

THE PLAINS CO₂ REDUCTION (PCOR) PARTNERSHIP – DEMONSTRATING CO₂ STORAGE IN CENTRAL NORTH AMERICA

Steven A. Smith, Lisa S. Botnen, Anastasia A. Dobroskok, James A. Sorensen, Edward N. Steadman, and John A. Harju
Energy & Environmental Research Center, Grand Forks, ND 58202-9018

Zama Acid Gas EOR, CO₂ Sequestration, and Monitoring Project

CO₂ Sequestration and Enhanced Coalbed Methane in Lignite Coals Project

Project Goal
• To validate the sequestration of CO₂-rich acid gas in a depleted oil reservoir.

Objectives

- Inject a stream of acid gas (70% CO₂ – 30% H₂S) for simultaneous acid gas disposal, CO₂ sequestration, and enhanced oil recovery (EOR).
- Determine the effects of acid gas injection on target reservoir and caprock formations.
- Implement a cost-effective approach for measurement, mitigation, and verification (MMV) for sequestration of a CO₂-rich acid gas stream.

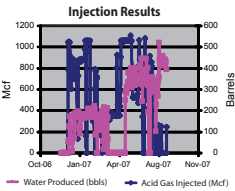


MMV Operations

Monitor the CO₂/H₂S plume through:
Perfluorocarbon tracer injection.
Reservoir pressure monitoring.
Wellhead and formation fluid sampling (oil, water, gas).

Monitor for early warning of reservoir failure through:
Pressure measurements of injection well, reservoir, and overlying formations.
Fluid sampling of overlying formations.

Determine injection well conditions through:
Wellhead pressure gauges.
Well integrity tests.
Wellbore annulus pressure measurements.



- Injection rates are being varied to match production and maintain pressure.
- No oil production has occurred since acid gas injection started (positive indication that injection is working properly).
- Cumulative injection is approaching 8000 tons.

Project Goal
• Determine the feasibility of simultaneous CO₂ sequestration and natural gas production from a lignite coal seam.

Objectives

- Inject CO₂ into lignite coal seam and monitor CO₂ fate in the reservoir.
- Determine the potential for coalbed methane (CBM) production from the lignite seam.
- Determine the potential for production enhancement by CO₂ injection.
- Develop Regional Technology Implementation Plan for CO₂ sequestration in lignite coal.



Core Evaluation Activities

- Lab studies on the recently collected core will examine:
 - Gas content.
 - Gas specific gravity.
 - CH₄ and CO₂ isotherms.
 - Diffusion coefficient.
 - Gas desorption time.
 - Coal ash and moisture contents.
 - Coal density and compressibility.
 - Rock porosity and permeability.

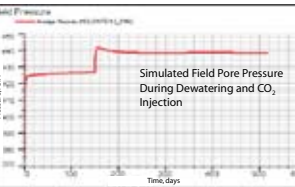
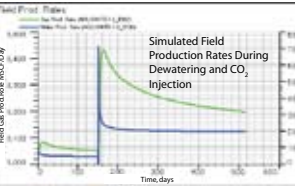
Test Design Activities

- Analysis of the existing well data served for choosing the location of the test site and supported the creation of a preliminary numeric model of the coal seam using ECLIPSE.
- Five-spot-well configuration allows for effective and efficient operation and monitoring of the water production and CO₂ injection program.



Input Parameters and Preliminary Results of Simulations using Schlumberger's Eclipse Software

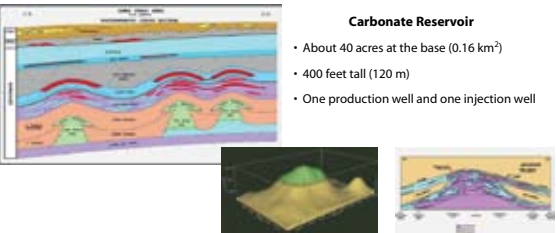
Characteristics	Reported Value
Depth H, ft.....	1040–1175
Reservoir Temperature T, °F.....	70.8–73.5
Reservoir Pressure, psi.....	478.4–540.4
Coal Thickness h, ft.....	7–9
CO ₂ Langmuir Pressure PLCO ₂	ps528–1150.2
CO ₂ Langmuir Volume VLCO ₂ scf/ton.....	1125–1779
CH ₄ Langmuir Pressure PLCH ₄	ps1518.26
CH ₄ Langmuir Volume VLCH ₄ scf/ton.....	71.42
Ash Content, %.....	6.0–8.8
Moisture Content, %.....	24.1–39.2
Coal Gas Concentration C, scf/ton.....	0.02–22.68
Coal Density.....	1.29–1.75
Diffusion Coefficient D, ft ² /day.....	0.358–49.2 × 10 ⁻⁷
Desorption Time t, h.....	3.76–516.9



Relative Permeability

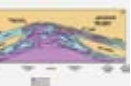
- Completed to determine CO₂ and formation brine displacement characteristics of the pinnacle caprock (anhydrite).
- Prior to testing:
 - Capillary pressure testing to determine pore throat opening size
 - Petrographic analysis
- Two samples were tested using formation brine, CO₂, H₂S, and an acid gas mixture of 70% CO₂ and 30% H₂S.

Results show very low permeability in the caprock, indicating low potential for natural fluid flow out of the pinnacle.



Carbonate Reservoir

- About 40 acres at the base (0.16 km²)
- 400 feet tall (120 m)
- One production well and one injection well



Rock Mechanics Results

- Lab testing of eight core samples has occurred, primarily dolomite from the Keg River reservoir and dolomite and anhydrite from the Muskeg caprock.
- Tests include:
 - Bulk density.
 - Acoustic velocity.
 - Uniaxial strength.
 - Triaxial strength.
 - Residual friction measurements.

Results indicate that the caprock is significantly stiffer than the reservoir rock and is, therefore, a competent seal.

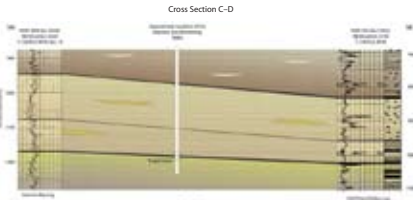


Key Results To Date

- Well drilling is completed.
- Logging is completed, and logs are being processed in collaboration with Schlumberger.
- Core has been collected, and is being analyzed by TerraTek.
- Initial numerical model has been created.
- Preliminary simulations have been run which provide guidance for the possible outcome of CO₂ injection activities in the coal seam.

Formation Logging Activities

- Schlumberger Platform Express Log Suite
 - Measurements
 - › Porosity
 - › Resistivity
 - › Natural radiation (sand/shale)
 - › Bore hole diameter
- Sonic
 - Used for:
 - › Pore pressure prediction
 - › Determination of density
 - › Estimation of rock elastic constants
 - › Bulk compressibility estimation
- Additional log suites
 - Elemental capture spectroscopy
 - Multiarm caliper
 - Acoustical



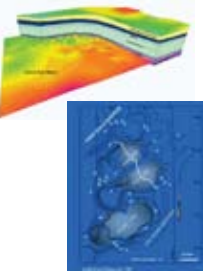
Lignite Path Forward

- Pressure and water quality measurements from monitoring wells.
- May include tiltmeter and microseismic.
- MMV plans will be finalized after analysis of collected field data.
- CO₂ injection to occur in summer 2008.

Geology and Hydrogeology Results

- Conducted to better understand the storage characteristics of regional aquifer systems and the fate of acid gas in case of leakage outside the pinnacle.
- Leakage migration, should it occur, would be a very slow process (thousands of years) and would likely be limited to much less than a kilometer from the site because of dissolution, dispersion, and residual gas trapping along the migration pathway.

Results indicate there is minimal potential for acid-gas migration to shallower strata and potable groundwater.



Zama Path Forward

- Injection of acid gas will continue through Year 4 of Phase II.
- Core samples will be collected from an acid gas disposal zone to examine the mineralogical and geomechanical changes that can occur in a carbonate rock exposed to high-pressure acid gas.
- Geomechanical data will be used to populate a database that will support the creation of a geomechanical model of the pinnacle reef.
- Geochemical modeling activities will be conducted to predict the long-term effects of acid gas injection on the reservoir and caprock formations.
- A Regional Technology Implementation Plan will be developed.