PERMITTING FOR CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE IN THE PLAINS CO2 REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP REGION

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ABSTRACT

The Plains CO₂ Reduction (PCOR) Partnership is one of seven regional partnerships awarded in 2003 by the U.S. Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory to research and demonstrate the safe and permanent storage of CO₂ in geologic formations. The PCOR Partnership region includes all or part of nine U.S. states and four Canadian provinces in the central interior of North America. As part of its mandate, the PCOR Partnership is investigating the permitting process for injecting and storing CO₂. This process can seem overwhelming due to uncertainty surrounding the recent Class VI regulations and state versus federal jurisdiction. In an attempt to reduce uncertainty, the PCOR Partnership is developing a guidance document to assist in applying for and obtaining permits for carbon capture and storage (CCS) within its region.

The proposed document will define the sequence of steps an organization would follow to permit an injection well for CCS. Clarification of governmental departments to contact (state/provincial and federal) and forms to be completed will be provided on a state/province basis. In addition, this document will hopefully ease the burden on permitting agency personnel by addressing common questions typically directed to them. Eventually, the content of this document will be included on the PCOR Partnership website, allowing users to step through the entire process via hyperlinks.

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