

I. Trust Agreement

A trust agreement for a trust fund, as specified in this chapter, may be worded as follows, except that instructions in brackets are to be replaced with the relevant information and the brackets deleted. EPA recommends that a *standby trust agreement* contain similar language except that an originally signed duplicate of the trust agreement should be submitted to the UIC Program Director with the surety bond or letter of credit, and the fund should be fully funded upon the disbursement of the surety bond or letter of credit.

Trust Agreement

TRUST AGREEMENT, the "Agreement," entered into as of \_\_\_\_\_ by and between \_\_\_\_\_, a \_\_\_\_\_, the "Grantor," and \_\_\_\_\_, the "Trustee."

Whereas, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, "EPA," an agency of the United States Government, or the [ ] of \_\_\_\_\_ has established certain regulations applicable to the Grantor, requiring that an owner or operator of an injection well shall provide assurance that funds will be available when needed for \_\_\_\_\_ of the injection well,

Whereas, the Grantor has elected to establish a trust to provide all or part of such financial assurance for the facility(ies) identified herein,

Whereas, the Grantor, acting through its duly authorized officers, has selected the Trustee to be the trustee under this agreement, and the Trustee is willing to act as trustee,

Now, therefore, the Grantor and the Trustee agree as follows:

Section 1. Definitions as used in this Agreement:

(A) The term "Grantor" means the owner or operator who enters into this Agreement and any successors or assigns of the Grantor.

(B) The term "Trustee" means the Trustee who enters into this Agreement and any successor Trustee.

(C) Facility or activity means any "underground injection well" or any other facility or activity that is subject to regulation under the Underground Injection Control Program.

(D) Beneficiary (if any) means an entity other than EPA that has authority to direct the Trustee to make payments of Trust proceeds to contractors or other entities for corrective action, injection well plugging, post injection site care and site closure, and/or emergency and remedial response work.

Section 2. Identification of Facilities and Cost Estimates. This Agreement pertains to the facilities and cost estimates identified on attached Schedule A [on Schedule A, for each facility list the EPA Identification Number, name, address, and the current corrective action, injection well plugging, post injection site care and site closure, and/or emergency and remedial response cost estimate, or portions thereof, for which financial assurance is demonstrated by this Agreement].

Example Schedule A				
Facility	Cost Estimate			
	Corrective action	Injection well plugging	Post injection site care and site closure	Emergency and remedial response
EPA Identification Number, name, address	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

Section 3. Establishment of Fund. The Grantor and the Trustee hereby establish a trust fund, the "Fund," for the benefit of the [ ] of \_\_\_\_\_. The Grantor and the Trustee acknowledge that the purpose of the Fund is to fulfill the Grantor's \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ obligations described at 40 CFR 146.84, 146.92, 146.93, and/or 146.94, respectively. All expenditures from the Fund shall be to fulfill the legal obligations of the Grantor under such regulations, and not any obligation of EPA. The Grantor and the Trustee intend that no independent third party have access to the Fund except as herein provided. The Fund is established initially as consisting of the property, which is acceptable to the Trustee, described in Schedule B attached hereto. Such property and any other property subsequently transferred to the Trustee is referred to as the Fund, together with all earnings and profits thereon, less any payments or distributions made by the Trustee pursuant to this Agreement. The Fund shall be held by the Trustee, IN TRUST, as hereinafter provided. The Trustee shall not be responsible nor shall it undertake any responsibility for the amount or adequacy of, nor any duty to collect from the Grantor, any payments necessary to discharge any responsibilities of the Grantor established by EPA regulations or the [ ] of \_\_\_\_\_.

Example Schedule B	
Facility	Funding Value for Activities
EPA Identification Number, name, address	\$ _____

Section 4. Payment for \_\_\_\_\_. The Trustee shall make payments from the Fund as the UIC Program Director shall direct, in writing, to provide for the payment of the costs of \_\_\_\_\_ of the injection wells covered by this Agreement. The Trustee shall use the Fund to reimburse the Grantor or other persons selected by the \_\_\_\_\_ to perform work when the UIC Program Director advises in writing that the work will be or was necessary for the fulfillment of the Grantor's \_\_\_\_\_ obligations described at 40 CFR 146.84, 146.92, 146.93, and/or 146.94, respectively. The UIC Program Director may advise the Trustee that amounts in the Fund are no longer necessary to fulfill the Grantor's obligations under 40 CFR 146.85 and that the Trustee may refund the remaining funds to the Grantor. Upon refund, such funds shall no longer constitute part of the Fund as defined herein.

Section 5. Payments Comprising the Fund. Payments made to the Trustee for the Fund shall consist of cash or securities acceptable to the Trustee.

Section 6. Trustee Management. The Trustee shall invest and reinvest the principal and income of the Fund and keep the Fund invested as a single fund, without distinction between principal and income, in accordance with general investment policies and guidelines which the Grantor may communicate in writing to the Trustee from time to time, subject, however, to the provisions of this Section. In investing, reinvesting, exchanging, selling, and managing the Fund, the Trustee shall discharge his duties with respect to the trust fund solely in the interest of the beneficiary and with the care, skill, prudence, and diligence under the circumstances then prevailing which persons of prudence, acting in a like capacity and familiar with such matters, would use in the conduct of an enterprise of a like character and with like aims; *except that:*

(A) Securities or other obligations of the Grantor, or any other owner or operator of the facilities, or any of their affiliates as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, 15 U.S.C. 80a-2.(a), shall not be acquired or held, unless they are securities or other obligations of the federal or a state government;

(B) The Trustee is authorized to invest the Fund in time or demand deposits of the Trustee, to the extent insured by an agency of the federal or state government; and

(C) The Trustee is authorized to hold cash awaiting investment or distribution un-invested for a reasonable time and without liability for the payment of interest thereon.

Section 7. Commingling and Investment. The Trustee is expressly authorized in its discretion:

(A) To transfer from time to time any or all of the assets of the Fund to any common, commingled, or collective trust fund created by the Trustee in which the Fund is eligible to participate, subject to all of the provisions thereof, to be commingled with the assets of other trusts participating therein; and

(B) To purchase shares in any investment company, except as specified in writing by the owner or operator, registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, 15 U.S.C. 80a-1 *et seq.*, including one which may be created, managed, underwritten, or to which investment advice is rendered or the shares of which are sold by the Trustee. The Trustee may vote shares in its discretion.

Section 8. Express Powers of Trustee. Without in any way limiting the powers and discretions conferred upon the Trustee by the other provisions of this Agreement or by law, the Trustee is expressly authorized and empowered:

(A) To sell, exchange, convey, transfer, or otherwise dispose of any property held by it, by public or private sale. No person dealing with the Trustee shall be bound to see to the application of the purchase money or to inquire into the validity or expediency of any such sale or other disposition;

(B) To make, execute, acknowledge, and deliver any and all documents of transfer and conveyance and any and all other instruments that may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the powers herein granted;

(C) To register any securities held in the Fund in its own name or in the name of a nominee and to hold any security in bearer form or in book entry, or to combine certificates representing such securities with certificates of the same issue held by the Trustee in other fiduciary capacities, or to deposit or arrange for the deposit of such securities in a qualified central depository even though, when so deposited, such securities may be merged and held in bulk in the name of the nominee of such depository with other securities deposited therein by another person, or to deposit or arrange for the deposit of any securities issued by the United States Government, or any agency or instrumentality thereof, with a Federal Reserve bank, but the books and records of the Trustee shall at all times show that all such securities are part of the Fund;

(D) To deposit any cash in the Fund in interest-bearing accounts maintained or savings certificates issued by the Trustee, in its separate corporate capacity, or in any other banking institution affiliated with the Trustee, to the extent insured by an agency of the federal or state government; and

(E) To compromise or otherwise adjust all claims in favor of or against the Fund.

Section 9. Taxes and Expenses. All taxes of any kind that may be assessed or levied against or in respect of the Fund and all brokerage commissions incurred by the Fund shall be paid from the Fund. All other expenses incurred by the Trustee in connection with the administration of this Trust, including fees for legal services rendered to the Trustee, the

compensation of the Trustee to the extent not paid directly by the Grantor, and all other proper charges and disbursements of the Trustee shall be paid from the Fund.

Section 10. Annual Valuation. The Trustee shall annually, at least 30 days prior to the anniversary date of establishment of the Fund, furnish to the Grantor and to the appropriate Director a statement confirming the value of the Trust. Any securities in the Fund shall be valued at market value as of no more than 60 days prior to the anniversary date of establishment of the Fund. The failure of the Grantor to object in writing to the Trustee within 90 days after the statement has been furnished to the Grantor and the UIC Program Director shall constitute a conclusively binding assent by the Grantor, barring the Grantor from asserting any claim or liability against the Trustee with respect to matters disclosed in the statement.

Section 11. Advice of Counsel. The Trustee may from time to time consult with counsel, who may be counsel to the Grantor, with respect to any question arising as to the construction of this Agreement of any action to be taken hereunder. The Trustee shall be fully protected, to the extent permitted by law, in acting upon the advice of counsel.

Section 12. Trustee Compensation. The Trustee shall be entitled to reasonable compensation for its services as agreed upon in writing from time to time with the Grantor.

Section 13. Successor Trustee. The Trustee may resign or the Grantor may replace the Trustee, but such resignation or replacement shall not be effective until the Grantor has appointed a successor trustee and this successor accepts the appointment. The successor trustee shall have the same powers and duties as those conferred upon the Trustee hereunder. Upon the successor trustee's acceptance of the appointment, the Trustee shall assign, transfer, and pay over to the successor trustee the funds and properties then constituting the Fund. If for any reason the Grantor cannot or does not act in the event of the resignation of the Trustee, the Trustee may apply to a court of competent jurisdiction for the appointment of a successor trustee or for instructions. The successor trustee shall specify the date on which it assumes administration of the trust in a writing sent to the Grantor, the UIC Program Director, and the present Trustee by certified mail 10 days before such change becomes effective. Any expenses incurred by the Trustee as a result of any of the acts contemplated by this Section shall be paid as provided in Section 9.

Section 14. Instructions to the Trustee. All orders, requests, and instructions by the Grantor to the Trustee shall be in writing, signed by such persons as are designated in the attached Exhibit A or such other designees as the Grantor may designate by amendment to Exhibit A. The Trustee shall be fully protected in acting without inquiry in accordance with the Grantor's orders, requests, and instructions. All orders, requests, and instructions by the UIC Program Director to the Trustee shall be in writing, signed by the UIC Program Director, and the Trustee may rely on these instructions with to the extent permissible by law. The Trustee shall have the right to assume, in the absence of written notice to the contrary, that no event constituting a change or a termination of the authority of any person to act on behalf of the Grantor or EPA or the  of \_\_\_\_\_ hereunder has occurred. The Trustee shall have no duty to act in the absence of such orders, requests, and instructions

from the Grantor and/or EPA or the  of \_\_\_\_\_, except as provided for herein.

Section 15. Notice of Nonpayment. The Trustee shall notify the Grantor and the appropriate Director, by certified mail within 10 days following the expiration of the 30-day period after the anniversary of the establishment of the Trust, if no payment is received from the Grantor during that period. After the pay-in period is completed, the Trustee shall not be required to send a notice of nonpayment.

Section 16. Amendment of Agreement. This Agreement may be amended by an instrument in writing executed by the Grantor, the Trustee, with the concurrence of the UIC Program Director, or by the Trustee and the appropriate Director if the Grantor ceases to exist. Provided, however, that EPA may not be named as a beneficiary of the Trust, receive funds from the Trust, or direct that Trust funds be paid to a particular entity selected by EPA.

Section 17. Cancellation, Irrevocability and Termination. Subject to the right of the parties to amend this Agreement as provided in Section 16, this Trust shall be irrevocable and shall continue until terminated at the written agreement of the Grantor, the Trustee, with the concurrence of the UIC Program Director, or by the Trustee and the UIC Program Director if the Grantor ceases to exist. Upon termination of the Trust, all remaining trust property, less final trust administration expenses, shall be delivered to the Grantor.

Section 18. Immunity and Indemnification. The Trustee shall not incur personal liability of any nature in connection with any act or omission, made in good faith, in the administration of this Trust, or in carrying out any directions by the Grantor issued in accordance with this Agreement. The Trustee shall be indemnified and saved harmless by the Grantor or from the Trust Fund, or both, from and against any personal liability to which the Trustee may be subjected by reason of any act or conduct in its official capacity, including all expenses reasonably incurred in its defense in the event the Grantor fails to provide such defense. EPA does not indemnify either the Grantor or the Trustee due to the restrictions imposed by the Anti-Deficiency Act, 31 U.S.C. 1341. Rather, any claims against EPA are subject to the Federal Tort Claims Act, 28 U.S.C. 2671, 2680.

Section 19. Choice of Law. This Agreement shall be administered, construed, and enforced according to the laws of the  of \_\_\_\_\_ with regard to claims by the Grantor, Trustee or Beneficiary (if any). Claims involving EPA are subject to federal law.

Section 20. Interpretation. As used in this Agreement, words in the singular include the plural and words in the plural include the singular. The descriptive headings for each Section of this Agreement shall not affect the interpretation or the legal efficacy of this Agreement.

In Witness Whereof the parties have caused this Agreement to be executed by their respective officers duly authorized and their corporate seals to be hereunto affixed and attested as of the date first above written.

Signature of Grantor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Grantor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Seal<sup>17</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

Attest (Signature of attester): \_\_\_\_\_  
Title of attester: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Trustee: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Trustee: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Seal<sup>18</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

Attest (Signature of attester): \_\_\_\_\_  
Title of attester: \_\_\_\_\_

The following is an example of the certification of acknowledgment which must accompany the trust agreement for a trust fund. State requirements may differ on the proper content of this acknowledgment.

of \_\_\_\_\_  
County of \_\_\_\_\_

On this \_\_\_\_\_, before me personally came \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ to me known, who, being by me duly sworn, did depose and  
say that she/he resides at \_\_\_\_\_, that she/he is  
\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_,  
the corporation described in and which executed the above instrument; that she/he knows  
the seal of said corporation; that the seal affixed to such instrument is such corporate seal;  
that it was so affixed by order to the Board of Directors of said corporation, and that  
she/he signed her/his name thereto by like order.

Signature of Notary Public: \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>17</sup> A corporate seal is only recommended if the company has a corporate seal.

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