UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

Mr. Matthew B. Pagels, President
12837 Route 438
Cattaraugus Territory
Seneca Nation of Indians
Irving, NY 14081

Re: Notification of Consultation and Coordination on Proposed UIC Permit Issuance to Sandstone Development, LLC: PAS2R420BMCK

Dear President Pagels:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA or the Agency), Region III (the Region), is seeking to initiate consultation and coordination with the Seneca Nation of Indians (the Nation) concerning EPA's proposed issuance of an Underground Injection Control (UIC) Class II-R permit for one (1) enhanced recovery injection well to Sandstone Development, LLC (Sandstone) of Bradford, Pennsylvania. On March 15, 2021, the UIC program received an application from Sandstone for the conversion of one (1) active production well, Moody Lot 5 #17 (API 37-083-53736), to one (1) operating Class II-R enhanced recovery injection well. Enhanced recovery is a process whereby fluid is injected into a geologic formation to help produce additional oil within the formation that was not produced during the original primary oil production process. The draft permit will have a thirty (30) day public comment period. If there is significant public interest, a virtual public hearing will be held to solicit oral comments from interested parties.

The proposed UIC well is located at the Moody Lot 5 in Bradford Township, McKean County, Pennsylvania. The coordinates for the injection well are: Latitude 41° 54' 34.38" and Longitude -78° 35' 15.70.

For this reason, the Region respectfully offers the Nation an opportunity to comment on the draft permit and to consult and coordinate with the Region in this matter. The Region would appreciate input from the Nation regarding any additional information that the Nation believes the Region should consider regarding this draft permit and underlying permit application and welcomes the opportunity for discussion with the Nation's designated representatives. Following the conclusion of the public comment period and consultation with the Nation, the Region will formally respond to all public comments timely received, and oral testimony provided at the public hearing in a formal *Response to Comments*. At that time, EPA will also make a final permit decision.

The Region proposes that this consultation and coordination process be conducted in accordance with the *EPA Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes* ([HYPERLINK

Printed on 100% recycled/recyclable paper with 100% post-consumer fiber and process chlorine free.
Customer Service Hotline: 1-800-438-2474

"https://www.epa.gov/tribal/epa-policy-consultation-and-coordination-indian-tribes"]). The Region invites you and your designated consultation representative(s) to participate in this process, through which relevant concerns, proposals and options may be discussed and shared by all concerned. The Region currently anticipates this consultation and coordination process to occur between now and the close of the public comment period for the draft permit.

The official EPA contact person for this consultation and coordination process is Kevin Rowsey, Senior Permit Specialist in the Source Water & UIC Section at EPA Region III ([HYPERLINK "mailto:rowsey.kevin@epa.gov"] or 215-814-5463). Please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Rowsey with questions on this action or to request alternative arrangements to the process outlined in the consultation plan.

The Nation may accept this offer to consult with the Region by contacting Mr. Rowsey as soon as possible. The Region requests that the Nation respond within thirty (30) days of receiving this letter to allow sufficient time for the Nation's input, a thorough discussion of concerns and proposals, and the Region's careful consideration prior to the issuance of a draft permit.

We look forward to hearing from you, and working together with you, on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Diana Esher
Acting Regional Administrator

cc: Grant Jonathan, EPA Region 2