

January 15, 2024

Dear Reader:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) invites comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed University of Wyoming (UW) CarbonSAFE Project (DOE/EA-2194D). The Draft EA can also be found on DOE's National Energy Technology Laboratory website at <https://netl.doe.gov/node/6939> and DOE's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) website at <https://www.energy.gov/nepa/doe-environmental-assessments>.

DOE prepared this Draft EA in accordance with NEPA, as amended ([Public Law 91-190] [As Amended Through P.L. 118-5, Enacted June 3, 2023]), the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508) and DOE's NEPA implementing procedures (10 CFR Part 1021). It evaluates the potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts of DOE providing cost-sharing financial assistance to UW for the project.

UW's proposed project would capture carbon dioxide (CO₂) from Basin Electric's Dry Fork Station in Gillette, Wyoming, and transport it via pipeline to several EPA Class VI Underground Injection Control (UIC) permitted injection wells for permanent geologic storage. The project would construct approximately 27 linear miles of 10-inch subsurface pipeline throughout northeastern Wyoming to transport the CO₂ to five injection well pads. Approximately 57.5 million metric tons (MMT) of CO₂ would be transported through the pipeline from a starting location at Dry Fork Station and injected into subsurface pore space over a period of 30 years. Construction of the project is estimated to last from 2024 to 2028.

This Draft EA analyzes the potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts of DOE's Proposed Action of providing cost-sharing funding of the UW CarbonSAFE Project and of the No-Action Alternative. The Draft EA evaluated the resource areas DOE commonly addresses in EAs and identified no significant adverse environmental impacts from DOE's Proposed Action.

A notice of availability will be published in the Gillette News Record on January 20, 2024, to announce the beginning of the 30-day public review and comment period. The Draft EA will be available for review at Campbell County Public Library located at 2101 S 4-J Rd, Gillette, Wyoming 82718, telephone (307) 682-3223; and the UW William Robertson Coe Library, located at 1000 E University Ave, Laramie, Wyoming 82071, telephone (307) 766-3190.

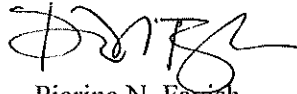
Comments should be marked "UW CarbonSAFE" and sent to:

Pierina N. Fayish
NEPA Compliance Officer
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Individual names and addresses, including email addresses, received as part of the comment documents typically are considered part of the public record. Persons wishing to withhold names, addresses, or other identifying information from the public record must state this request prominently at the beginning of their comments. DOE will honor this request to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations, businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of officials of organizations or businesses will be included in the public record and open to public inspection in their entirety.

The public comment period ends on February 20, 2024. DOE will consider late submissions to the extent practicable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pierina N. Fayish', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Pierina N. Fayish
NEPA Compliance Officer