

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**BUREAU OF RELEASE PREVENTION**

**NOTICE OF DRAFT PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT TWO NEW UNDERGROUND  
STORAGE CAVERN SYSTEMS INCLUDING A CENTRAL COMPLEX AND  
OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Delaware River Partners LLC

Program Interest (PI) 1032630, Permit Application No. CAV230001

**TAKE NOTICE** that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 58:10-35.1 et seq. (“Act”), N.J.S.A. 13:1D-1 et seq., N.J.S.A. 13:1K-et seq., N.J.S.A. 58:10-35.1 et seq., and N.J.A.C. 7:1F, Underground storage caverns, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (Department) is proposing to approve a permit to construct two new underground storage cavern systems, including a central complex, based on an application submitted by Delaware River Partners (DRP) LLC. DRP is the owner and operator of the proposed underground storage cavern systems located at 200 N. Repauno Ave, Gibbstown, Gloucester County, NJ 08027. DRP submitted its initial application on December 14, 2023, which supersedes its June 2, 2023, permit application. An electronic version of the initial application was submitted on January 3, 2024. DRP submitted the following supplemental and supporting documents, which the Department determined to be administratively complete on April 3, 2024, and technically complete on February 3, 2025. DRP’s initial application and supplemental information as identified below comprise DRP’s complete application that the Department proposes to approve.

- December 14, 2023 (applicant’s initial application; electronic version submitted January 3, 2024)
- March 13, 2024 (applicant’s response to the Department’s Notice of Administrative Deficiency dated February 12, 2024, with Exhibits 1 through 10)
- March 22, 2024 (applicant’s supplemented response to Notice of Administrative Deficiency - Item No.1 with Qualifications, Conflict of Interest Statements, and Certification pages)
- April 24, 2024 (final report for the Slaking Test performed on various rock types in response to Item #3 of the Department’s Notice of Administrative Deficiency dated February 12, 2024)
- May 31, 2024 (third-party evaluation report “Repauno Port and Rail Terminal Proposed Gas Cavern Storage Facility Delaware River Partners, LLC Gibbstown, New Jersey,” Schnabel Reference 24720019.000)
- June 14, 2024 (email correspondence from DRP to Schnabel including a clarification document to the May 31, 2024, third-party evaluation report (DRP-Cavern 6.7.24 DRAFT E-mail to Schnabel re\_ TPE Report (10786354.7) and two attachments)
- June 25, 2024 (revised third-party evaluation report “Repauno Port and Rail Terminal Proposed Gas Cavern Storage Facility Delaware River Partners, LLC Gibbstown, New Jersey,” Schnabel Reference 24720019.000)

- September 19, 2024 (applicant's Radiation Monitoring Plan (RMP) with procedures for supplemental core drilling, Supplemental Core Drilling Plan revised to refer to the RMP and procedures, and logging tool specification)
- October 22, 2024 (applicant's response to Department's Notification of Technical Deficiencies dated September 24, 2024, with Exhibits A through C)
- November 19, 2024 (applicant's response to Department's Notification of Technical Deficiencies dated November 1, 2024, including a copy of the Front-End Engineering Design (FEED) Report, revision 13)
- November 20, 2024 (applicant's Technical Memorandum: "DRP – Repauno: Bulkhead Design")
- January 10, 2025 (applicant's response to the Department's December 24, 2024, memorandum concerning Delaware River Partners LLC's October 22, 2024, and November 19, 2024, responses, including Exhibit A)

The Department initially proposed to approve the permit to construct by notice in the March 5, 2025, DEP Bulletin. By notification on the Department's website on March 24, 2025, and notice in the April 2, 2025, DEP Bulletin, the Department withdrew its proposed approval of the permit. The Department is now re-proposing to approve the draft permit to construct. As explained below, all written comments received on the initially proposed draft permit will be included in the administrative record for the re-proposed draft permit; therefore, there is no need to resubmit written comments that were already submitted.

### **Project description**

The draft permit to construct authorizes DRP to construct two new 640,000-barrel hard rock underground storage cavern systems, including a central complex consisting of a combination of underground tunnels and production, service, and ventilation shafts that connect to each underground storage cavern for their construction. The purpose of the two underground storage cavern systems is to store liquefied petroleum gas, as identified in the permit application, at ambient rock or chilled temperatures. This draft permit authorizes the construction of the two underground storage cavern systems to store only liquefied petroleum gas, of the mixtures and grades specified in the permit application, particularly Section C of the permit application which includes the Cavern System Data. The storage of liquefied natural gas is prohibited. The proposed two new underground storage systems will be constructed at DRP's Gibbstown Logistics Center, also known as the Repauno Port and Rail Terminal.

Each of the two underground storage cavern systems that the draft permit proposes to approve for construction will be constructed as a series of intersecting galleries and crosscuts, leaving large pillars of intact rock to support the ground. The galleries and crosscuts are 20 feet in width and 35 to 40 feet in height, with rectangular pillars of 55-foot width and 90-foot (edge-to-edge) length between the galleries and crosscuts. The target depth horizon is 680 to 780 feet below ground surface with the complex vertically centered within this zone. The crown level of the 40-foot high cavern galleries is nominally 710 feet below ground surface.

The proposed draft permit does not cover or in any way authorize the operation, as defined at N.J.A.C. 7:1F-1.6, of the underground storage cavern systems.

### **Public hearing and public comment period**

A copy of the proposed draft permit to construct is available at <https://dep.nj.gov/brp/caverns/usc-public-notice/>. Any person who cannot obtain a copy of the proposed draft permit documents from the website can call (609) 633-0610 or email [Rhannon.Kook@dep.nj.gov](mailto:Rhannon.Kook@dep.nj.gov) for further assistance.

The application materials are available for inspection at New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Release Prevention, 401 East State St., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:1F-4.2(f), the Department will hold a public hearing on this draft permit on May 14, 2025, at St. Michael's Mutual Club Event Hall, 406 Memorial Ave., Gibbstown, NJ 08027. The public hearing will start at 6:00 PM and end by 9:00 PM. The public hearing will include a virtual component. The hearing will be recorded. Anyone interested in speaking at the public hearing or attending virtually is strongly recommended to register with the Department. Registration information and information to access the hearing virtually will be provided on the Department's website at <https://dep.nj.gov/brp/caverns/usc-public-notice/>. Anyone who is unable to access the Department's website may call (609) 633-0610 for further assistance.

As necessary, the meeting will be extended until all persons who are present have had the opportunity to present their comments. The Department will accept written and oral comments at the public hearing. This hearing is not intended to be a question-and-answer session, but rather an opportunity for interested individuals to comment on the draft permit. Therefore, Department representatives will not respond to technical questions at the public hearing, but instead, will listen intently and take notes on the oral comments to address each issue raised in a Response to Comment document. Each commenter will have at least three minutes to speak. The exact amount of time each speaker will be provided will be announced at the hearing.

The Department will consider and respond to all written and timely submitted comments. All persons, including the applicant, who believe that any condition of the draft permit to construct or the Department's tentative decision to approve this permit to construct is inappropriate, must raise all reasonable issues of concern and submit all arguments and factual grounds or materials supporting their position during the public comment period.

As noted above, all comments submitted to the Department following the initially proposed draft permit, as noticed in the March 5, 2025, DEP Bulletin, will be included in the administrative record for the re-proposed draft permit and responded to after the close of the comment period.

Any comments on this draft permit must be received by June 16, 2025. Written comments may be submitted by email to [tcpa@dep.nj.gov](mailto:tcpa@dep.nj.gov), with "Underground Storage Cavern draft permit to construct comments" as the subject line of the email. In the alternative, comments may be submitted on paper to:

Attention: Underground Storage Cavern draft permit to construct comments  
ATTN: Quddus Qayyum  
Bureau of Release Prevention

Department of Environmental Protection  
401 East State Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Mail Code 22-03D  
PO Box 420  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420