

### CREATING VALUE FROM MONITORING CO<sub>2</sub> STORAGE PROJECTS

Professor Sally M. Benson Co-Director, Precourt Institute for Energy Stanford University Where do we stand with CCUS today?

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1970

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- 20 commercial projects, on track for 24 by early 2020s
- $\square$  ~35 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>/year
- CO<sub>2</sub>-EOR at 65 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>/year, but mostly from natural sources
- Capture, compression, transport and storage done at scale today

2010

1990



2030

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# The Decades Ahead for CCUS

- ~1-5 Gt/year by 2040 is needed
- Rapid increases in deployment growth rates required
- Double to triple historic
   growth rates sustained
   for 2 decades



# A Turning Point for CCUS



#### 1970's - present

- Limited policy drivers
- $\Box$  CO<sub>2</sub>-EOR
- Sleipner Saline Aquifer Storage project, Snohvit, In Salah, Illinois, Gorgon
- Many small scale pilots (<< 1 Mt)</p>
- □ Growth rate of ~10%/year
- Learning by doing

#### 2020's and beyond

- Compelling need for CCUS
- Stronger policy drivers
- Growth rates of 20% or more per year are needed
- □ 1 5 Gt/year by 2040
- Many commercial scale projects 1+ Mt/year

## Conditions to support rapid scale-up





#### Strong policy support

 Confidence of political leaders



Safety
No accidents, damage, or environmental harm



#### Cost

 Competitiveness with other GHG reduction measures A14.48 p on at Maune Loa Obser Regulator

#### Regulatory compliance

Meet legal obligations



#### Public support

 Engagement and transparency



#### **Technical Feasibility**

• Secure storage

# Monitoring plays a critical supporting role for rapid scale-up of CCUS

#### Technical feasibility

- Ensure CO<sub>2</sub> stays trapped in the storage complex
- Track the location of the CO<sub>2</sub> plume
- Limit pressure buildup to safe levels to avoid geomechanical impacts
- Identify and confirm storage efficiency and processes
- Model calibration and performance confirmation

#### Safety

- Assess the integrity of shut-in, plugged or abandoned wells
- Establish baseline conditions from which the impacts of CO<sub>2</sub> storage can be assessed
- Detect and quantify surface leakage
- Detect and avoid unsafe levels of micro-seismicity associated with CO<sub>2</sub> injection
- Design and evaluate remediation efforts

#### Compliance with regulations

- Ensure effective injection controls
- Ensure groundwater protection
- Evaluate interactions or impacts with other geological resources: for example nearby water, coal, oil & gas, mineral reserves or other geological waste disposal operations
- Accounting where monetary transactions are involved such as with carbon trading and emission tax or emission reduction incentives



Creating value from monitoring



#### Benefits of monitoring >> costs

- How much monitoring, for what purposes, using which technologies and at what cost?
- Under which circumstances is it worth doing more than the minimum amount of monitoring required by regulatory requirements?
- Which types of monitoring provide the greatest value for the cost?
- If regulatory requirements provide the flexibility to choose between a variety of options, how do you choose one approach over the other?
- □ What is of greater value, high spatial resolution or high temporal resolution?

#### Costs for monitoring vary over wide range depending on program.

## What Needs to be Measured?





## What Needs to be Measured?





# Monitoring Requirements and Metrics



- Where, when, how, and how precisely?
- It depends...
  - Regulations
  - ✤ Risks
  - Site constraints
  - Technology availability
  - Cost

#### Minimum requirements

- Wellhead and formation pressures
- Location of the CO<sub>2</sub> plume
- Evidence that CO<sub>2</sub> is not leaking
- Induced seismicity
- Worker safety related measurements

Cost effective and reliable methods for meeting the minimum requirements are needed!

Monitoring Costs Are Important



#### Benefits of monitoring >> costs

- Industry is concerned over high monitoring costs
- Long term stewardship Post Closure Site Care -- is in impediment to final investment decision
- Oilfield monitoring practices are much less stringent raising questions about why so much additional monitoring is needed for CCUS projects
- Conversion from EOR to storage projects results in significant additional compliance costs

#### What are the costs for monitoring?

Monitoring Costs (A Look Back to 2004)



Benson et al., 2004. Overview of Monitoring Techniques and Protocols for CO, Storage Projects, IEAGHG Report.

# **Example Costs for Monitoring**



- Woodbine formation example (NETL storage cost estimator)
  - 96 Mt CO<sub>2</sub> over 30 years
  - 🗖 1.6 km deep
  - 3 injection wells
  - Total cost of storage \$9.3/tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>
- Extensive monitoring program
  - 3-D seismic, VSP, eddy covariance
    - 200 km<sup>2</sup> seismic monitoring area
  - In reservoir and above-zone monitoring wells (40 total)
  - Cost of monitoring: \$7/tonne



National Energy Technology Laboratory, FE/NETL CO2 Saline Storage Cost Model. U.S. Department of Energy. September 2017.

# Lower Cost Monitoring Approaches and Packages are Needed



- 3-D seismic, the workhorse of CO<sub>2</sub> monitoring is very expensive comprising the largest single cost for monitoring (and sometimes of the whole storage project)
- Due to high costs for seismic monitoring, measurements are only made periodically (~5 years is typical for planning purposes)
- Seismic imaging is not suitable for all environments
  - Reservoir or seal properties
  - Proximity to other resources
  - Difficulties in surface access

Research to develop cost effective monitoring programs is needed.



- Mathematical approaches for data assimilation and co-inversion.
- Strategies and technologies are needed for adaptive monitoring program that is site-specific and respond to changing needs and conditions
- Providing real-time data for tracking performance.





# Downhole Pressure Based Monitoring Approaches

- In reservoir pressure monitoring for plume migration
- Above-zone pressure monitoring for leakage detection
- Applications in the Illinois Basin
   Decatur Site





### In Reservoir Pressure Monitoring





### In Zone Pressure Monitoring





Multilevel Well Completions (product sheet) http://www.slb.com/services/additional/water/monitoring/multilevel\_well\_system/well\_completion.aspx

### Diagnostic Study: Can In Zone Measurements Track Plume Migration?



Strandli, C. W., & Benson, S. M. (2013). Identifying diagnostics for reservoir structure and CO2 plume migration from multilevel pressure measurements. Water Resources Research, 49(6), 3462-3475.



### **Different Reservoir Structures**





#### **Different Reservoir Structures**







## Pressure Buildup Is Controlled By Reservoir Heterogeneity and Isotropy



#### Homogeneous Isotropic



Heterogeneous Isotropic

# Pressure Transient Behavior Diagnoses Height of the Plume





 Pressure buildups deviate from the behavior for water injection

 Pressure decreases indicate that the CO<sub>2</sub> plume has passed above the monitoring zone Pressure Data from Monitoring Wells

#### Three Diagnostics

- Magnitude of pressure buildup
- Amplitude of response to injection fluctuations
- Decline in pressure buildup over time



Strandli and Benson, IJGGC, 2013.

# History Matching of Pressure Data



# **Plume Migration Predictions**



4 Months





# Measured CO<sub>2</sub> Saturation Agrees Well With Predictions





### Automated Inversion of Pressure Data





D. Cameron and Benson, in preparation.

# Automated Inversion Plume Migration Predictions





#### **Above-Zone Pressure Monitoring**



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- Where is the leak?
- How much is leaking?

[Cameron, D. A., Durlofsky, L. J., Benson, S. M, 2016]

# Heterogeneous Model and Monitoring Wells





#### Five Scenarios Tested



	500-yr CO <sub>2</sub> leakage	30-yr brine leakage
True 1	0.7%	0.3%
True 2	3.3%	0.5%
True 3	7.5%	8.5%
True 4	13%	8.3%
True 5	23%	7.8%

# Simulations Indicate Above Zone Monitoring is Highly Effective





- Leak detection occurs quickly (< 1 year)
- Leakage location detection requires 3 wells









#### 500 Year CO<sub>2</sub> Leakage



# Final thoughts



#### Benefits of monitoring >> costs

- Difficult to quantitatively assess benefits for monitoring
  - Financial risk mitigation from leakage or damages
  - Societal engagement and transparency
  - License to operate
- Many monitoring techniques are available
  - Need to develop integrated packages with highest value
  - While, keeping costs low
- Real time awareness of project status a priority
  - Permanently emplaced arrays of sensors (pressure, seismometers)
  - Automated data inversion and interpretation