



EPA Seeks Comments on Two New Class I Non-Hazardous Disposal Well Permits

Consumers Energy J. H. Campbell Generating Station
Port Sheldon Township, Ottawa County, Michigan
April 2026

How to Comment

You may comment or request a public hearing on the proposed permit approvals in writing. Please refer to Consumers Energy, MI-139-1I-PIN-0001-1 & MI-139-1I-PIN-0002-1.

Submit your comments or request for a hearing to Docket ID No. EPA-R05-OW-2025-2730 at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-R05-OW-2025-2730>

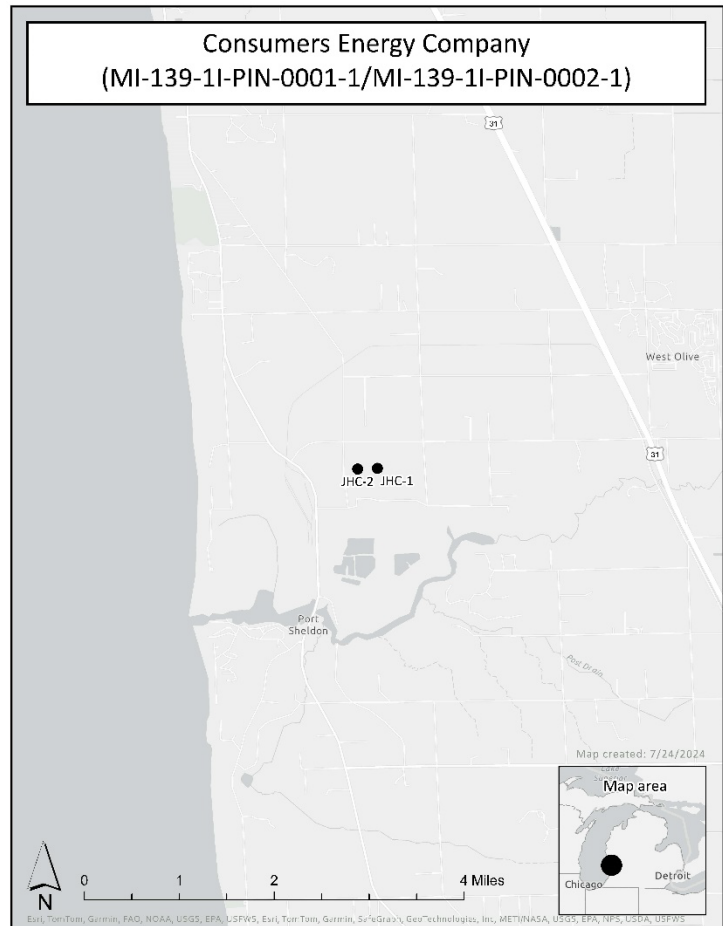
If you are unable to submit electronically, please contact Claudia Banks at 312-353-5787 for instructions on how to comment or request a hearing.

Comment Period

The EPA will accept written comments until May 4th, 2026.

Web resources

<https://www.epa.gov/uic/underground-injection-control-epa-region-5-il-mi-mn-oh-and-wi#public-notice>



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to approve a request from Consumers Energy for issuance of Class I Non-Hazardous underground injection permits for two wells to be located at the J. H. Campbell Generating (JHC) facility. The permits would authorize the disposal of coal combustion residual landfill (CCR) leachate generated from CCR landfill cells, extracted groundwater from existing coal combustion residual from coal impoundment perimeter remediation system, and wastewater from dewatering activities and other contact water while clean-closing the unlined historic CCR impoundment at the JHC facility.

After reviewing Consumer Energy's permit requests, EPA found the company has shown that injected waste will not threaten any underground sources of drinking water. Therefore, EPA plans to issue permits to the company. They would be valid for 10 years.

During the comment period, you may ask EPA – in writing – to hold a formal public hearing. Be sure to say specifically what issues you want to raise. EPA will hold a hearing if there is significant interest. If there is a hearing, EPA will publish a notice at least 30 days prior. EPA will consider all comments it receives and then issue a final decision along with a response to the significant comments.

Federal regulations require Class I wells to inject waste into an area below the deepest underground source of drinking

water (USDW). The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) authorizes EPA to regulate the underground injection of fluid through wells to protect USDWs. All Class I wells must be cased and cemented to prevent the movement of fluids into or between USDWs.

Site Geology: The injection zone for the two wells is in the containment formation defined to include, in descending order: the Trenton Formation, the Black River Formation, the Glenwood Shale, the Prairie du Chien Group, the Trempealeau Formation, the Franconia Formation, the Galesville Formation, the Eau Claire Formation, and the Mt. Simon Sandstone. The confining zone is located directly above the injection zone and acts as a buffer between the injection zone and the lower most USDW to help ensure that there is not movement upward. The confining zone is made up of the Utica Shale.

A USDW is defined as any aquifer or portion thereof that contains less than 10,000 milligrams per liter of total dissolved solids, and which is being or can be used as a source of drinking water. The deepest USDW is in the Glacial Drift and is located 220 feet below the surface.

Facility Background: The Class I Non-Hazardous wells would be used for the disposal of liquid waste generated at the facility. The construction design of the injection wells meets the regulatory criteria of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (40 C.F.R.) §146.22.

Area of Review (AOR): The AOR is the area within a two-mile radius of the proposed injection wells. EPA analyzed the AOR to identify wells that might allow fluid to move out of the injection zone. In the AOR, there are 0 producing, 0 injection, 0 temporarily abandoned, 1 plugged and abandoned, 1 test well, and no other wells that penetrate the confining zone.

Maximum Injection Pressure: EPA has set a limit on injection pressure to prevent fracturing of the injection zone rock formation. The maximum allowable injection pressure for each well was calculated by EPA by factoring the depth of the injection zone, the highest specific gravity of the injected fluid, and the fracture gradient of the rock formation. The proposed maximum injection pressure for these two wells is limited to 593 pounds per square inch.

Financial Assurance: In accordance with 40 C.F.R. §146.24(d), the permits include a plugging and abandonment plan for an environmentally protective well closure at the time of cessation of operations. Consumers Energy has demonstrated adequate financial responsibility to properly plug and abandon the Class I non-hazardous wells.

Intent to Issue Permits: Review of the permit applications indicate no significant environmental impacts should result from the issuance of these two permits. In accordance with provisions of SDWA and attendant regulations incorporated by EPA under 40 C.F.R. at Parts 124, 144, 146, and 147, EPA intends to issue a permit for each of the wells. Part C of the SDWA specifically mandates regulations of the underground injection of fluids through wells to assure that the quality of the underground injection control (UIC) programs in the states which do not have approved UIC programs. Michigan has not acquired primacy over the UIC program for Class I injection wells, therefore EPA is administering the permit program pursuant to regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 147.

Administrative Record

To request review of Administrative Record files or for additional information please contact Claudia Banks at 312-353-5787 or banks.claudia@epa.gov.

Legal Notice

You have the right to appeal any final permit decision if you make an official comment during the comment period or participate in the public hearing. A public hearing is not planned at this time.

The first appeal must be made to the Environmental Appeals Board; only after all agency review procedures have been exhausted may you file an action in the appropriate Circuit Court of Appeals.

To learn more about EPA's Underground Injection Control program, or to join our mailing list visit <https://www.epa.gov/node/88753#public-notice>.