PRESS RELEASE RELEASE
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Launch of the public consultation on CapCO2mminges, a CO_2 capture-transport-storage project

The public consultation for the CapCO2mminges project will begin on Monday, November 30, under the auspices of the National Commission for Public Debate (CNDP). Until February 19, 2027, everyone will be able to learn about and express their views on this CO2 capture-transport-storage project in the Comminges region, led by Lafarge Ciments, Teréga, and RTE.

Essential for many uses (transport infrastructure, industrial equipment, housing, etc.), cement accounts for nearly 2.5% of national CO_2 emissions. Decarbonizing cement production is therefore necessary to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. It is a major climate challenge, but also an economic and social one, given how deeply cement plants are rooted in their local territories.

CapCO2mminges is a project co-developed by Lafarge Ciments, Teréga, and RTE. Representing an estimated overall investment of 600 million euros, it pursues three objectives:

- Complete the decarbonization of the Martres-Tolosane cement plant through the capture of residual CO_2 emissions, an ultimate lever activated after implementing all solutions for reducing emissions at the source;
- Sustain local cement production at a major industrial site in the South-West, created in 1956, which accounts for 140 direct jobs and approximately 600 indirect jobs;
- Develop geological storage capacity for CO_2 in France for the first time and contribute to a regional CO_2 economy, to which other local industrial activities could eventually connect.

Starting in 2032, this project will prevent the release of 700,000 tonnes of CO_2 per year into the atmosphere (equivalent to 20% of industrial emissions in the Occitanie region).

A project with four complementary operations

CapCO2mminges combines the capture of residual CO_2 emitted by the cement plant, its transport by pipeline, and its permanent geological storage.

More specifically, the project includes:

- **A CO_2 capture operation, led by Lafarge Ciments.** In Martres-Tolosane, a new industrial unit on the cement plant site would separate CO_2 from other gases contained in industrial flue gases, and then condition it for transport. Lafarge Ciments has selected a cryogenic capture technology powered by electricity.
- **A CO_2 transport operation via underground pipeline, led by Teréga.** The pipeline, approximately 35 kilometers long, would connect the cement plant to the storage area. Its route would be progressively defined using a funnel method, integrating the environmental, agricultural, technical, and human aspects of the territory. Two corridors, each 1 km wide, are being studied at this stage.
- **A CO_2 geological storage operation, led by Teréga.** In Haut Comminges, straddling the departments of Haute-Garonne and Hautes-Pyrénées, Teréga is studying, under an Exclusive Research Permit (PER), the feasibility of CO_2 storage in a saline aquifer, a deep geological formation (1,000 to 2,500 meters deep).
- **Electricity grid adaptations led by RTE.** To meet the increased electrical needs of the cement plant, RTE plans to reinforce existing power lines and substations, particularly in the Lestelle and Mancioux areas, as well as bury an overhead section of the power line in Mancioux.

CapCO2mminges aligns with European guidelines under which CO_2 capture for utilization or storage is a priority for achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. As such, the project benefits from support from the European Innovation Fund[1]. Developing CO_2 storage capacity in France, starting in the southwest, is also included in the 3rd National Low-Carbon Strategy defined by the French government.

Public Consultation

The public consultation is organized under the auspices of the National Commission for Public Debate (CNDP), which appointed guarantors Gilles Faure and Richard Pasquet.

"*The CNDP guarantees the constitutional right to public information and participation on projects like CapCO2mminges. As guarantors, we represent the CNDP and uphold its core values of transparency, neutrality, reasoned argument, and equal treatment. We will listen to all participants throughout the consultation*," explain Gilles Faure and Richard Pasquet.

From Monday, November 30, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. to Friday, February 19, 2027, at 5:00 p.m., the public will be able to express their views on the necessity and objectives of the project, its characteristics, its environmental, economic, and social impacts, as well as the alternatives considered. The public may use the online register or paper registers for this purpose.

Around twenty meetings are scheduled across the territory: public meetings, exhibition forums on storage, pipeline workshops, market pop-up booths, webinars, visits to the cement plant, and discussions with youth audiences.

The opening public meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 2, 2026, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at Salle Angonia in Martres-Tolosane.

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[1] Cofinancé par l'Union européenne : les points de vue et opinions exprimés n'engagent toutefois que leur(s) auteur(s) et ne reflètent pas nécessairement ceux de l'Union européenne ou de CINEA. Ni l'Union européenne, ni l'autorité qui octroie la subvention ne peuvent être tenues responsables de ces points de vue et opinions

The consultation file, its summary, the meeting schedule, and all participation details are available on the consultation website: https://www.registre-numerique.fr/capco2mminges

Within one month following the end of the consultation, the guarantors will publish their report. Lafarge Ciments, RTE, and Teréga will then have two months to outline the key takeaways and the measures they intend to take moving forward with the project.

Statements from the project leaders

In Martres-Tolosane, the decarbonization of the cement plant is already well underway: a new kiln was commissioned in March 2023, 65% alternative fuels are used on an annual average, and 40% of production consists of reduced-carbon-footprint cement. These efforts will continue, but an incompressible portion of CO_2 will remain emitted. "*We have already reduced our CO_2 emissions by 23% since 2015 and will reduce them by another 18% in the coming years. By 2032, capture and storage will be the final lever to reach near-carbon neutrality for the Martres-Tolosane cement plant*," specifies Xavier Brulé, Director of the Martres-Tolosane cement plant.

Unlike other French projects planning to transport captured CO_2 to storage facilities abroad, CapCO2mminges proposes onshore storage in France through a local supply chain. *"Our ambition is to make CapCO2mminges the foundation of a new CO_2 sector, serving industrial decarbonization and competitiveness. This is the opportunity presented by a local infrastructure meeting essential needs of the local economy,"* notes Antoine Charbonnier, Director of the CO_2 Business Unit at Teréga. In the future, this infrastructure could accommodate other local emitters needing carbon capture to decarbonize (local industrial plants or biomethane units), or meet the needs of synthetic fuel producers using CO2 as a raw material. CapCO2mminges leverages the company's expertise in gas transport pipelines and underground storage management, with over 5,000 km of pipelines in the southwest and 80 years of storage operations at Lussagnet (Landes) and Izaute (Gers).

CapCO2mminges is currently in the initial study phase, with investment decisions scheduled for 2030: the prior consultation takes place at a stage when the project is not yet finalized. "*A project of this scale must be explained, discussed, and enriched through dialogue with the local territory. This consultation is an essential milestone to share project goals and inform decisions moving forward. Consultation is the first step in an ongoing dialogue about the CapCO2mminges project*," emphasize Xavier Brulé and Antoine Charbonnier.

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About the project owners

Teréga. Located in the Great South-West of France, at the crossroads of major European gas flows, Teréga has for over 80 years deployed exceptional expertise in the development of gas transport and storage infrastructure. Today, it designs innovative solutions to meet major energy challenges in France and Europe. As a true accelerator of the energy transition, Teréga manages over 5,000 km of pipelines and two underground storage facilities, representing 13.5% of the French gas transport network and 27% of national storage capacities respectively. In 2025, the company generated revenue of €481 million (excluding balancing congestion) and employs 647 staff. Corporate social responsibility is at the heart of Teréga's strategy, committed to the energy transition towards carbon neutrality. Teréga deploys programs across all ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) domains: employee safety and infrastructure security via the PARI 2035 program, sustainable territorial development and social responsibility via the ENERGIZ MOUV program, support for philanthropic projects through the Teréga Accélérateur d'Énergies endowment fund, and reduction of environmental impacts thanks to the BE POSITIF program with a commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by -34% by 2030 compared to 2021 across scopes 1, 2, and 3. www.terega.fr/

Lafarge Ciments is a subsidiary of Lafarge France, a producer of innovative building materials and solutions that help lower carbon emissions in the construction industry. The company relies on the expertise of 4,200 employees across more than 380 sites. With industry-standard low-carbon and circular brands like ECOPlanet, ECOPact, and ECOCycle, Lafarge enables builders to advance the environmental performance of their projects. Lafarge is also deeply committed to decarbonizing its operations and managing environmental impacts: ISO certifications, Unicem CSR charter, and biodiversity commitments recognized under the SNB (National Biodiversity Strategy). Top Employer 2026 label.

RTE, the French electricity transmission system operator, fulfills a public service mission: guaranteeing electricity supply at all times with consistent service quality across France through the dedication of its 10,025 employees. RTE manages real-time power flows and balances supply and demand. RTE maintains and develops the high and extra-high voltage grid (from 63,000 to 400,000 volts), spanning nearly 100,000 kilometers of overhead lines, 7,000 kilometers of underground cables, 2,900 substations operated independently or jointly, and around fifty cross-border lines. As Europe's largest transmission grid, the French network includes 37 interconnections with neighboring countries. As a neutral and independent industrial operator of the energy transition, RTE optimizes and transforms its grid to connect power generation facilities and major consumers.