

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

STANDBY TRUST AGREEMENT

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Underground Injection Control
Financial Responsibility Requirement

THIS TRUST AGREEMENT (the "Agreement") is entered into as of _____ by and between _____, owner or operator, a _____ corporation / partnership / association / proprietorship (the "Grantor"), and _____ (the "Trustee"), a _____ corporation/financial institution.

Whereas, the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), an agency of the United States Government, 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 plugging and abandonment of the injection well or wells,

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

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.

Section 2. Identification of Facilities and Cost Estimates. This Agreement pertains to the facilities and cost estimates identified on attached Schedule A.

Section 3. Establishment of Fund. The Grantor and the Trustee hereby establish a trust fund (the "Fund") for the purpose of assuring compliance with the plugging and abandonment requirements established by EPA for the facilities identified on Schedule A. The Underground Injection Control regulations which govern the authorization to inject include a requirement for such financial assurance that the well or wells shall be plugged and abandoned at the time designated by EPA. The Grantor and the Trustee acknowledge that the Fund and 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 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 any additional payments necessary to discharge any liabilities of the Grantor established by EPA, nor shall the Trustee have any duty to collect such additional amounts from the Grantor.

Section 4. Payment for Plugging and Abandonment. The Trustee shall make payments from the Fund only for the costs of plugging and abandonment (“P&A”) of the injection wells covered by this Agreement and the associated P&A Plan, only after EPA has advised the Trustee that work has been completed under the P&A Plan that complies with 40 C.F.R. § 144.28 and/or § 144.52. The Trustee shall not refund to the Grantor any amounts from the Fund unless and until EPA has advised the Trustee that the P&A Plan has been successfully completed. The Trustee shall not release any funds to the Grantor that are necessary to cover liability for any injection wells covered by this Agreement that remain unplugged.

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:*

- (i) 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;
- (ii) 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
- (iii) The Trustee is authorized to hold cash awaiting investment or distribution uninvested 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 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 EPA Regional Administrator 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 EPA Regional Administrator 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 EPA Regional Administrator, 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 EPA Regional Administrator to the Trustee shall be in writing, signed by the EPA Regional Administrators of the Regions in which the facilities are located, or their designees, and the Trustee shall act and shall be fully protected in acting in accordance with such orders, requests, and instructions. 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 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, except as provided for herein.

Section 15. Notice of Nonpayment. The Trustee shall notify the Grantor and the appropriate EPA Regional Administrator, 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, and the appropriate EPA Regional Administrator, or by the Trustee and the appropriate EPA Regional Administrator if the Grantor ceases to exist.

Section 17. 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, and the EPA Regional Administrator, or by the Trustee and the EPA Regional Administrator 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 or the EPA Regional Administrator 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.

Section 19. Choice of Law. This Agreement shall be administered, construed, and enforced according to the laws of the State of _____.

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 below have caused this Agreement to be executed by their respective representatives duly authorized and their seals to be hereunto affixed and attested as of the date first above written.

GRANTOR

TRUSTEE

By: _____
[Print name]

By: _____
[Print name]

Its: _____
[Title]

Its: _____
[Title]

Attest:

Attest:

Its: _____
[Title]

Its: _____
[Title]

[SEAL]

[SEAL]

Before me came the individual whose identity I confirmed as _____, and whose true signature is set forth above; wherefor have I set my hand and seal this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Before me came the individual whose identity I confirmed as _____, and whose true signature is set forth above; wherefor have I set my hand and seal this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Notary Public

Notary Public

() This bank/institution has the authority to act as trustee and its trust activities are examined and regulated by a State or Federal agency.

**CERTIFICATE OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT
FOR
STANDBY TRUST FUND AGREEMENT**

STATE OF _____

COUNTY OF _____

On this _____ day of _____, 20____, before me personally came
_____ to me known, who, being by me duly sworn, did depose
(Owner or Operator)

and say that he/she resides at _____,
(Address)

that he/she is _____ of _____,
(Title) (Corporation)

the corporation described in and which executed the above instrument; that he/she knows the seal of said corporation; that the seal affixed to such instrument in such corporate seal; that it was so affixed by order of the Board of Directors of said corporation, and that he/she signed his/her name thereto by like order.

(Notary Public)

(Seal)

SCHEDULE A

Identification of Facilities and Cost Estimates

Schedule A is referenced in the Standby Trust Agreement dated _____ by and between _____, the “Grantor” and _____, the “Trustee.”
(Name of owner or operator)
(Name of trustee)

EPA identification number _____

Name of facility _____

Address of facility _____

Current plugging and abandonment cost estimate _____

Date of estimate _____

EPA identification number _____

Name of facility _____

Address of facility _____

Current plugging and abandonment cost estimate _____

Date of estimate _____

SCHEDULE B

Identification of Fund

Schedule B is referenced in the Standby Trust Agreement dated _____

by and between _____
(Name of Owner or Operator)

the "Grantor" and _____
(Name of Trustee)

the "Trustee."

The fund consists of : (Check one and provide identification number)

Irrevocable Letter of Credit No. _____

Surety Performance Bond No. _____

Other (Describe) _____