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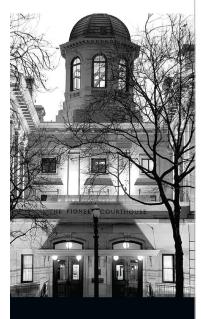
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## EPA VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED DECISION TO APPROVE LOUISIANA'S CLASS VI PRIMACY APPLICATION

HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 2023 4:00 P.M.

1201 ELM STREET, SUITE 500 DALLAS, TEXAS 75270

## 1 **APPEARANCES** 2 3 Presenters: 4 Ian Ussery Robert Kirkland 5 Ken E. Johnson 6 Armando Aremendariz 8 9 Attendees: 10 Eloise Reid DK Willard 11 12 Tommy Johnson 13 Kathy Johnson 14 Lisa Cochren 15 Jo Banner 16 Vickie Booth 17 Wilma Subra 18 Matt Rota 19 Barbara Washington 20 Connie Fink 21 Deshae Campbell 22 Grace Treffinger 23 Daniel Zollinger 24 Glenda Cologero 25 Myrtle Felton



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MR. JOHNSON: Before we begin taking testimony, I will provide background information and a summary of the proposed action. With me on the virtual hearing today from EPA Region 6 are Ian Ussery and Brody Friesenhahn, UIC section geologist, and from the Office of Regional Counsel our hearing officer, Armando Armendariz.

Today's hearing concerns EPA's proposed approval of a revision to the Louisiana Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1422, UIC program, to include Class VI injection weld primary enforcement responsibility, also referred to as primacy. The proposed revision would allow the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, or LDNR, to issue UIC permits for geologic carbon sequestration facilities as Class VI wells and ensure compliance of Class VI wells under the UIC program.

The EPA proposes to issue a final rule approving

Louisiana's application to implement the UIC program for Class

VI injection wells located within the state, except those on

Indian lands.

The UIC Class VI program was created under the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. This statute protects public health by regulating the nation's public drinking water supply, including both surface and groundwater resources. The Safe Drinking Water Act requires the EPA to develop requirements and provisions for the state and tribal underground injection control or UIC programs.

These UIC programs regulate the injection of fluids to protect underground sources of drinking water. Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1422, directs EPA to establish requirements that states, territories, and federally recognized tribes must meet to be granted primary enforcement responsibility or primacy for implementing a UIC program, including a Class VI program.

A state applicant seeking primacy for a Class VI program must demonstrate to EPA that the state Class VI program is as stringent as the federal requirements, and is protective of underground sources of drinking water, or USDWs, among other requirements.

The UIC Class VI program which regulates injection of carbon dioxide into deep rock formations for the purpose of long-term underground storage, provides multiple safeguards that work together to protect USDWs and human health.

Owners or operators that wish to inject carbon dioxide for the purpose of geologic sequestration must demonstrate that

their injection well will meet all regulatory requirements and receive a Class VI permit for each well. UIC Class VI program requires applicants to meet strict technical, financial, and managerial requirements to obtain a Class VI permit. These program components include the following:

One, site characterization. Site characterization ensures the geology of the project area will contain the carbon dioxide within the zone where it will be injected;

Two, area review. Area review modeling delineates the predicted area influenced by injection activities through the lifetime of operation;

Three, evaluation of the delineated area to ensure all potential pathways for fluid movement have been identified and addressed through corrective action;

Four, well construction requirements. These requirements ensure that the Class VI injection well will not leak carbon dioxide;

Five, testing and monitoring throughout the life of the project, including after carbon dioxide injection has ended. Requirements include, for example, testing to ensure physical integrity of the well, monitoring for seismic activity near the injection site, monitoring of injection pressure and flow, chemical analysis of the carbon dioxide stream that is being injection, and monitoring the extent of the carbon dioxide plume and the surrounding area, such as the

groundwater, to ensure that the carbon dioxide is contained as predicted;

Six, operating requirements to ensure the injection activity will not endanger USDWs or human health;

Seven, financial assurance mechanism sufficient to cover the cost for all phases of the geologic sequestration project, including the post-injection site care period, and until site closure has been approved by the permitting authority;

Eight, emergency or remedial response plans;

Nine, reporting of all testing and monitoring results to the permitting authority to ensure the well is operating in compliance with all permit and regulatory requirements. The permitting authority ensures that these protective requirements are included in each Class VI permit. A draft of each Class VI permit is made available to the public for comment before a final permit is issued.

In addition to reviewing the state regulations to ensure that they are at least as stringent as the federal rules I've just summarized, the EPA also evaluated Louisiana's Class VI program description, Louisiana Attorney General's statement of enforcement authority, and the addendum to the memorandum of agreement between EPA and Louisiana describing the administration, implementation, and enforcement of Louisiana's Class VI program.

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Finally, as part of developing this proposal, EPA worked with the State of Louisiana to incorporate environmental justice considerations into their privacy application. reviewed Louisiana's EJ approach as described in the state's program description and the MOA addendum, and compared it to the EJ elements discussed in the December 9, 2022, letter from EPA to state governments.

Louisiana in committed in its MOA addendum to adapt all the EJ elements described in the letter, including implementing an inclusive public participation process incorporating EJ and civil rights considerations in the permit review processes, enforcing Class VI regulatory protections, and incorporation mitigation measures.

Furthermore, Louisiana's program description specifies that LDNR will require well owners or operators to conduct an EJ review as part of the Class VI application process, and the results of the review will be used by LDNR to determine if an enhanced public comment period would be required.

In closing, EPA conducted a comprehensive, technical, and legal evaluation of Louisiana's Class VI primacy application to assess and confirm that the state's Class VI UIC program is as stringent as the federal regulations. As a result of this comprehensive review, EPA is proposing to approve Louisiana's application because EPA has determined that

the application meets all applicable requirements for approval under Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1422, and the state is capable of administering a Class VI UIC program in a manner consistent with the terms and purposes of the Safe Drinking Water Act, and all applicable UIC regulations.

For additional information on the proposed decision, you may review the proposed decision located in the federal register. To review application materials and supporting documents, you may go to the rule making document at www.regulations.govôdocketôepa-hq-ow-2023- 0073ôdocument.

And now the hearing officer, Armando Armendariz, will explain the procedures for this public hearing.

HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Good afternoon,
everyone. Thank you for attending this virtual hearing.
Before I go any further, registered speakers should view and
make comments in the Microsoft Teams only. Having both Zoom
and Microsoft Teams portals opens at the same time may result
in background feedback.

Moving on. My name is Armando Armendariz, and I am an attorney for the Environmental Protection Agency, Region VI, located in Dallas, Texas. I am also the designated hearing officer for this hearing. I will be responsible for developing the hearing record by keeping and taking your comments concerning the EPA's proposed actions.

The procedures for conducting this virtual hearing

are rather simple and informal. However, this hearing must be conducted in an orderly manner that will allow the EPA to record all relevant and appropriate information related to the proposed actions.

Equally important today, a virtual hearing is not an evidentiary hearing or trial. There will be no direct or cross-examination of anyone. As the hearing officer, I may ask questions, but only for clarification and for the hearing record. Otherwise, people making comments will not be questioned. This is not a forum for debate or argumentative exchanges, but rather one for gathering facts and opinions related to the proposed actions.

I understand that some of you are quite passionate about today's issues, but in order to fully understand and hear your comments, your statements must be focused and clear.

As previously mentioned, EPA personnel will not be responding to any questions during today's virtual hearing.

Instead, the EPA will publish a written response to everyone's comments in the federal register that will include the agency's final decision. I will be calling on people who have registered to make comments. As is the case with a live public hearing, I am setting a three-minute per speaker rule. This will ensure that everyone will be given an opportunity to be heard.

When I call your name, please state and spell your



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Also, when I call your name, please raise your hand by pressing the raised hand icon found on top of the Microsoft Teams portal. This will allow us to unmute your microphone, which will officially start your three-minute time to give your statement.

If you go over your three-minute limit, your microphone will be muted and I will then call the next person on the list. After the record of the virtual hearing closes, the EPA will continue to accept written comments. Please note that the written commentary that began on May 4, 2024 (sic), will end on July 3rd, 2023. Also, note that written comments should be submitted by the methods prescribed in the EPA's notice, and will be given the same weight as oral arguments.

Finally, if you get disconnected, please call again to reconnect to the session.

I will now take the comments of people who have signed up to speak, beginning with Mr. Jo Banner. Mr. Jo Banner, please raise the icon -- press the icon button. Okay.

21 Mr. Banner, can you hear me okay?

MR. KIRKLAND: We cannot hear you, sir.

MR. USSERY: Armando, give me one second. having difficulties unmuting Jo's mic.

(Pause in the proceedings.)

I'm here to say that -- and also it gets that title

have been put out about the state.

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-- unfortunately, we see that in Louisiana in my area, Saint John, which is part of Cancer Alley. We have one of the highest rates of cancer in the country. We had the 95th percentile. In addition to that, we also have the highest rates of asthma -- twice the average in my community.

In addition, we also have -- we rank low for our medical; we rank low for our education. And all these different ways shows you that Louisiana is not in the condition to where we can gamble with our health and our happiness by engaging in carbon capture, also having Louisiana control -- or they have control of that.

So I'm asking that we -- the citizens are protected by community -- my family has been in Louisiana for over -- for about 300 years. I love my community. I love this state, but I have to say, the state has not done a good job of protecting us. Despite our loyalty, we have continued to (audio disruption) -- I'm starting to get some feedback. Okay. I think it's better now.

HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Go ahead, Ms. Banner,
yes. Go ahead.

MS. BANNER: Yes. But we're continually used as guinea pigs. And I think this carbon capture is another instance of us being used in this way. We're not sure of the technology. We have -- there's many different studies that shows that this is not proven that our state, despite a

delicate condition, that I hope that then would choose to continue on this road. But not only that, but then seek to control it.

If you had a child that was misbehaving and showed himself to be irresponsible or to be disrespectful to others, and one that you could not trust, would you give that child, if they were of driving age, the keys to your car? I think that you would not, because that child has a lot of growing up to do. And I think Louisiana is in that same state, we cannot afford to give the keys to drive the car until it shows itself to be truly responsible for residents like me and whose families have been -- who have been loyal to this state for many generations.

So, once again, I just thank you for allowing me the chance to talk to you today and I hope that you listen to my concerns. Thank you.

**HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you, Ms. Banner.

It looks like we're having some technical issues with the timeclock. Ms. Banner, I want to thank you for keeping your statements within the three minutes. Let's go ahead and see if we're going to be able to make it work.

Okay. Is there a Wilma Subra? Wilma Subra, please raise your hand.

Johnny Gamble?

MS. SUBRA: Can you hear me? This is Wilma.



HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Oh, thank you, Wilma.

Okay. I can hear you now.

MS. SUBRA: Thank you. My name is Wilma Subra, W-I-L-M-A, S-U, B as in boy, R-A. I'm with Louisiana Environmental Action Network. I have reviewed substantial information and data on carbon capture Class VI wells, CO2 storage, and storage formation issues and safety.

The current efficiencies appear to not be adequate to appropriately protect the subsurface environment which will be the location of the carbon storage, as well as protect locations on the surface environment, as well as the health of community members living in the area of the proposed activity, particularly, EJ community members.

Carbon storage after capture is a major issue with the potential to contaminate subsurface environments, groundwater resources, and migrate back to the surface. This will have the potential to contaminate the environment in which community members live and work and try to survive the pollution in their environment.

Professor Anthony Ingraffea of Cornell University has studied oil and gas issues extensively. And he has determined that all -- I say all -- plugged and abandoned wells will always leak.

There have been a large number of plugged and abandoned wells in Louisiana. In addition, Louisiana has an

increased number of orphaned and abandoned wells each and every year. These wells would allow CO2 capture and place in subsurface formations to migrate between subsurface formations and back to the surface along previously drilled well bores that are not adequately plugged and abandoned -- or orphaned and abandoned wells.

I just received and reviewed information that in Texas, due to extreme heat situations, pipelines and compressor systems are venting volatile organic compounds into the air to lower the pressure in the systems. The VOCs being vented are being released in large quantities into the air under excessive pressures and migrating large distances from the venting locations.

Oil and gas drilling has occurred in Louisiana since 1901. There is a lack of accurate data on locations of these historical wells, and a lack of accurate well log information and subsurface information over the years. This lack of accurate information could result in flaws in planning and operations of carbon storage situations that could result in critical situation.

I have also submitted additional comments via mail on this topic, and they should have arrived in Dallas yesterday.

And I'm sorry I couldn't do testimony on the first day. My husband has cancer. And when you changed the date, that was already a date that we were scheduled for his cancer treatment

at MD Anderson in Houston. 1 2 Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with 3 information. HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Thank you, Ms. Subra. 4 5 Can we get the clock reset? 6 MR. USSERY: You're good, Armando. 7 **HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ:** Do we have Johnny Gamble? Mr. Gamble? 8 9 What about Samuel Remchuk (phonetic)? Matt Rota? Mr. Rota, when you're ready, sir. 10 11 MR. ROTA: Can you all hear me? **HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ:** Yes, we can. 12 13 MR. ROTA: All right. Thanks. My name is Matt Rota. I am -- I work for Healthy Gulf, an environmental organization 14 based in Louisiana, based in New Orleans. 15 16 And we would like to speak out against DNR taking over primacy of the CCS program Class VI wells. We will be 17 submitting, and then our colleagues have sent lots of different 18 letters. I know that EPA has heard overwhelmingly from 19 20 community members in Louisiana and throughout the -- throughout Cancer Alley, throughout Southwest Louisiana about how people 21 do not want CCS in Louisiana. 22 23 And even if we do have carbon capture sequestration here, that DNR -- the Department of Natural Resources in 24

Louisiana is not prepared and will not do an adequate job to

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protect communities from the risks that CCS presents.

This application often points towards the memorandum of understanding between EPA and DNR which devotes less than a page to environmental justice, claiming that that is enough to protect communities, especially communities of color and communities that are already at overwhelming risk of chemical pollution in Louisiana.

This MOA is wholly inadequate to ensure environmental justice. While they talk about increasing public comments, there is actually nothing in that -- anything in that MOA that will do anything to actually ensure environmental justice. It talks about having more meetings, but it does not talk about what DNR and what EPA will do with the results of those meetings.

If a community is overwhelmingly against having a Class VI well in their communities, there's nothing saying that they can speak out against it, and then DNR will approve it anyway. And as the permittee will get what they want because DNR's job is to grant permits. And they will continue to do so.

Mitigation is mentioned, but mitigation should be a last resort that there is -- I can't see an incidence where DNR will actually disapprove a Class VI well, or any kind of well in a community due to environmental justice concerns. And that's backed up by DNR's own statements.

They have publicly stated that they cannot incorporate environmental justice into regulatory decisions unless statutorily their responsibilities are changed. This application does not change any statutes. Therefore, DNR has claimed that they cannot incorporate environmental justice. And that is not adequate; that does not support the Biden administration's statements on environmental justice. This does not support EPA's statements on environmental justice, and does not support the communities that are already over-impacted by environmental injustice and pollution.

day.

This also -- we don't feel that the drinking water issues are adequately addressed in this application. And, therefore, EPA should not be granting primacy to DNR. Jo Banner, Wilma Subra, just today spoke out very eloquently on many reasons. We'll be submitting in more comments before the comment deadline. And I know that you all have gotten many -- probably hundreds, if not thousands, of comments requesting a comment period extension. And so, we are also asking the EPA to extend the comments because we have -- Louisiana has thousands of wells. And Louisiana doesn't need any more.

HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Thank you, Mr. Rota.

MR. ROTA: So I appreciate your time and have a good

HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Thank you, Mr. Rota.

Gail LeBoeuf (phonetic)? Gail LeBoeuf?



Myrtle Felton?
Grace Treffinger?
Eloise Reid?
MS. REID: Hello.

MS. REID: Hello. Can you hear me okay?

HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Hello, Ms. Reid. We can

hear you, Ms. Reid. Whenever you're ready. Okay?

MS. REID: Okay. Thank you.

Hi. My name is Eloise MacMillan Reid, for the record. Thank you for having us this evening, as we're adding another hearing. Although I know many people and organizations have requested an extension of the comment period, and I hope you're considering that request.

I'm speaking on behalf of the Louisiana Against False Solutions Coalition and as a resident of Louisiana. I want to clarify that as the Environmental Protection Agency, you are meant to protect the environment. Right? I listened to every day of the last three days of hearings, and it was hard for me to understand that the EPA was sitting, listening to supporters and lobbyists for the oil and gas industry when you know that the oil and gas industry actively pollutes the environment and is causing the climate destruction and environmental racism across the country, and especially here in Louisiana, home to Cancer Alley.

The oil and gas industry is also the only one telling you that carbon capture is the way forward, when so many



Louisianans that you've heard today are telling you we do not want carbon capture in our state. We're trying to live in Louisiana. We're just trying to have a future for our children. We're trying to have a future for ourselves.

We want insurance on our homes. And why can't we get insurance? That's because of climate change, increased risks of hurricanes, floods, natural disasters. And we know they're not actually natural. We know that they're actually caused by the oil and gas industry.

I'm going to skip ahead. I've been lucky enough to live in a lot of places. I've lived in Louisiana for ten years, and I am grateful to be here. The people in Louisiana are not like anyone else. It's true. This is a culture that you cannot replace. If we lose our land due to carbon injection wells and land loss, we will be displaced. And you cannot replace Louisiana.

It's clear to me that every single person who has spoken, whether they are for or against carbon capture, loves Louisiana. I hope those listening will take a second to imagine a future for Louisiana that does not rely on a toxic industry to survive. We can and will transition to a just future, and we do not need to continue to inhale toxic fumes and lies of the oil and gas industry any longer.

We don't need carbon capture in our state and we deserve so much better. This is an emotional topic because



people are asking you to let them live their lives and live their truth and live out who they are. If you permit primacy to LDNR, it really is a death sentence for Louisiana.

escapes, it's an asphyxiant. It will displace oxygen, and you cannot breathe. As we've seen in Satartia, Mississippi and in other locations, first responders and ambulances cannot get to you. As you heard, LDNR is an understaff agency and they cave at any chance they can to the oil and gas industry, and they don't regulate them.

Please do not let them have control over primacy and permitting for the wells for this toxic waste in Louisiana.

We're fighting enough in the state already. This is not okay.

It should not happen here, and it should not happen anywhere.

If it doesn't happen in Louisiana, it might not happen in other places.

Please do not use Louisiana again as a testing ground. For the hundredth time, people are sick, they're dying. We've seen the results of the tests, and LDNR has failed. We need clean and renewable energy with no pollution. We do not need a false solution.

I'll be submitting more comments on behalf of the organization and myself. And thank you for your time.

HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Thank you, Ms. Reid.

Vickie Boothe? Ms. Boothe, give us one second, one,

so we can reset the clock. Okay. Ms. Boothe, whenever you're ready. Okay?

MS. BOOTHE: Okay. Can you hear me?

HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: We can hear you.

MS. BOOTHE: Oh, excellent. Good evening. My name is Vickie Boothe. That's V-I-C-K-I-E, B-O-O-T-H-E. (Audio disruption) 2009. My professional experience includes 14 years of service as an EPA environmental engineer, followed by 19 years at CDC as an environmental engineer and epidemiologist.

My comments today relate to Louisiana's statutory authority and ability to administer a Class VI primacy program. As required by 40 CFR, Section 145, Louisiana's attorney general submitted a February 10, 2021, letter to EPA affirming, quote, "The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Office of Conservation, has the adequate authority to carry out the program set forth in the program description. That submitted program description commits the LDNR to implement multiple environmental justice-related requirements, including requiring permit applicants to conduct an EJ review and submit a report conducting inhouse EJ screening reviews, followed by contracted qualified third-party evaluations where EJ issues are identified, and subsequently requiring applicants to propose mitigating measures and assess alternative site locations."

The legal authority described in the February 2021st statement was subsequently contradicted by an LDNR senior staff

presentation on carbon sequestration given at a 2022 pipeline 1 2 safety conference. Specifically, Bullet 3 on Slide 24 states, 3 quote, "LDNR currently lacks statutory authority to make the results of an EJ review part of the actual permit decision." 4 5 Further, in his recently filed lawsuit against EPA, 6 Louisiana's attorney general asserted his belief that LA --7 Louisiana residents are not protected on the basis of race, color, or national origin from disparate impacts created by 8 state government policies or permitting decisions. 9 He also characterized predecisional EJ and disparate 10 impact review (audio disruption) the last three years (audio 11 disruption) the LA attorney general seems -- deems illegal not 12 13 only seems antithetical --**HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ:** Ms. Boothe? 14 MS. BOOTHE: Yes. For those reasons, I -- for those 15 16 reasons, I urge EPA to reconsider its recent decision. 17 **HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you, Ms. Boothe. MS. BOOTHE: Thank you. 18 **HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ:** Lucia (phonetic) Jones? 19 20 D.K. Willard? 21 Kathy Johnson? Okay. Who -- I see somebody with a telephone number. 22 23 Who is that, please? Did you unmute? We cannot hear you. 24 MR. USSERY: So I'm unable to advance them to a

I'm guessing it's because they're on a telephone.

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presenter.

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Sir or Madam, is there any way you could hop on a
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   computer or maybe join through your phone, one of like the
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   Teams app?
             HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: The last person that I
 4
   called was D.K. Willard or Lucia Jones. So it might be either
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 6
   one of those two.
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             Okay. Let's move forward. Kathy Johnson?
             Shayne Benedetto?
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             Russel Honore?
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             Barbara Washington? Ms. Washington, I see you
   raising your hand. Can you hear me? Are you muted?
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             MR. USSERY: Ms. Washington, you should be able to
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   unmute your mic.
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             HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Ms. Washington, we still
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   can't hear you.
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             MS. WASHINGTON: Can you hear me now?
             MR. USSERY: Oh, okay.
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             HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Oh, there we go, ma'am.
18
   Whenever you're ready.
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             MS. WASHINGTON: Okay. Good afternoon. My name is
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   Barbara Washington, B-A-R-B-A-R-A, W-A-S-H-I-N-G-T-O-N.
   reside in Saint James Parish in Convent, Louisiana. I am the
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   co-founder and co-author of Inclusive Louisiana. I'm
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24
   surrounded by petrochemical plants, sugarcane, and other
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   industrial facilities that produce toxic cancer-causing
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pollutants and particulate matter.

I am saying no to the application to permit carbon dioxide waste injection in Louisiana. My neighbors and I have been experiencing headaches, nausea, chronic coughs, and respiratory problems. I have seen so many of my loved ones and friends die from cancer, and are suffering with cancer at this time.

Our homes are being corroded from the chemicals like hydrogen sulfide and sulfuric acid mist. Our health is failing, and so many of our families and friends have died from cancer.

We have been poisoned by the releasing of unpermitted hydrogen sulfide and sulfuric acid mist, and just getting a slap on the hand by the people -- the facilities in fines. We know that carbon dioxide is hazardous and displaces oxygen in the air that we need to breathe.

We have 17 industrial plants that produce cancercausing pollutants. We have pipelines running all throughout our properties and carbon dioxide corrosion can break down the metals in pipelines and containers, and they leak out carbon contamination to our drinking water.

The oil and gas companies have shifted the liability to the people of Louisiana for these damages caused by carbon dioxide waste injection. And this new law is in conflict with EPA's federal requirements.

The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources have a

Cashona Lavergne?

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DeShae Campbell? Whenever you're ready. I think you
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   need to unmute your mic.
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             MS. CAMPBELL: Oh, hello. Hi. I'm DeShae Campbell,
   D-E-S-H-A-E, C-A-M-P-B-E-L-L, from Saint Amant, Louisiana.
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 5
             The oil and gas industry has provided stable high-
 6
   paying jobs for generations of Louisiana families. We depend
 7
   on it for their homes and livelihoods. It's crucial to keep
   the industry strong for future generations to enjoy its
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 9
   benefits.
             It's also important for everyone, including the EPA,
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   to recognize that we have a history of maintaining high
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   standards in the industry. Granting primacy to local leaders
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   will help them ensure the industry's strength. These experts
   have played a key role in its success. Primacy will protect
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15
   jobs, meet the growing energy demands of the United States, and
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   safeguard the environment.
             Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my
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   thoughts.
             HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Thank you, Ms. Campbell.
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             Okay. We're going to go back to the list to see if
   people came in late. Johnny Gamble?
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             Samuel Remchuk?
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             Gail LeBoeuf?
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             Myrtle Felton?
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             Grace Treffinger?
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Lucia Jones?
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             D.K. Willard?
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             Kathy Johnson?
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             Shayne Benedetto?
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             Russel Honore?
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             Myrtle Felton?
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             Ainsley Nelson?
             Jacquelyn Germany?
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             Cashona Lavergne?
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             At this time we're going to ask anybody who is in
   this virtual screen, who would like to make a statement at this
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12
   time, to just please go ahead and raise your hand so that we
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   can unmute you.
                     It looks like there's Connie Fink.
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             MS. COLOGERO: My name is Glenda Cologero, G-L-E-N-D-
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       I'm on the computer of Connie Fink, but we are together,
   and I'm speaking on her behalf. So it's G-L-E-N-D-A-, C-O-L-O-
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   G-E-R-O. I'm a Louisiana resident in Tangipahoa Parish.
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             I'm not here to -- I do not want to discuss with you
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20
   the merits of this particular problem -- it's more the history
   of Louisiana. We've had to where they've gone in and they've
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   timbered to where we have brackish water, unable to put in
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   cypress trees. They just do millions of dollars of research of
23
   how we can fix this.
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25
             We have -- well, the reason we have Cancer Alley is
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they've allowed chemical plants to come in unabated. I'm hearing people talking and saying that the oil and gas industry is what's important -- not the environment, not people's health, but the oil and gas industry seems to be at the forefront.

I look and I say, "Okay. You look, and the next thing you know, you see that we've had the oil spill in the Gulf. Then we have Katrina. Katrina was devastating, but the fact that the -- that we flooded was not Katrina; it was because the Corps of Engineers did not put the levees down to the specs that they had said."

So I look and I say, "You're saying that Louisiana is able to govern themselves on this." I don't see that. We have a history showing we cannot. And I don't see how the EPA can look the other way and allow this to happen when over and over and over again, Louisiana has shown that they do not have the ability to govern themselves in this area. Thank you.

## **HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

Is there anybody else who wishes to speak at this time? Anyone else?

Okay. It looks like we ran out of speakers at this moment, so we're going to go ahead and go off the record until somebody comes forward, wants to make a comment. In the meantime, you're more than welcome to stay online. But for now, we're just going to wait until somebody else comes

We are open and will be open until 8 p.m. So if 1 forward. 2 anybody comes in within that time and wants to give a 3 statement, we will hear them. Okay. Thank you for now. And we're off the record 4 5 for now. 6 (WHEREUPON, a recess was taken.) 7 **HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ:** Do we have a Martha Camacho Rodriguez? Ms. Rodriguez? 8 9 Then again, Mr. Felton? Mr. Felton? Is there anybody in the group that has not given a 10 11 statement, that would like to give a statement? 12 Okay. We'll be off the record then. Thank you. 13 (WHEREUPON, a recess was taken.) **HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ:** Okay. Do we have 14 15 another speaker? 16 MS. FINK: Hello? **HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ:** Yes. 17 This is Connie Fink. 18 MS. FINK: Hi. HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Give me one second, 19 20 Connie. Let us go ahead and put the timer on. Give me one second, ma'am. Okay? Okay. When you're ready, ma'am. 21 22 MS. FINK: I'm sorry. My wife spoke for me earlier. 23 I actually submitted both of us to speak. It's Connie, C-O-N-24 N-I-E, Fink, F-I-N-K. And I just wanted to say I'm against the 25 CO2 capture into Lake Maurepas. I've watched Lake Maurepas

just become deforested since my childhood, and been elated that the trees are starting to come back.

There was a snowy white egret colony that I was watching for quite a while, watching it grow, right off the side of I-55. And since, I've not maybe seen or two of the egrets since all the destruction has began in Lake Maurepas.

Also, I used to see a lot of pelicans in the lake. I do a lot of kayaking on Lake Maurepas. I don't see the pelicans anymore. The environment, it's just a change, as far as the heat, when you're crossing over I- 55, for years we've hoped that it would be replanted and we could see the giant cypress trees again. And I'm losing all hope of that, and losing a lot of sleep over it, too. I guess, there's a lot of psychosocial element going on when you destroy people's environments.

Kudos to Ms. Barbara Washington for hanging in there, after watching the destruction of her -- where she grew up and her neighborhood. And her friends are sick with cancer.

I'm also in the medical field, and I've seen the decline in health. I'm a respiratory therapist, 30 years. I was a medic in the Army when I was 18 years old. And I've watched the increase in asthma, emphysema, bronchitis.

People's immune systems are weaker. I traveled to Montana.

Spent time in a national park, an 80-year-old from Montana will buzz right by the 60-year- old Louisianan. It's not good for

us.

People talk about jobs. Plenty of help wanted signs.

I know plenty of chemical plant workers who are working overtime and working so much overtime that I have a fear that maybe they're not able to do what they're supposed to do.

I lived through the oil spill. We used to supplement our protein with lots of fish. I watched the red fish collapse. I've watched the media in New York saying people are fishing in the State of Louisiana, talking about how great the red fish came back. Well, that's fine and good, you pay \$500 when you go out with a boat captain who has stocked an area for you to catch red fish in. But for me to just launch my kayak and into the meadow and catch a couple of red fish, it's not going to happen.

I really hope the EPA protects us. I hope they protect us for my grandchildren's sake, my wife's sake -- she's ready to flee back to Virginia, and just the health of this state. We've given enough. We have done our share for this country. We have paid the price. Please make it stop now. Protect us. We are paying for protection. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Thank you, Ms. Fink.

MS. FINK: Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: It looks like Grace Treffinger has -- is ready to speak.

MS. TREFFINGER: Hello. Good afternoon. Yes. My



name is Grace Treffinger, that's T-R-E-F-I-N-G-E-R. I am a lifelong resident of Louisiana, and I also work for Taproot Earth, a climate justice organization that is based in Louisiana.

I am making comment today to urge the EPA to withdraw the proposed approval of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources application for primacy for many, many reasons that others have stated today and last week.

I grew up in Louisiana and I plan to stay here for the rest of my life, but I am deeply concerned with the way things are going, as far as how our state agencies are managing or mismanaging their responsibility to our people and our planet.

As many have already mentioned, LDNR and LDEQ have extremely poor track records of protecting Louisiana's people and environment. There are many, many examples of noncompliance and nonenforcement. And the extent to which this carbon capture and sequestration pipeline buildout is being proposed across the state is extremely beyond the capacity of such an underfunded and understaffed agency that already has a track record of not being able to manage the existing mandate to regulate our existing oil and gas wells.

I understand the fear that many are coming into this with of these industries leaving our state, but as the previous person who commented mentioned, we have paid enough. The

people of Louisiana are already struggling from this industry that is inevitably leaving and is inevitably going to be closing down. And the carbon capture and sequestration buildout is extremely -- if it is poorly managed, which we are guaranteeing by allowing primacy to LDNR, it will be devastating to the people of Louisiana and our environment.

As I think was mentioned last week, in 2020 a carbon dioxide pipeline ruptured in the community of Satartia,

Mississippi. And one thing that's incredibly important to mention here is that the emergency management personnel did not even know that this pipeline existed underneath their community and, therefore, it took hours to identify the source of the leak and they were not prepared to manage a carbon dioxide pipeline rupture.

And, though, thankfully, there were no fatalities from this rupture, there have been long-term health impacts to the community members who were essentially, poisoned by excessive amounts of carbon dioxide, including long-term -- you know, all sorts of long-term health impacts and loss of the ability to continue working in their jobs.

The rubber stamping that would inevitably happen if the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources was granted primacy, would put Louisianans at great risk. And I am urging EPA to withdraw this proposed approval. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Thank you.



At this moment, is there anybody else that hasn't had a chance to give a statement -- wants to give a statement now?

Do I have a hand raised?

MR. USSERY: Carolyn, you should be able to unmute your mic now.

MS. RAFFENSPERGER: Is that -- am I on now?
HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Yes.

MS. RAFFENSPERGER: Thank you. My name is Carolyn Raffensperger. I'm the executive director of the Science and Environmental Health Network. And I urge you not to grant primacy to Louisiana for the following reasons.

Carbon capture and storage is uniquely technically complex and it is uniquely regulatorily complex. The kind of regulations that are necessary for the capture part, for the pipeline part, and then for the sequestration for use enhanced oil recovery processes are very, very complex technically. They don't all fit together at this point, in terms of the regulations.

So, for example, PHMSA is currently drafting regulations for CO2 pipelines. We have no cradle to grave manifests for CO2 from the point at which it is captured and put into a pipeline through to where it is sequestered.

We've had fraud already with the CO2 pipelines, given the different reporting of companies to the IRS, much less EPA.

And the discrepancy and the lack of any kind of manifest --

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hazardous waste manifest or cradle to grave verification in reporting means that more fraud is likely.
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So when we come to the capture part, we've already got this fragmented regulatory landscape. And granting primacy to states means that it will become even more fragmented. With states who are overwhelmed with their existing responsibilities, now taking on something that is extraordinarily hazardous.

asphyxiant. It is toxic. It can kill you. You can't see it. You can't -- you can't smell it. And all of this means that we need to put in place a much more robust regulatory system to manage this.

Primacy is the wrong direction. We should not be increasing the fragmentation of carbon capture and storage with the regulations. We need a comprehensive system that protects public health and safety, protects the environment, and does not lend itself to fraud using public money, given the 45Q tax credits. All in all, primacy must be denied. Thank you.

## HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Thank you.

Anyone else who hasn't given a statement? Anyone else at this moment?

Okay. We're going to go off the record for a while until we get a new speaker.

(WHEREUPON, a recess was taken.)



1 **HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ:** Tommy Johnson? Mr. 2 Johnson, are you here to give a statement? Mr. Tommy Johnson? 3 MR. JOHNSON: No, sir. I'm just -- I'm just here to listen. 4 Thank you. HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Okay. You're welcome, 5 6 sir. 7 Off the record, please. (WHEREUPON, a recess was taken.) 8 9 **HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ:** It appears that Ms. Kathy Johnson just joined us. Ms. Johnson, can you hear me? 10 11 MS. JOHNSON: Can you hear me? **HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ:** Yes, I can, ma'am. 12 13 you here to make a statement? MS. JOHNSON: I am. I am. 14 15 **HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ:** Okay. All right. Give 16 me one second. Keep in mind you have three minutes to give your statement. Okay? 17 MS. JOHNSON: Yes, sir. 18 HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: All right. When you're 19 20 ready. MS. JOHNSON: All right. My statement is -- hello. 21 My name is Kathy Johnson. I'm from Monroe, Louisiana. 22 23 Over the past few years, it's become evident that Louisiana knows what's best for itself. We are highly regarded 24 25 for overseeing our energy industry at the state level.



The oil and gas industry provides stable and high-

25

paying jobs to thousands of Louisianans across several generations. Families rely on the industry to build their homes and their lives. It's important that the industry remains strong and allows future generations to enjoy the benefits. And it's also important that the EPA understands that we have a history of maintaining strong standards to protect the environment. That's why it's been around so long.

The granting of primacy will allow local leaders to ensure the industry will remain strong -- the same experts who have helped the industry flourish. Primacy will protect thousands of jobs and allow our state to continue to meet the growing energy demands of the United States, while protecting the environment.

This industry is important to Louisiana, the environment is important to Louisiana, and they can flourish together. Thank you and thank you for putting this together.

Anybody else at this time? Okay. We'll be off the record. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Thank you, Mr. Willard.

(WHEREUPON, a recess was taken.)

HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Do we have a Lisa

Cothern? Lisa Cothern? I think you need to unmute. We cannot hear you.

Is there anybody else who wants to give a statement at this moment, raise your hand, please? Okay. We'll go off

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the record for now.
                        Thank you.
 1
 2
              (WHEREUPON, a recess was taken.)
 3
             HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: I see an Errin Kent.
   Errin Kent, are you here to make a statement?
 4
 5
             THE REPORTER: Can you hear me?
 6
             HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Errin Kent -- or you're
 7
   just an observer?
             Okay. Off the record, please.
 8
 9
              (WHEREUPON, a recess was taken.)
             HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Back on the record,
10
   please. 985 -- okay. If you're calling by phone, please note
11
   that we cannot take your statement over Teams. So please try
12
   to connect via your phone or please get to a computer to reach
13
   us. But we're not going to be able to take your statement or
14
   your comments if you're calling in by phone. We apologize for
15
16
   that.
             MR. USSERY: Armando, I may have figured it out.
17
             HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Okay.
18
19
             MR. USSERY: For the person who's getting on the
20
   phone, could you try your audio real quick?
21
             MS. COTHERN: Are you referring to me?
22
             MR. USSERY:
                           Yes.
             HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Are you giving a
23
   statement, ma'am?
24
25
             MS. COTHERN: I'm sorry. Repeat that.
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HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Are you giving a
1
2
   statement, a comment?
 3
             MS. COTHERN:
                           Yes.
                                 Yes, I would like to. Yes.
             HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Okay. Go ahead and
 4
5
   spell your name for us. And please note, you have three
6
   minutes.
7
             MS. COTHERN:
                           Okay. My name is Lisa, L-I-S-A,
   Cothern, C-O-T-H-E-R-N. My address is 32011 Tiboe Plaza,
8
9
   Springfield, Louisiana. I am a lifelong resident of the
   Springfield, Louisiana area, four generations deep here. And I
10
   am calling to express my concerns, also calling to let everyone
11
   know on this committee that this is not something that is going
12
13
   to be allowed by the people. We do have our rights.
             I do know that this is under the federal government,
14
15
   and these things are being approved by wildlife and fisheries;
16
   however, because I am a citizen of Springfield, Louisiana, I
   hold several unalienable rights that these permits do not
17
   supersede.
18
             This is something that's going to destroy my
19
   community, and I am calling to say this will not be allowed.
20
21
             HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Is that the end of your
   statement, Ms. Cothern?
22
23
             MS. COTHERN: Well, yeah, I would like -- I would
   like to hear back from you. This isn't a -- there is not a
24
25
   citizen in this area that has agreed to allow this to happen.
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- And this won't happen. I don't know what your -- what's your power that supersedes my power to say that it will be allowed, but my power comes through the Creator. My power comes through the Constitution. My power comes through the Bill of Rights.

  And you do not supersede that. You do not supersede the powers of the Creator.

  HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Thank you, Ms. Cothern,
  - for that. Unfortunately, on my opening statement, one of the statements I made was that we were not going to answer any questions from the public.
- 11 MS. COTHERN: Uh-huh.

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- happen is your statement will be recorded by the court reporter, and it will be answered through the register, along with the EPA's final decision. But we're not taking any questions from the public at this moment. Okay? We're only recording statements.
- MS. COTHERN: Okay. And that is my statement for each one of you to be aware that you're put on notice that this proceeding will not take place.
- 21 HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Okay, ma'am. Thank you.
- 22 MS. COTHERN: Uh-huh.
- HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Okay. Anybody else at this time? Okay. We're going to go off the record until we get a new speaker. Thank you.

because it is very dangerous. We have enough industry in the
area and enough pollution. And when you live on a fence line,
you know as a fact that you have enough because your body tells
you -- sends you different signals where you stay sick and your
body hurts.



```
There's too many people around here that's dying of
1
2
            As a matter of fact, I lost four of my family members
3
   in three months' time, and one of those members was my husband.
   And that is the worst thing that you could ever do is lose -- I
5
   lost four at one time. So I feel the effects up until today.
 6
             We don't need any more pollution in the area.
7
   don't need carbon capture because they are not protecting us
   from the pollution. And when you live on a fence line, it is
8
   very dangerous. You have to cut your life short. There's a
   lot of things that you would like to do that you cannot do
10
   anymore because of the pollution. And we can't seem to get
11
   them to lower the pollution level for us to survive. And I
12
   don't think it's fair.
13
             So that's all I have to say. I'm not in favor of
14
15
   carbon capture. And I'm not in favor of being on the fence
16
   line without protection.
17
             HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Thank you, ma'am.
18
             MS. FELTON: Thank you.
             HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Okay. Anyone else?
19
20
   Okay. Off the record, please.
21
              (WHEREUPON, a recess was taken.)
22
             HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Do we have a Cashona
23
   Lavergne? Ms. Lavergne, can you unmute your microphone, ma'am?
24
             MS. LAVERGNE:
                            Can you hear me now?
25
             HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ:
```



I can hear you now,

ma'am.

2 MS. LAVERGNE: All right.

HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Whenever you're ready.

Okay?

MS. LAVERGNE: Okay. Thank you guys for hearing me. Sorry about the connection issue early on. I appreciate you all hearing us out.

One, I am a hundred percent opposed to carbon dioxide waste injection here in Louisiana. There are a million things I can think of that Louisiana should aim to be at the forefront of. And unfortunately, this just isn't one of them.

And I have some reasons why. One, carbon dioxide itself is hazardous. I mean, this could further pollute our soil; it could lead to further pollution in our waterways; essentially being even hazardous to our individual health.

Additionally, scientists are still posit that the idea of carbon dioxide waste injection and its long- term effects on our community and the environment. The DNR also has a tarnished record, as we all are aware of. They already failed to protect certain communities, such as Grand Bayou and Bayou Corne area. I'd hate to see Baton Rouge or other surrounding areas to add to that list.

This can only lead to additional disturbances potentially in the fault line, and there are some other things that can potentially go into play here, especially when we're

```
dealing with such a topic or such a thing that no one can
1
2
   answer what happens five years down the road, ten years down
3
   the road, or 15 years down the road.
             I just think this is something we should shy away
 4
5
   from, at least until we know more about it, especially with
6
   Louisiana already being one of the main areas with all these
7
   different refineries, all of these different pollutants, all of
   these different things that we have here, that we already have
8
9
   to be so cautious about.
                             Thank you.
10
             HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Thank you.
11
             Okay. Off the record for now.
             (WHEREUPON, a recess was taken.)
12
13
             HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Gail LeBoeuf?
             MS. LE BOEUF: Hello.
14
15
             HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Hello.
16
             MS. LE BOEUF: Yes. I'm on my phone. I'm not on my
17
   computer.
             HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Okay. That's okay,
18
19
          We can hear you. So whenever you're ready to give your
20
   comment.
             Okay?
             MS. LE BOEUF: Okay. Good evening, everyone.
21
   name is Gail LeBoeuf. I'm a lifelong resident of Saint James
22
23
   Parish. And my name is spelled G-A-I-L, L-E, Capital B, O-E-U-
```

We cannot have an increase of CO2 on top or below the

I'm a founder and a director of Inclusive Louisiana.

24

25

HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: You kind of cut off

24

25

there at the end.



```
1
             MS. REID: Can you hear me? This is Eloise Reid.
 2
   I'm sorry. I don't know why my mic is unable, but I'm --
 3
   Roishetta can't hear you. And she said she can't unmute.
 4
             HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Okay.
 5
             MR. USSERY: Well, then she is unmuted. Roishetta,
 6
   can you try speaking for us real quick? No? Now we went mute
 7
   again.
             HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Roishetta, can you hear
 8
 9
   us?
10
             MS. REID: I'm sorry. I don't know why my mute is
   allowing my microphone, but I can call Roishetta -- this is
11
12
   Eloise Reid, but Roishetta and I could talk on the phone, if
13
   that's possible, and I can call her in? We don't have to do
   that. I don't know if that's against protocol, but she's
14
15
   texting me that she can't --
16
             HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: No. As long as she
   gives her statement, she can. The issue is, if we can get her
17
18
   to speak within Teams so that the court reporter can capture
   her statement, that's the issue that I have. So if you want to
19
20
   try it, why not? If you can get her on your phone.
21
                        I'm trying right now. Thank you.
             MS. REID:
22
             HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Okay.
23
             MS. REID: Okay. Can you guys hear? Here's
   Roishetta. Can you say --
24
25
             MS. OZANE: Hi.
                              This is Roishetta Ozane from
```

Louisiana. Can everybody hear me now?

HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: We can hear you now. Whenever you're ready, so we can start your three- minute statement. Okay. Go ahead.

MS. OZANE: Yes. I'm so sorry. So this is Roishetta Ozane. I am from Southwest Louisiana. And I'm calling in about why we don't want the carbon capture and storage in Southwest Louisiana or anywhere in Louisiana.

First, because carbon dioxide is hazardous. Because carbon dioxide waste injection increases the risk for corrosion and can break down the metal in pipelines and containers and leak out with the potential for contaminating the environment.

Carbon dioxide can also break down rocks underground and, like an earthquake, cause things to shift aboveground.

Louisiana has numerous fault lines that increase the potential for earthquake incidents occurring from carbon waste injection, and also because of the abandoned oil and unplugged gas wells can serve as straws for carbon dioxide to move upward to the atmosphere and increase climate risks.

As a mom of six and, you know, some of my children suffering from asthma and other skin conditions because of the petrochemical facilities that are already in my community and those that are proposed, I feel like this will increase waste, particularly in low income, black indigenous people of color communities where we are already overburdened by so much

polluting infrastructure.

I recently had one of my children -- my 17-year-old son who was very healthy -- Louisiana is a sportsmen's paradise. We are used to going and cheering for sports teams on Friday nights. My son plays football and has played football since a little boy. A healthy, 17-year-old boy who loves to go fishing, a couple of weeks ago was driving home and had a seizure near industries, and there is nothing that the doctors can pinpoint that caused him to have five seizures while he was driving, and after completely totaling my car.

He is fine, thank God. The car is totaled. But he is alive, and they still haven't been able to give me the reason that he had those seizures near those industries that flare and have chemical releases often.

So that has caused me to continue my fight for environmental justice and continue to say that we don't need these things in our community, or we don't know what they release, what health hazards we are being subjected to. And also, we just don't have enough evidence to prove that this is even going to work to lower emissions.

So thank you so much for having me today. I apologize for the technical difficulties in the beginning, but I truly hope that you will listen to the people here who are speaking all through communities -- the moms, the dads, the family members, the front line workers, the organizers, and

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get to a computer and sign into the session, perhaps that would

help. But unfortunately, we cannot hear you or get your

23

24

25

statement.

on a terrible problem that we have.

I think this -- the CCS is just going to continue to enable use of fossil fuels and production of carbon. And this is just furthering our -- farthering away ourselves from the goal that we have. I think we need to -- I know there's a lot of investment in CCS and a lot of money. People are going to be making a lot of money. There's a lot of tax credits for all this stuff, but I feel like -- I know that this is the wrong direction. And I just ask myself, when does it stop? When does Louisiana -- when do we say enough is enough of -- how much CO2 do we need to bury here. You know?

Is Louisiana just going to become a dumping site of CO2? And to think that, you know, there's not just water contamination. There is toxins into the environment that can leak in through the rock, as you all know. The amount of detriment that this is going to take on the wetlands that are — that we've been fighting for to rebuild, to protect ourselves from hurricanes and the like.

And also, just the endangerment (sic) of livelihoods, as you all know we, like Lake Maurepas and the crab fishermen there and the detriment to wildlife. We definitely need to spend our time and energy collectively right now to start to use renewable resources -- sun, wind, and water -- and this is just an environmental disaster waiting to happen.

So I would hope that you all can rethink the decision

to allow Louisiana primacy. It's just an environmental 1 2 disaster waiting to happen, as I said. And, yeah, thank you 3 for allowing my statement. HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Thank you Ms. Nagel. 4 5 Off the record for now. 6 (WHEREUPON, a recess was taken.) 7 HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Please. It looks like 8 we have a Kaitlyn Joshua. Kaitlyn, do you want to give a 9 statement? 10 MS. JOSHUA: No. I gave a statement last week, so 11 I'm just here to witness. 12 HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Very well. Okay. 13 MS. JOSHUA: Thank you. HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Thank you very much. 14 15 Let's go off the record. (WHEREUPON, a recess was taken.) 16 MR. USSERY: You're muted, Armando. 17 **HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ:** I'm sorry. Back on the 18 record, please. 19 20 Okay. We have a Mr. Anderson who wants to give a 21 statement. 22 MR. ANDERSON: Yeah. Can I go now? 23 **HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ:** Yes, sir. Whenever 24 you're ready. 25 MR. ANDERSON: Okay. Yeah. My name is Quentin

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Anderson, resident of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. And I just really
wanted to express my hesitation and real resistance to allowing
this permit. It's the long history of mismanagement by DNR,

plus the plan for outsourcing of the management of this
process.

Just knowing the -- you know, knowing how things
often work here locally and in state government, state
contractors, I don't feel comfortable with a process this novel
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often work here locally and in state government, state contractors, I don't feel comfortable with a process this novel being in the hands of, one, an agency with a record of failure; but, two, then the management — the day—to—day management of it being in the hands of God knows what contractors. It raised red flags relative to competency, but also, you know, just being frank, in this state, sometimes, you know, transparency, accountability, we have a history of casual corruption.

So I don't feel comfortable with the way that this process would be handled if the permit was issued. And so I wanted to express my severe, you know, hesitation at this process and real concern about some of the things that would happen if it were to go through as proposed.

HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Anderson.

MR. ANDERSON: Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER ARMENDARIZ: Off the record.

(WHEREUPON, a recess was taken.)

MR. JOHNSON: Closing of our virtual hearing. This

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Responses to comments, both oral and written, will be published in the federal register after EPA completes its review of everything. As a reminder, you can continue to submit comments through July the 3rd.

Thank you for attending the hearing tonight, and also thank you if you attended the face-to-face hearings in Baton Rouge. With that, we'll bring the hearing to a close. Thank you again.

THE REPORTER: Would you like to order the original of the transcript?

15 MR. KIRKLAND: That might be an Evelyn question.

16 | Ken?

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MR. JOHNSON: Yes, I think it is Evelyn Rosborough.

You may have talked with her, or one of your bosses may have.

That would be something she needs to reach out about.

THE REPORTER: Okay. We will reach out to her then, and I have it notated that we will reach out to her for that order.

MR. JOHNSON: Okay.

THE REPORTER: Thank you so much, everyone. Have a wonderful evening.



1	CERTIFICATE
2	
3	I, Errin Kent, do hereby certify that I reported all proceedings adduced in the foregoing matter and that the
_	foregoing transcript pages constitutes a full, true and
5	accurate record of said proceedings to the best of my ability.
7	I further certify that I am neither related to counsel or any party to the proceedings nor have any interest in the outcome of the proceedings.
9	IN WITNESS HEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this
10	19 <sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023.
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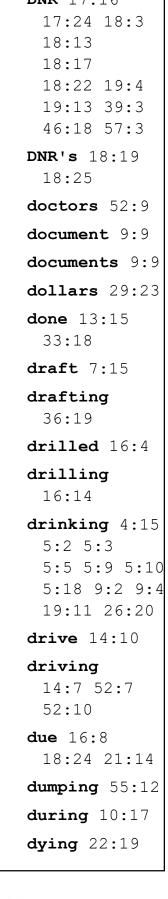


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