

CCS Member Updates
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Texas Carbon Capture and Storage Association

“...Better Business ...Better Environment...”

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Railroad Commission Approves CO2 Storage Certification Proposal

On Tuesday, October 9, 2007, the Railroad Commission of Texas met to consider proposed amendments to Statewide Rule § 3.50 and 3.80 relating to enhanced oil recovery projects using anthropogenic CO2. After a few questions from the Chair, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the proposed rules for publication and public comment.

Chairman Williams' questions focused on the appeal process in the event that an application for certification of a CO2 storage site is denied. Staff confirmed that although the rules do not stipulate what happens in the case of a denial, it is agency custom that administrative decisions can be appealed to the full commission.

The rules will be published in the Texas Register beginning October 26, 2007 and public comments will be accepted through November 26, 2007. The proposed rules are available on the Commission's website (<http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/rules/proposed.html>). You may comment online by visiting the Commission's website and selecting "Comment Online".

DOE awards three large scale carbon sequestration grants

In a major step forward for demonstrating the promise of clean energy technology, U.S Deputy Secretary of Energy Clay Sell today announced that the Department of Energy (DOE) awarded the first three large-scale carbon sequestration projects in the United States and the largest single set in the world to date.

The three projects - Plains Carbon Dioxide Reduction Partnership; Southeast Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership; and Southwest Regional Partnership for Carbon Sequestration - will conduct large volume tests for the storage of one million or more tons of carbon dioxide (CO2) in deep saline reservoirs. DOE plans to invest \$197 million over ten years, subject to annual appropriations from Congress, for the projects, whose estimated value including partnership cost share is \$318 million. These projects are the first of several sequestration demonstration projects planned through DOE's Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnerships.

The newly awarded projects kick off the third phase of the Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnerships program. This initiative, launched by DOE in 2003, forms the centerpiece of national efforts to develop the infrastructure and knowledge base needed to place carbon sequestration technologies on the path to commercialization. To see the full press release and

learn more about the Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnerships visit the DOE website at http://www.fossil.energy.gov/news/techlines/2007/07072-DOE_Awards_Sequestration_Projects.html.

EPA To Develop Regulations for Geologic Sequestration of Carbon Dioxide

The Environmental Protection Agency said Thursday that it would develop new regulations for geological sequestration, the process by which emissions from coal-fired power plants and other sources are captured and then stored deep underground.

Though geological sequestration is not yet commercially available, the Bush Administration is touting it as a way to reduce climate change. "Addressing global climate change will require fundamental changes in the way the world generates and uses energy," said EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson. "By harnessing the power of geologic sequestration technology, we are entering a new age of clean energy—where we can be both good stewards of the earth, and good stewards of the American economy."

The EPA said it would propose new regulatory changes by the summer of 2008. The public and stakeholders will be invited to provide input, according to the EPA. You can see the full press release at <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/eebfaebc1afd883d85257355005afd19/84bd1ef19c00eb7a85257371006b6a21!OpenDocument>
