

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **Senate Bill 15**

By Senator Rose

[Introduced January 14, 2026; referred  
to the Committee on Energy, Industry, and Mining]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §22-11B-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating  
2 to protecting coal and gas minerals from carbon capture practices; and establishing  
3 requirements when designing carbon sequestration projects to isolate any existing or  
4 future production from the commercially valuable mineral, including the coal or oil and gas  
5 estate, from the carbon dioxide plume.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 11B. UNDERGROUND CARBON DIOXIDE SEQUESTRATION AND  
STORAGE.**

**§22-11B-4. Permit application requirements and contents; application fee, required  
findings, and rulemaking.**

1 (a) Every permit application filed under this article shall be on a form as may be prescribed  
2 by the secretary, shall be verified, and shall contain all information specified by legislative rule.

3 (b) Upon filing an application for a permit, an applicant shall:

4 (1) Pay a fee in an amount set by the secretary. The amount of the fee shall be set by rule  
5 and shall be based on the secretary's anticipated cost of processing applications for permits,  
6 orders, or determinations under this article. The fee shall be deposited in the Carbon Dioxide  
7 Storage Facility Administrative Fund.

8 (2) Pay to the secretary the costs the secretary incurs in publishing notices of applications  
9 and notices for hearings on applications submitted under this article.

10 (c) Before a permit application may be approved, the secretary shall determine whether the  
11 proposed storage facility contains commercially valuable minerals and, if it does, a permit may be  
12 issued only if the secretary is satisfied that the interests of the mineral owners or mineral lessees  
13 will not be adversely affected or have been addressed in an written agreement entered into by the  
14 mineral owners, mineral lessees, and the storage operator require that the storage operator  
15 design the carbon sequestration project to isolate any existing or future production from the

16 commercially valuable mineral, including the coal or oil and gas estate, from the carbon dioxide  
17 plume. The application shall indicate whether the storage facility contains commercially valuable  
18 mineral, including the coal or oil and gas estates, and, if it does, a permit may be issued only if the  
19 department is satisfied that the interests of the mineral owners and mineral lessees to the  
20 commercially valuable mineral estate will not be adversely affected. The application shall include  
21 evidence that the mineral owners, mineral lessees, and operators of any commercially valuable  
22 mineral within and contiguous to the proposed carbon sequestration project have been notified in  
23 writing by the storage operator of the application, boundaries and horizons for the proposed  
24 carbon sequestration project, and a copy of the notice of hearing. The mineral owners, mineral  
25 lessees, and operators of a commercially valuable mineral may object to the department to the  
26 design of the carbon sequestration project based on the potential adverse effect to a commercially  
27 valuable mineral the storage operator shall address the objection to the satisfaction of the  
28 department;

29 (d) No permit shall be issued under this article unless the secretary finds:

30 (1) That the application and the proposed operations comply with all requirements  
31 established by the secretary, including any applicable underground injection rules, and with all  
32 applicable provisions of state and federal law;

33 (2) That the storage facility is suitable and feasible for carbon dioxide injection and  
34 sequestration;

35 (3) That the storage operator has made a good-faith effort to obtain the consent of all  
36 persons who own the storage reservoir's pore space;

37 (4) That the storage operator has obtained the written consent of persons who own at least  
38 75 percent of the storage reservoir's pore space and have at least begun the process to obtain the  
39 remaining interests through the commission;

40 (5) That the proposed storage facility will not adversely affect surface waters or formations  
41 containing fresh water;

(6) That the storage facility will not unduly endanger human health or the environment;

(7) That adequate horizontal and vertical boundaries of the storage reservoir are defined,

44 including buffer areas, to ensure that the storage facility is operated safely and prudently;

45 (8) That the storage operator will establish monitoring facilities and protocols to assess the  
46 location and migration of carbon dioxide injected for storage and to ensure compliance with all  
47 permit, statutory, and administrative requirements;

48 (9) That all nonconsenting pore space owners are or will be justly and reasonably  
49 compensated in accordance with the rules and procedures set forth in or promulgated under this  
50 article by the secretary and the commission; and

51 (10) That the storage facility is in the public interest.

52 (e) To the extent not inconsistent with state and federal regulations, the secretary shall  
53 render a decision on a permit application within one year after submission of a complete  
54 application.

55 (f) The secretary shall propose rules for legislative approval, pursuant to the provisions of  
56 §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code, detailing additional requirements for inclusion in a permit  
57 application, such as:

## 58 (1) Site characterization requirements;

59 (2) Injection well construction requirements for materials that are compatible with and can  
60 withstand contact with carbon dioxide over the life of a carbon dioxide sequestration project;

### 61 (3) Well operation requirements;

62 (4) Comprehensive monitoring requirements that address all aspects of well integrity,  
63 carbon dioxide injection and storage, as well as air and ground water quality during the injection  
64 operation and the post-injection site care period;

65 (5) Financial responsibility requirements assuring the availability of funds for the life of a  
66 carbon dioxide sequestration project (including post-injection site care and emergency response);  
67 and

68                   (6) Reporting and recordkeeping requirements that provide project-specific information to  
69   continually evaluate the site operations and confirm environmental protection.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to protect coal and gas minerals from carbon capture practices.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.