE submitted a permit modification request, dated December 7, 2022, and addendums dated January 27, 2023, June 2, 2023, August 31, 2023, and January 22, 2024, requesting authorization to resume operation of injection wells UIC#1 and UIC#2 utilizing modified Annulus Protection Systems (APS) described in the permit modification request. The draft modified permit, if finalized, will allow the operation of the modified APS, well UIC#1, and the investigation and repair of well UIC#2 in accordance with the conditions of the permit. Well UIC#2 is currently not authorized for injection due to the well failing to demonstrate that it has adequate internal mechanical integrity. Well UIC#2 did pass the external mechanical integrity test. Well UIC#2 will not be authorized for injection until the well demonstrates both internal and external mechanical integrity as required by the permit.

The interested public is invited to review copies of the draft modified UIC permit decision, fact sheet, and administrative record, at:

Benton Public Library District
502 S. Main Street
Benton, IL 62812

Written comments on the draft modified UIC permit decision may be submitted during the 30-day comment period. Send comments to the Illinois EPA contact listed at the end of this notice postmarked by 11:59pm, April 30, 2025. In response to public requests or at the discretion of the Illinois EPA, a public hearing may be held to clarify technical issues concerning the draft modified UIC permit decision. A public hearing request must be made in writing, express opposition to the draft modified UIC permit decision and state the nature of the issue(s) to be raised at the hearing. Written hearing requests should be sent to the Illinois EPA contact listed below by the end of the comment period. Public notice will be issued 30 days before any hearing.

All comments received will become part of the Administrative Record (AR) and will be evaluated by the Illinois EPA in making the final modified UIC permit decision. The Illinois EPA will respond to comments on the draft permit decision and indicate whether additional documents have been included in the AR. Commenters will be notified of the final modified UIC permit decision and the permit decision appeal process.

The AR, including the permit application, draft modified UIC permit decision, fact sheet, related information and all data submitted by the applicant, is now available for public inspection by appointment only Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Please call the Illinois EPA contact below for an appointment to view the documents at Illinois EPA's offices in Springfield.

Jeff Guy, Public Involvement Coordinator (#5), Jeff.Guy@illinois.gov
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The Safe Drinking Water Act of 1976 established the federal UIC program in order to protect groundwater resources. UIC program requirements were designed to prevent contamination of underground sources of drinking water resulting from wastewater injection. The Illinois EPA is authorized to administer certain aspects of the UIC program in Illinois.