Western Kentucky Deep Saline Reservoir CO₂ Storage Test

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Electric power generating and industrial plants in western Kentucky discharge about 78 million metric tons of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere each year.

NETL, 2007, Carbon Sequestration Atlas of the United States and Canada



Project Goals

- Demonstrate CO₂ storage in deep saline reservoirs under the Western Kentucky Coal Field through the drilling and testing of an 8250 ft well in east-central Hancock County
- Demonstrate the integrity of reservoir sealing strata for longterm CO₂ storage in western Kentucky
- Demonstrate appropriate technologies for the evaluation of CO₂ storage in Kentucky deep saline reservoirs
- Publish the project results for use by government, industry, and the public in evaluating CO₂ storage in Kentucky
- Accomplish this project with consideration of the interests and concerns of the landowner, residents of Hancock County and western Kentucky, and the citizens of the Commonwealth







HB-1 mandates drilling a CO₂ storage demonstration well in the Western Kentucky Coal Field (blue).







The shallowest drill depth to reach the targeted reservoirs is in east-central Hancock County.







The completed CO₂ storage test well will be among the deepest wells drilled in western Kentucky.





Deep Rock Units in Western Kentucky



Deep Rock Units in Western Kentucky









Hickman et al., www.esri.com/mapmuseum/mapbook gallery/volume19/environment3.html

Top of Precambrian Basement in Hancock County, Kentucky





North-South Seismic Line 7, Hancock County, showing the projected location of the proposed CO2 storage test well.

Knox Group Reservoir



Found multiple thin, vuggy to cavernous and fracture-associated porosity zones in the Knox Group dolomites.









Knox Group porosity: FMI and core.



Vuggy porosity in the LG&E Wainscott #1 Oldham County, KY 1452-1453 ft



From: Mullet and Riley, Ohio's Deep CO₂ Sequestration Test Well





Drilling Program

- Drill to 50 ft and cement casing to protect shallow groundwater
- Drill to 500 ft and cement casing to isolate any shallow oil and gas zones
- Drill to 3000 ft and cement casing to ensure against any possible leakage to the surface during testing
- Drill to 8250 ft to gather geological, geophysical, and geochemical data to identify and aid the design and evaluation of the intervals to be tested





Testing Program

- Testing will proceed from the deepest interval to the shallowest below casing
- Test intervals will be isolated from deeper and shallower intervals
- All intervals will be first tested by injection of an artificial brine
- The most favorable interval will be tested by injection of a small volume of CO₂
- At the completion of testing the well will be plugged and abandoned to Kentucky and EPA standards



Project Status: Organization

• Project agreements are in final legal review for execution

- 501(c)3 industry partners' foundation
- Memorandum of Agreement between KGS and the foundation
- Right of Way and Injection Test Agreement with the landowners
- Data Sharing Agreement with the oil and gas leaseholder
- Estimated project budget is ~\$7 Million
- KGS has discussed the project in public meetings with Hancock County officials and residents





Project Management Structure



RELATIONSHIPS OF PARTNERS AND DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITIES (Dashed lines indicate oversight; solid lines indicate payment for services)





Project Status: Operations

- Bids for services have been solicited or are under review
 - Title search
 - Phase 1 environmental survey
 - Seismic acquisition
 - Project manager
- Well design and testing program is under review by ConocoPhillips engineering and drilling staff in consultation with KGS
- Wellsite construction evaluation is in progress by ConocoPhillips drilling staff









5 km

Western Kentucky Project Timeline

- Characterize the background surface conditions for follow-on environmental monitoring
 - Shallow seismic program at the wellsite to define karsting
 - Soil gas surveys of the area surrounding the wellsite
- Acquire ~25 mi of new seismic lines in east-central Hancock County to characterize the subsurface structure
- Permit the well for CO₂ injection with EPA Region 4
- Drill an 8250 ft well to Precambrian basement rocks
 - Collect subsurface reservoir characterization data for Knox Group dolomites and other reservoirs
 - Complete an extensive reservoir evaluation program of geologic and geochemical testing and petrophysical, geomechanical, and reservoir engineering modeling
 - Conduct an extensive program of fluid injection and pressure testing including both brine and CO₂

Conduct long-term surface environmental monitoring

Western Kentucky Project Timeline





Project Status: Review

- The western Kentucky CO₂ storage demonstration project has progressed quickly
 - A consortium of KGS and energy industry partners has been organized
 - The project funding vehicle has been established
 - A drillsite has been identified and lease terms negotiated with the landowner and oil and gas leaseholder
 - Initial contractor service bids are under review
 - Drillsite construction is being evaluated
- Estimated commencement of operations is during the 4th Quarter of 2008 with well testing, reservoir evaluation, and final reports completed by yearend 2009
- Surface monitoring will continue through year-end 2012 until the abandonment of the well and dissolution of the consortium





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