

U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 6
PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER AND COMPLIANCE ORDER AND
INFORMATION DEMAND

In the Matter of CEP Mid-Continent, LLC, Respondent
Docket No. SDWA-06-2013-1117

FILED

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

The following findings are made and Order issued under the authority vested in the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") by Sections 1423(c) and 1445 of the Safe Drinking Water Act ("the Act"), 42 U.S.C. §§ 300h-2(c) and 300j-4. The authority to issue this Order has been delegated by the Administrator to the Regional Administrator of EPA Region 6 who further delegated such authority to the Director of the Compliance Assurance and Enforcement Division. The EPA has primary enforcement responsibility for underground injection within the meaning of Section 1422(c) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300h-1(c), to ensure that owners or operators of Class II injection wells within Osage County, Oklahoma, comply with the requirements of the Act.

FINDINGS

1. CEP Mid-Continent, LLC ("Respondent") is a "person," within the meaning of Section 1401(12) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300f(12).

2. At all times relevant to the violation alleged herein, Respondent operated an injection well located in the Southwest Quarter of Section 29, Township 22 North, Range 12 East, Hominy Falls Field, Osage County, Oklahoma, designated as Well Number 2 and EPA Inventory Number OS4703 ("the well").

3. Respondent is subject to underground injection control ("UIC") program requirements set forth at 40 C.F.R. Part 147, Subpart GGG, which are authorized under Section 1421 of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300h.

4. EPA regulations require the operator of an "injection well," as defined at 40 C.F.R. § 147.2902, to maintain its injection wells in a manner that prevents movement of contaminants through the well bore into underground sources of drinking water ("USDWs"), pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 147.2903(b).

5. Inspections conducted by representatives of the Osage Nation on December 11, 2012 and February 22, 2013, show the well to be inactive and the static fluid level in the well to be above the base of the USDWs. This indicates that fluids containing contaminants could move through the well into USDWs.

6. Therefore, Respondent violated the regulations set forth at 40 C.F.R. § 147.2903(b) by maintaining the well in a manner that allows contaminants to move through the well bore into USDWs.

SECTION 1423(c) COMPLIANCE ORDER: 39

7. Based on the foregoing findings and under the authority of Section 1423(c) of the Act, it is hereby ordered that Respondent shall complete corrective actions to prevent fluids from moving through the well into USDWs. Such corrective actions may be to a) convert the well to production use; b) plug the well; c) repair the well and demonstrate mechanical integrity; or d) pump and maintain the static fluid level in the well tubing and annulus to at least 400 feet below the ground surface.

SECTION 1445 INFORMATION DEMAND

8. Based on these findings and pursuant to the authority of Section 1445 of the Act, Respondent is required to submit a report of work completed to comply with this Order to the following address within thirty (30) days after the effective date of the Order:

Water Resources Section (6EN-WR)
U.S. EPA, Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO REQUEST A
HEARING

9. Respondent may request a hearing to contest the issuance of this Section 1423(c) Compliance Order, pursuant to Section 1423(c)(3)(A) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300h-2(c)(3)(A). Submit the hearing request to the Regional Hearing Clerk (6RC-D); U.S. EPA, Region 6; 1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200; Dallas, Texas 75202 within thirty (30) days of the date of receipt of this Order.

10. A request for hearing should be included in any response to this Order. Respondent must file a response in order to preserve the right to a hearing or to pursue other relief.

11. Should a hearing be requested, members of the public who commented on the issuance of this Order during the public comment period would have a right to be heard and present evidence at a hearing under Section 1423(c)(3)(C) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300h-2(c)(3)(C).

GENERAL PROVISIONS

12. This Section 1423(c) Compliance Order and the Section 1445 Information Demand do not constitute a waiver, suspension, or modification of the requirements of 40 C.F.R. Part 147, Subpart GGG, which remain in full force and effect.

13. Issuance of this Section 1423(c) Compliance Order and the Section 1445 Information Demand is not an election by EPA to forego any civil or criminal action otherwise authorized under the Act.

14. Violation of the terms of this Section 1423(c) Compliance Order after its effective date or date of final judgment as described in Section 1423(c)(6) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300h-2(c)(6), may subject Respondent to further enforcement action, including a civil action for enforcement of this Order under Section 1423(b) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300h-2(b), and civil and criminal penalties for violations of the compliance terms of this Order under Section 1423(b)(1) and (2) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300h-2(b)(1) and (2).

SETTLEMENT

15. EPA encourages all parties against whom an administrative order is proposed to pursue the possibility of settlement through informal meetings with EPA. Regardless of whether a formal hearing is requested, Respondent may confer informally with EPA about the alleged violations. Respondent may wish to appear at any informal conference or formal hearing personally, by counsel or other representative, or both. To request an informal conference on the matters described in this Order, please contact Mr. David Aguinaga, of my staff, at (214) 665-6439.

16. If this action is settled without a formal hearing, it will be concluded by issuance of a Final Order.

EFFECTIVE DATE

17. This Order becomes effective thirty (30) days after issuance unless an appeal is taken pursuant to Section 1423(c)(6) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300h-2(c)(6).

6.3.13

Date



John Blevins

Director

Compliance Assurance and
Enforcement Division

