

CO₂ Underground Storage Safety

Dozens of underground storage facilities across the United States have operated safely for decades storing natural gas, crude oil, propane and other important commodities. CO₂ storage sites will use the same layers of caprock deep underground to keep the CO₂ permanently locked in place.

Natural Geology Makes Underground CO₂ Storage Safe

- Impermeable layers of rock deep underground act as a lid to keep stored CO₂ in place.
- The same impermeable layers of rock that have kept oil and gas locked for eons can safely store CO₂ underground.
- Naturally occurring underground deposits of CO₂ have stayed locked deep underground for millions of years.

CO₂ Underground Storage Is Covered by Federal and State Regulations

- CO₂ underground storage sites are regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and several states.
- Federal requirements for CO₂ underground storage, operation and monitoring are designed to protect drinking water sources and the environment.
- CO₂ underground storage sites must meet federal construction, operations and monitoring requirements before injection operations commence and continually thereafter.
- Federal government regulations require extensive study by experts of the underground geology before a site is deemed safe for CO₂ storage.

Underground Storage Is Proven Safe

- The U.S. has a long history of safe underground storage operations, including four Strategic Petroleum Reserve sites in Texas and Louisiana.
- Underground storage sites storing natural gas, propane, crude oil and carbon dioxide have operated safely for over 30 years.
- Federal government regulations requiring continued monitoring and recordkeeping will demonstrate and document CO₂ underground storage sites are operating safely.

