



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

March 13, 2023

THE ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable John Bel Edwards
Governor of Louisiana
P.O. Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004

Dear Governor Edwards,

Thank you for your January 18, 2023, letter in support of the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to encouraging wider adoption of carbon capture and storage strategies. As always, I appreciate your kind words. Your letter also requested an update on the status of the Louisiana Class VI primacy application.

I know you are aware the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency must evaluate the application to assess and confirm that the State's Class VI Underground Injection Control well permitting regulations are as stringent as the federal regulations. EPA expects to complete this evaluation and publish a proposed rule in the *Federal Register* in May 2023. EPA intends to hold a sixty-day public comment period, including an opportunity for a public hearing if a request is submitted from the public within twenty days of the publication.

The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources and EPA's Region 6 have worked to revise one of the documents central to the primacy application – the submitted Memorandum of Agreement. The revisions will proactively support the development of carbon capture and storage (CCS) projects while protecting vulnerable communities. Incorporating safety and environmental burden considerations into the process early on, such as during site selection for the various components of CCS projects, will lead to sustainable and successful efforts in decarbonizing the nation's energy and industrial sectors.


Overall, taking action to address climate change, including by deploying CCS safely and responsibly, will benefit all communities, especially those most at risk from the worsening impacts of climate change. Louisiana's agreement to incorporate language around coordination for Class VI injection well site closure and building a robust environmental justice program is thoughtful and will serve as an example for future MOAs between EPA and other states seeking Class VI primacy. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with the State of Louisiana to ensure effective Class VI well regulation.

Lastly, I want to thank you for confirming your State's participation in the historic \$50 million grant opportunity that assists in defraying expenses related to establishing and operating a Class

VI UIC program. Additional information regarding the Class VI UIC grant program can be found on the EPA UIC website.¹ The website will be updated as additional information is made available.

Again, thank you for your letter and your support. If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact me or your staff may contact John Lucey, EPA's Deputy Associate Administrator for Intergovernmental Relations, at Lucey.John.D@epa.gov or 202-564-1820.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael S. Regan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael S. Regan

¹ https://www.epa.gov/uic/underground-injection-control-grants#ClassVI_grants_01-19-2023