



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155
Seattle, WA 98101

WATER DIVISION

January 14, 2022

DELIVERED BY ELECTRONIC-MAIL

Mr. Richard Brown, Manager
Snake River Oil and Gas, LLC
117 East Calhoun – P.O. Box 500
Magnolia, Arkansas 71753

Re: Public Notice of Draft UIC Permit ID-2D001-A & Aquifer Exemption of the Willow Sands

Dear Mr. Brown:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to issue an Underground Injection Control (UIC) Permit authorizing Class II injection well DJS 2-14 at Willow Field in Payette County, Idaho. EPA is also proposing an Aquifer Exemption of the Willow Sands from status as an Underground Source of Drinking Water.

The Draft Permit, Fact Sheet to the Draft Permit, and proposed Record of Decision for the Aquifer Exemption can be accessed on our website: <https://www.epa.gov/uic/underground-injection-control-region-10-ak-id-or-and-wa>. The Public Notice will be published in the Independent Enterprise and Idaho Statesman on Friday, January 14, 2022 and is enclosed. The Public Notice initiates a 45-day public comment period. Following the close of the public comment period, we will consider the comments received when preparing the final permit. Please read the Public Notice for more information.

For technical questions, please contact Evan Osborne (osborne.evan@epa.gov, 206-553-1747).

Sincerely,

**KAREN
BURGESS** Digitally signed by
KAREN BURGESS
Date: 2022.01.13
11:56:07 -08'00'

Karen Burgess, Section Manager
Groundwater and Drinking Water Section

Enclosure: Public Notice for Proposed Permit, Aquifer Exemption, and Public Hearing

Cc (all via email): Gary Spackman, Director, Idaho Department of Water Resources
Jess Byrne, Director, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Dustin Miller, Director, Idaho Department of Lands
Claudio Berti, Director, Idaho Geological Survey
Nate Fisher, Special Assistant in Governor Brad Little's Office
Chris Shaver, State Historic Preservation Officer
Sandi Fisher, Assistant State Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Kelly Wright, Environmental Waste Management Program Manager, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation
Travis Stone, Land Use Director, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation
Louise Dixey, Cultural Resources Director, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation
Beau Ziemer, Public Works Superintendent, The City of New Plymouth
Jerry Campbell, Public Works Director, The City of Fruitland
Jacob Hust, Water Superintendent, The City of Payette
Shelly Brock, Private Citizen of Idaho



United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
Water Division (19-H16), Groundwater and Drinking Water Section
Underground Injection Control Program
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155, Seattle, Washington 98101

NOTICE OF:
PROPOSED AQUIFER EXEMPTION FOR THE WILLOW SANDS

&

PROPOSED DRAFT UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL CLASS II PERMIT

&

PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED AQUIFER EXEMPTION AND DRAFT UNDERGROUND INJECTION
CONTROL CLASS II PERMIT

Public Notice and Comment Period: January 14, 2022 through February 28, 2022, (5:00 PM MT)

1. Applicant: Snake River Oil and Gas, LLC (SROG)
117 East Calhoun
P.O. Box 500
Magnolia, Arkansas 71754-0500
2. Project Location: Willow Gas Field, Payette County, Idaho
3. EPA Permit: ID-2D001-A
4. Background: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates Class II injection wells through the Underground Injection Control (UIC) program, authorized by Part C of the Safe Drinking Water Act. UIC permits authorize injection of fluids into the subsurface if injection will not cause the endangerment of Underground Sources of Drinking Water (USDWs). SROG has applied for a Class II UIC permit. SROG has also applied to exempt the aquifer in the injection zone from status as a USDW (i.e., Aquifer Exemption Request).
5. Summary of Proposed Actions: The EPA proposes two actions. First, EPA proposes to issue a permit to SROG that would allow conversion of an existing natural gas extraction well into a UIC Class II injection well. This well is approximately five miles north-northeast of New Plymouth, Idaho. The proposed UIC permit authorizes the injection of fluids that are brought to the surface in connection with conventional oil or natural gas production, which may be commingled with waste waters from gas plants that are an integral part of production operations unless those waters are classified as a hazardous waste at the time of injection. If the UIC permit is issued, fluids would be injected into the Willow Sands between depths of 4,908 and 5,500 feet below ground. Injected fluids are separated from shallow drinking water aquifers by claystone confining intervals. The permit establishes requirements for well construction, operation, sampling, monitoring, testing, and reporting. EPA reserves the right to terminate, modify, or revoke and reissue this permit if the authorized injection fails to protect USDWs.

Second, EPA proposes to approve the request by SROG for an Aquifer Exemption of the USDW contained within the injection zone associated with this injection well. EPA has determined that the USDW contained within the injection zone does not currently serve as a source of drinking water and cannot now and will not in the future serve as a source of drinking water.
6. Public Comments: Persons wishing to comment must do so in writing by the close of the Public Comment period on February 28, 2022 at 5:00 PM Mountain Time (MT). **Please submit all comments via email to osborne.evan@epa.gov.** All comments must include:
 - a. The statement “Draft Permit Public Comment” or “Draft Aquifer Exemption Public Comment” in the subject line of the email,

- b. The name, address, and telephone number of the person commenting (in the body of the email) and,
- c. A concise statement and the relevant facts forming the basis for the comment.

You may submit comments on both actions, but those comments must be submitted under separate emails. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, EPA will not be accepting hardcopy mail.

7. Public Hearings: EPA has scheduled a public hearing on February 18, 2022, at 10:00 AM MT. The purpose of this meeting is to collect oral comments on the actions proposed by this notice. To attend the meeting, visit the EPA Region 10 UIC webpage (<https://www.epa.gov/uic/underground-injection-control-region-10-ak-id-or-and-wa>) the morning of the hearing where you will be provided direction on how to attend this remote meeting. EPA will post hearing details under the Public Notices section of this webpage.
8. Additional Information: The draft permit, fact sheet, and Aquifer Exemption record of decision can be downloaded from the internet at <https://www.epa.gov/uic/underground-injection-control-region-10-ak-id-or-and-wa>. Due to COVID-19, EPA cannot share any physical copies for review. If you would like to request other information, or you are unable to submit comments by the methods described by this notice, please contact Evan Osborne at 206-553-1747 or osborne.evan@epa.gov.

If you would like to request a reasonable accommodation for a disability, please contact Evan Osborne at 206-553-1747 (voice). TTY/TDD users please dial Washington Relay Service at 1 (800) 833-6388. Please provide one week advance notice for special requests not related to ongoing programs and services.