



**EERC**



U N I V E R S I T Y O F  
**NORTH DAKOTA**



Critical Challenges. Practical Solutions.



Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC)

# Updates on Integrated Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS) Projects in North Dakota

January 24, 2023

Charles D. Gorecki, CEO

# OUR VISION

TO LEAD THE WORLD IN  
**DEVELOPING SOLUTIONS**  
TO ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
CHALLENGES.





HIGH-BAY  
TECHNOLOGY  
DEMONSTRATION

FUEL  
PROCESSING

MOBILE  
LABORATORIES

WATER USE  
MINIMIZATION  
TECHNOLOGY

FUELS OF THE FUTURE

NATIONAL CENTER  
FOR HYDROGEN  
TECHNOLOGY

CHEMICAL STORAGE

LABORATORIES

OFFICES

IN-HOUSE  
FABRICATION SHOP

TECHNOLOGY  
DEMONSTRATION

# OUR FACILITIES

254,000 SQ. FT. OF FACILITIES

DISCOVERY HALL  
MEETING AREA



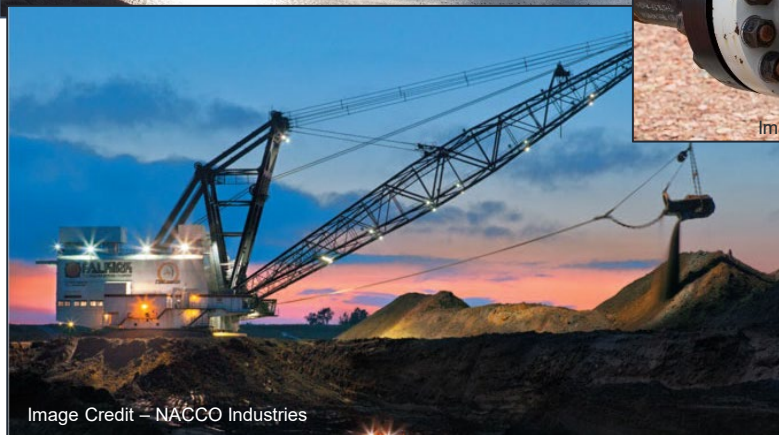
# DIVERSE EXPERTISE

AND CAPABILITIES TO IMPACT THE WORLD





# CO<sub>2</sub> CAN BE MANAGED





# PLAINS CO<sub>2</sub> REDUCTION (PCOR) PARTNERSHIP

2003–2005 – PCOR Partnership: Characterization

2005–2008 – PCOR Partnership: Field Validation

2007–2019 – PCOR Partnership: Commercial Demonstration

**2019–2024 – PCOR Partnership Initiative: Commercial Deployment**



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**ENERGY**



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University of Alaska Fairbanks



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School of  
Energy Resources



UNIVERSITY OF  
**ND** NORTH DAKOTA



Image credit – EERC

0 500 1,000  
kilometers







# PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS



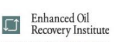
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# SAMPLING OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS THAT THE EERC HAS PARTNERED ON WITH INDUSTRY TO ENABLE CCUS (SINCE 2003)\*

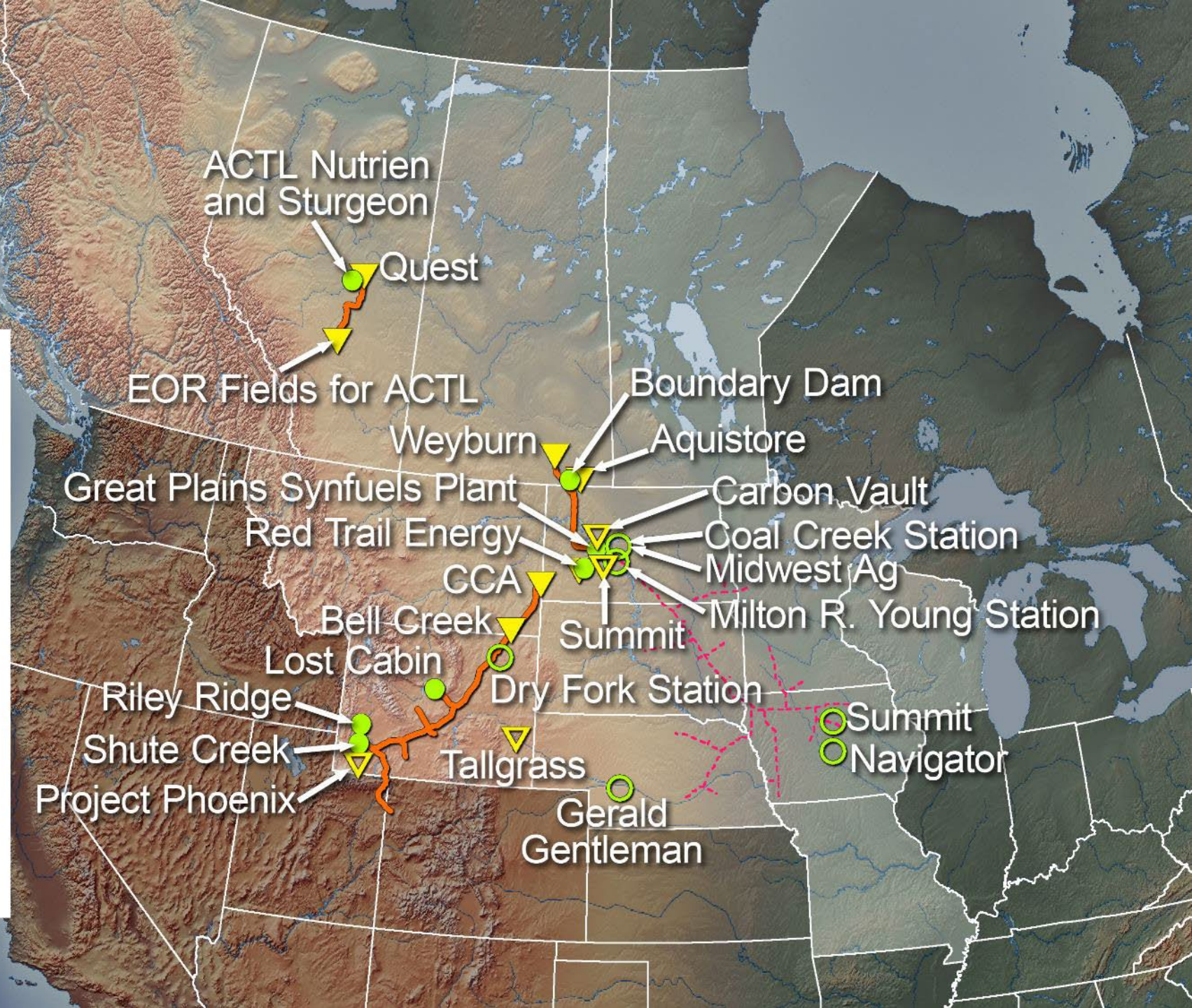


\* Does not include direct contract work to support commercial CCUS project development and implementation without a publicly funded component.



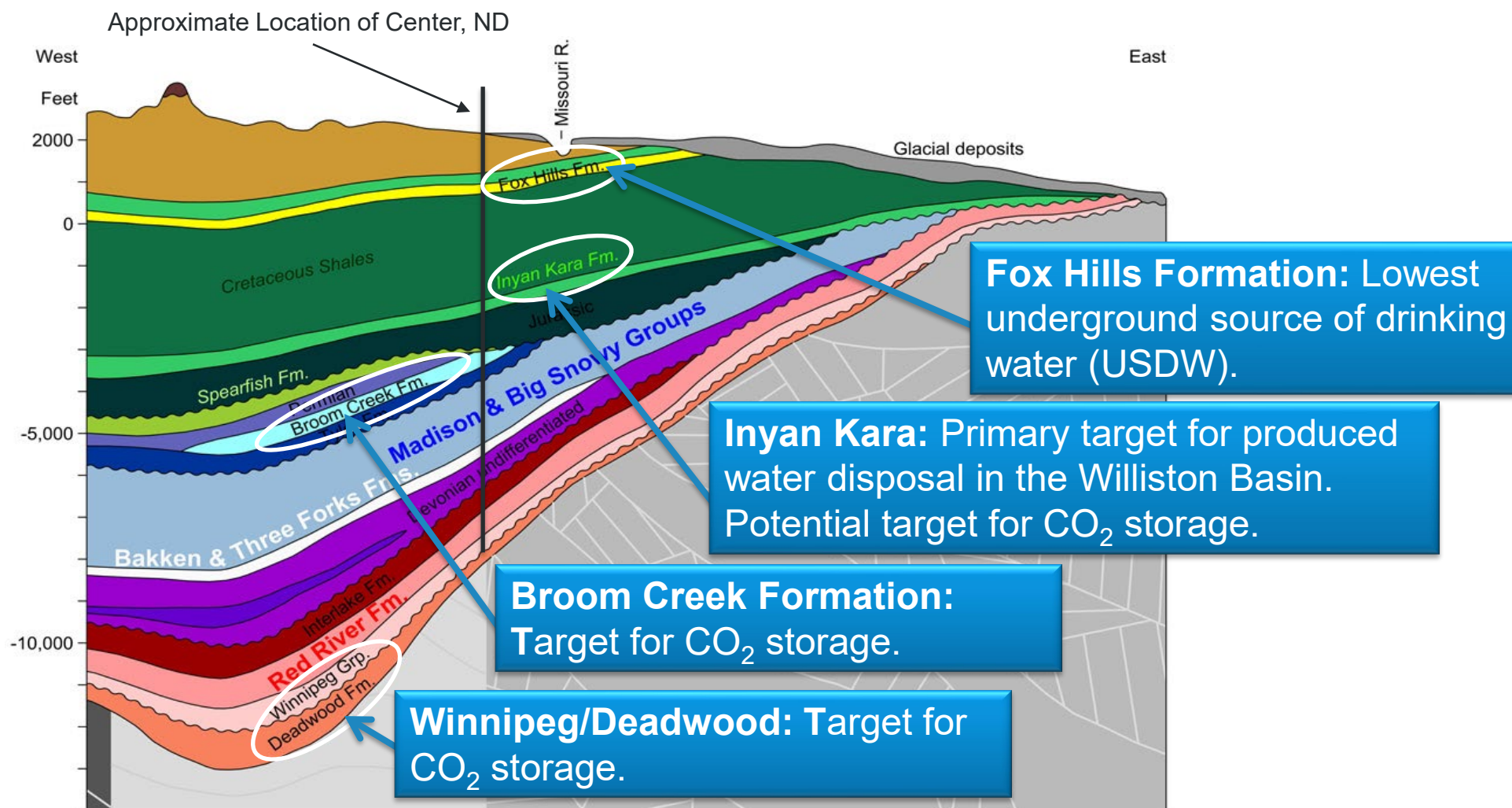
## Active and Developing CCUS Projects in the PCOR Partnership Region

- Active Capture
- ▼ Active Injection
- Developing Capture
- ▼ Developing Injection
- CO<sub>2</sub> Pipeline
- - - Proposed CO<sub>2</sub> Pipeline

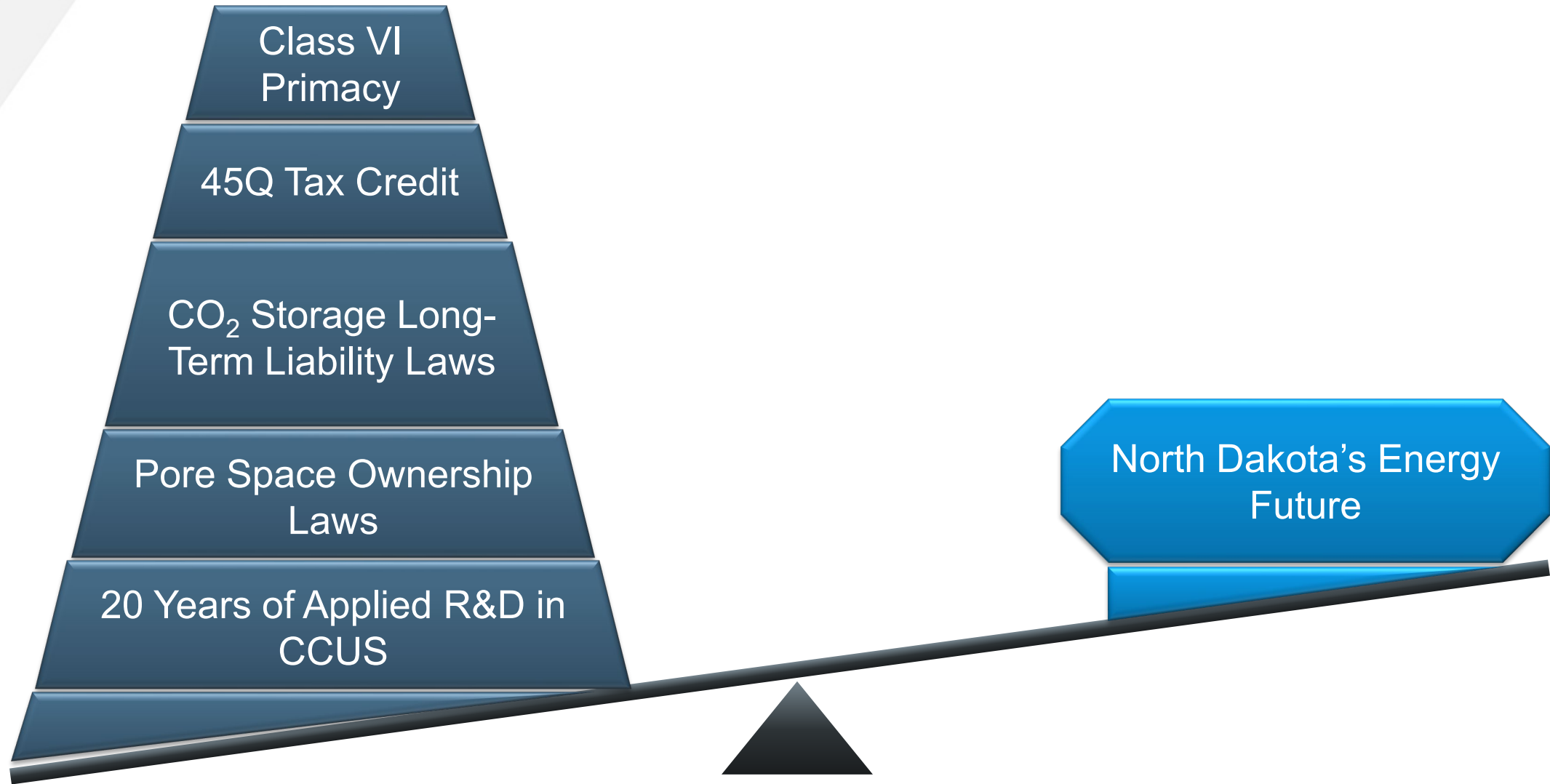




# WILLISTON BASIN SALINE STORAGE OPPORTUNITIES



# NORTH DAKOTA'S LEVERAGE

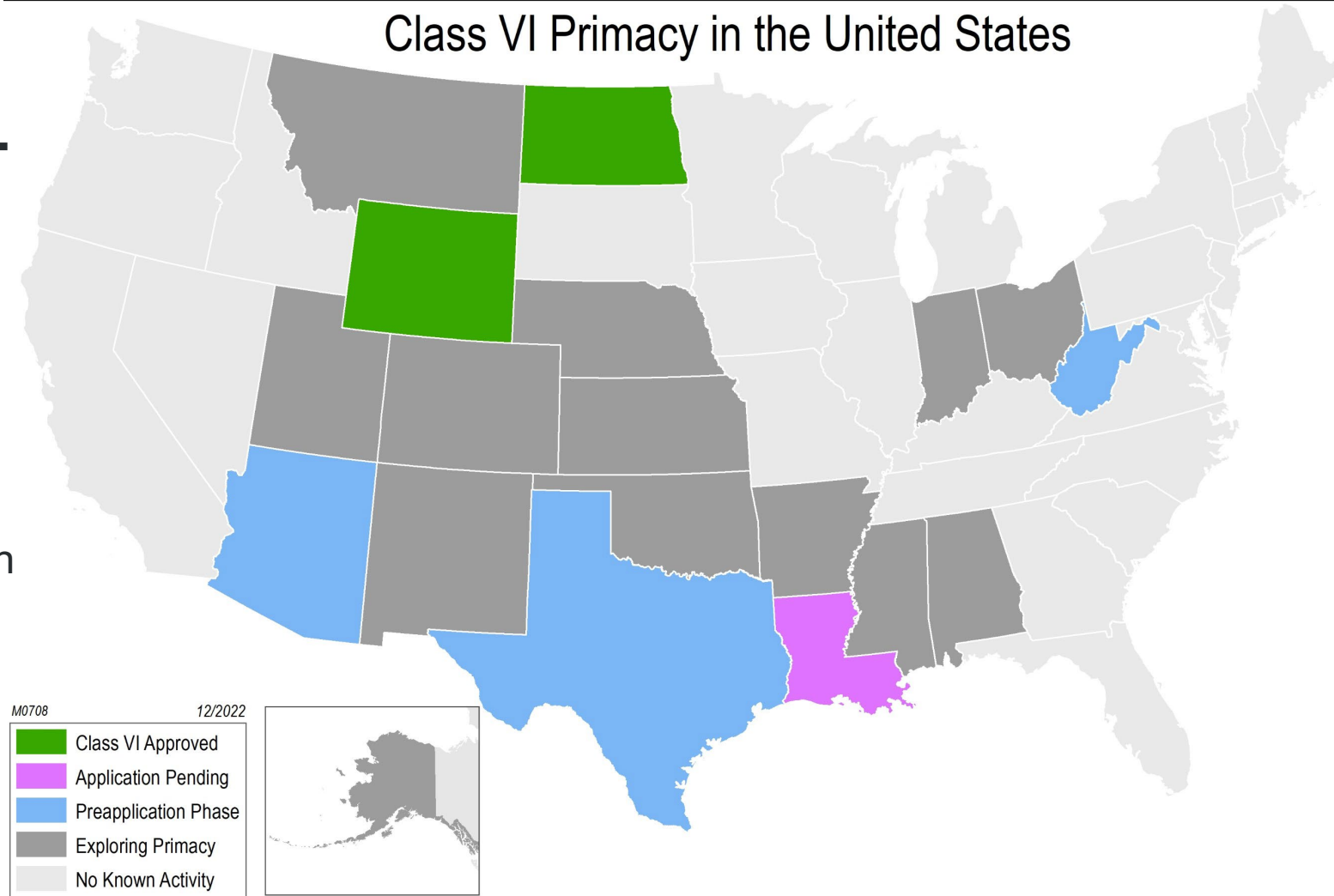


# UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL (UIC) Program

## Class VI Primacy in the United States

### UIC Program Standards:

- 1) Protection of USDW
- 2) Injection zone
- 3) Confining zones (upper and lower)
- 4) Area of review and corrective action
- 5) Wellbore integrity demonstration



Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V	Class VI
Hazardous and nonhazardous fluids (industrial and municipal wastes).	Brines and other fluids associated with oil and gas production, including CO <sub>2</sub> EOR.	Fluids associated with solution mining of minerals.	Hazardous or radioactive wastes. This class is banned by EPA.	Nonhazardous fluids into or above a USDW and are typically shallow.	Injection of CO <sub>2</sub> for long-term storage.



# INCENTIVES

## 45Q Tax Credits

- Projects beginning construction before January 1, 2033, can claim credits for 12 years after operations begin.
- Provides for direct payment for 45Q credits.
- Tax credit for CO<sub>2</sub> stored in a qualified enhanced oil recovery (EOR) project: \$60/tonne.
  - Tax credit from direct air capture (DAC): \$130/tonne.
- Tax credit for CO<sub>2</sub> stored in a saline formation: \$85/tonne.
  - Tax credit from DAC: \$180/tonne.

## West Coast LCFS Markets

- Credits trading up to \$80–\$220 per ton (June 2021–2022).
- Stacked with 45Q.

## North Dakota Incentives

- No sales tax on capture-related infrastructure.
- No sales tax on CO<sub>2</sub> sold for EOR.
- No sales tax on construction of pipeline.
- Property tax-exempt for 10 years (equipment).
- Coal conversion tax: tax reduction with CO<sub>2</sub> capture (up to 50%).
- No sales tax on CO<sub>2</sub> EOR infrastructure.
- 0% extraction tax for 20 years for CO<sub>2</sub> EOR.



# ANCILLARY REGULATORY MECHANISMS FACILITATE INDUSTRIAL CCUS

Carbon dioxide storage facility administrative fund (\$0.01/ton): administer program.

Carbon dioxide storage facility trust fund (\$0.07/ton): postinjection compliance and long-term liability.

Amalgamation of pore space (forced at 60%).

Final decision issued within 12 months of the date a submitted carbon storage facility permit (SFP) application is deemed complete.

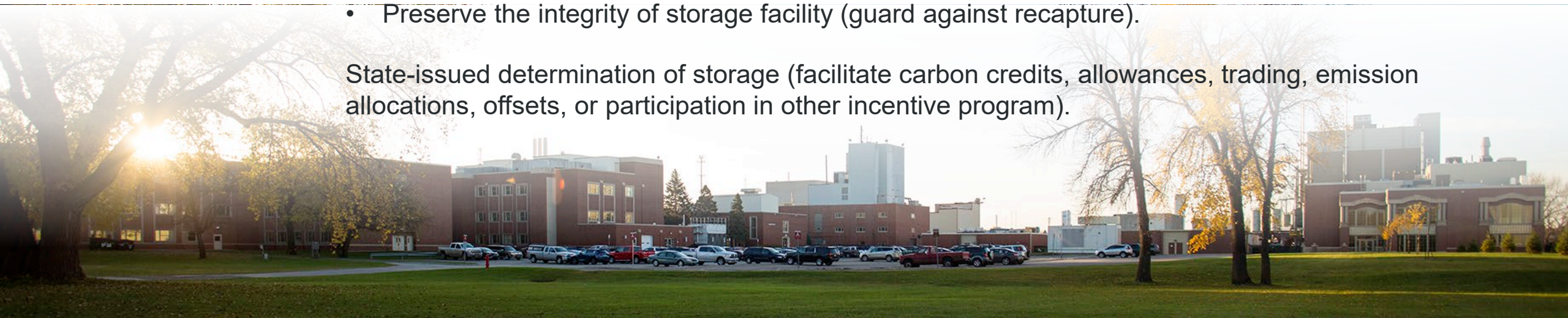
State issues certificate of project completion (all criteria met – at least 10 years postinjection).

- Releases responsibility, regulatory requirements, and bonds.
- Transfer of title and custody to storage facility and stored CO<sub>2</sub> to state.
- State oversees/responsible for monitoring and managing the storage facility until such time as federal government assumes responsibility (assures site access/confidence).

State retains all authority to regulate future mineral and UIC activities.

- Preserve the integrity of storage facility (guard against recapture).

State-issued determination of storage (facilitate carbon credits, allowances, trading, emission allocations, offsets, or participation in other incentive program).





# NORTH DAKOTA CCUS ACTIVITY

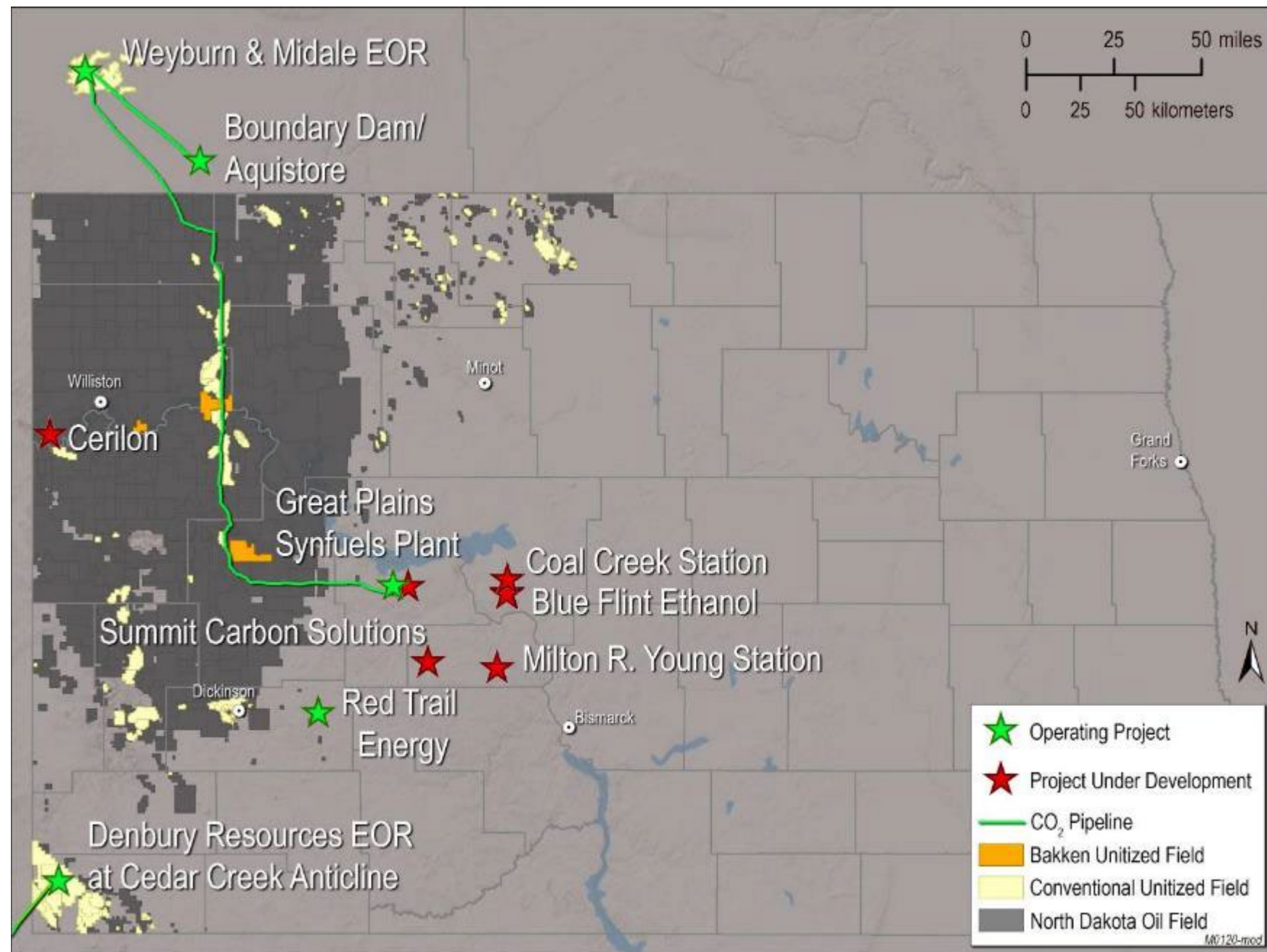
## Approved permits:

- Red Trail Energy (RTE)
- Minnkota (Milton R. Young Station)

## Pending permits:

- Great Plains Synfuels Plant
- Blue Flint Ethanol

## 8-month Review and Approval Process





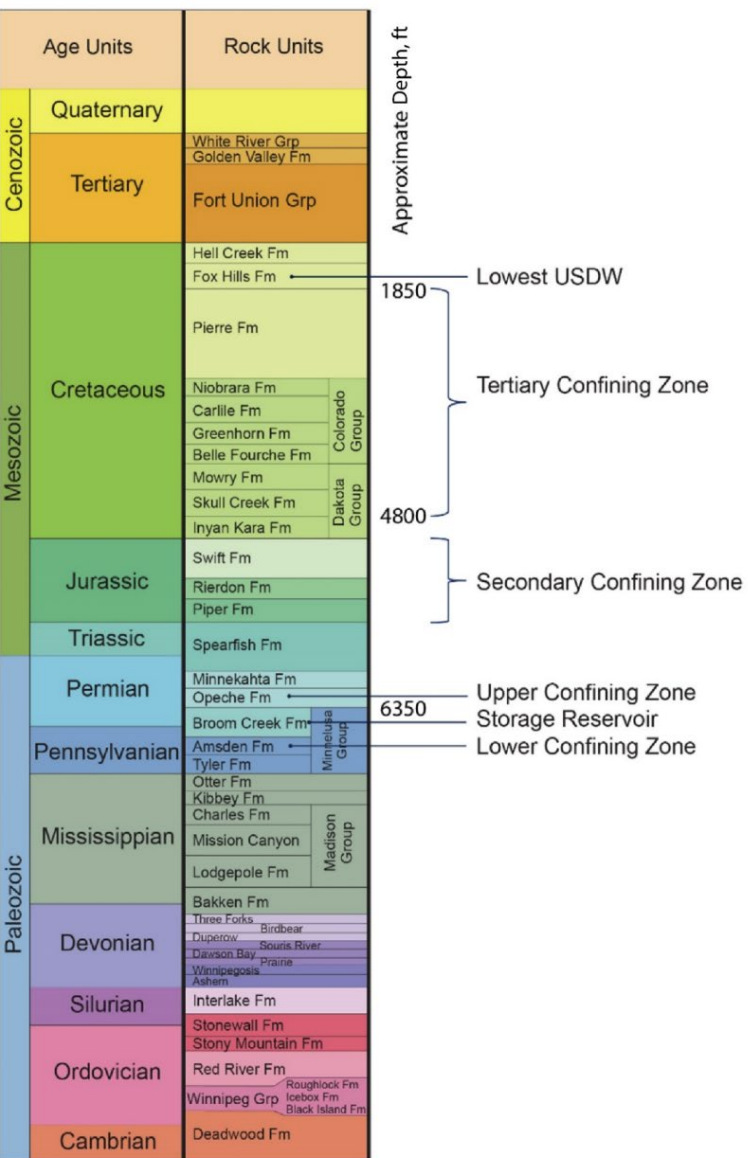
# RED TRAIL ENERGY

- RTE announced June 16, 2022 as the official start date of carbon capture and storage (CCS) operations.
- RTE is capturing 100% of CO<sub>2</sub> from the fermentation process and is injecting approximately 500 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per day into the Broom Creek Formation.
- Approximately 82,000 tons stored as of December 31, 2022.

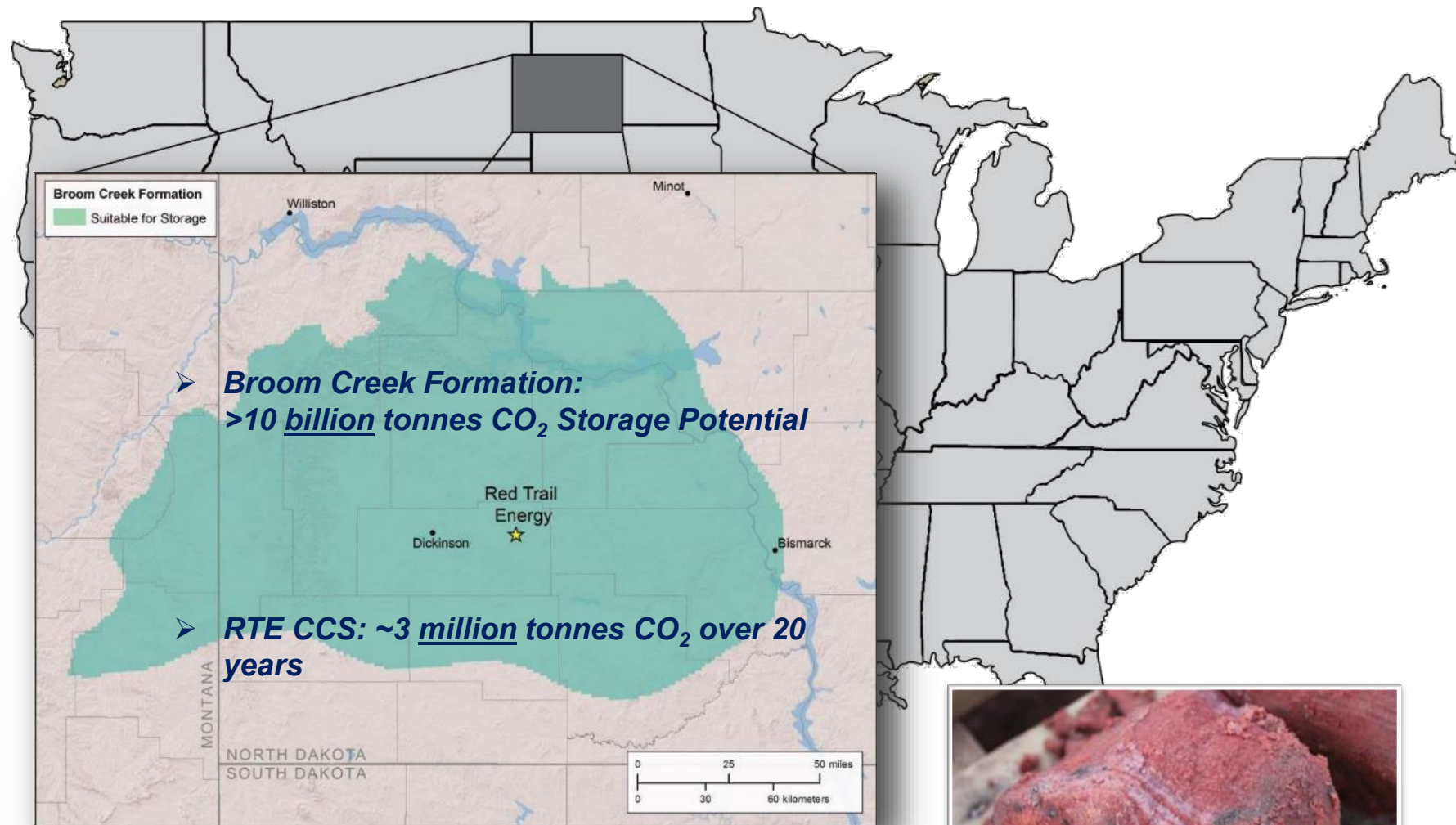


*Images Credit: Red Trail Energy*



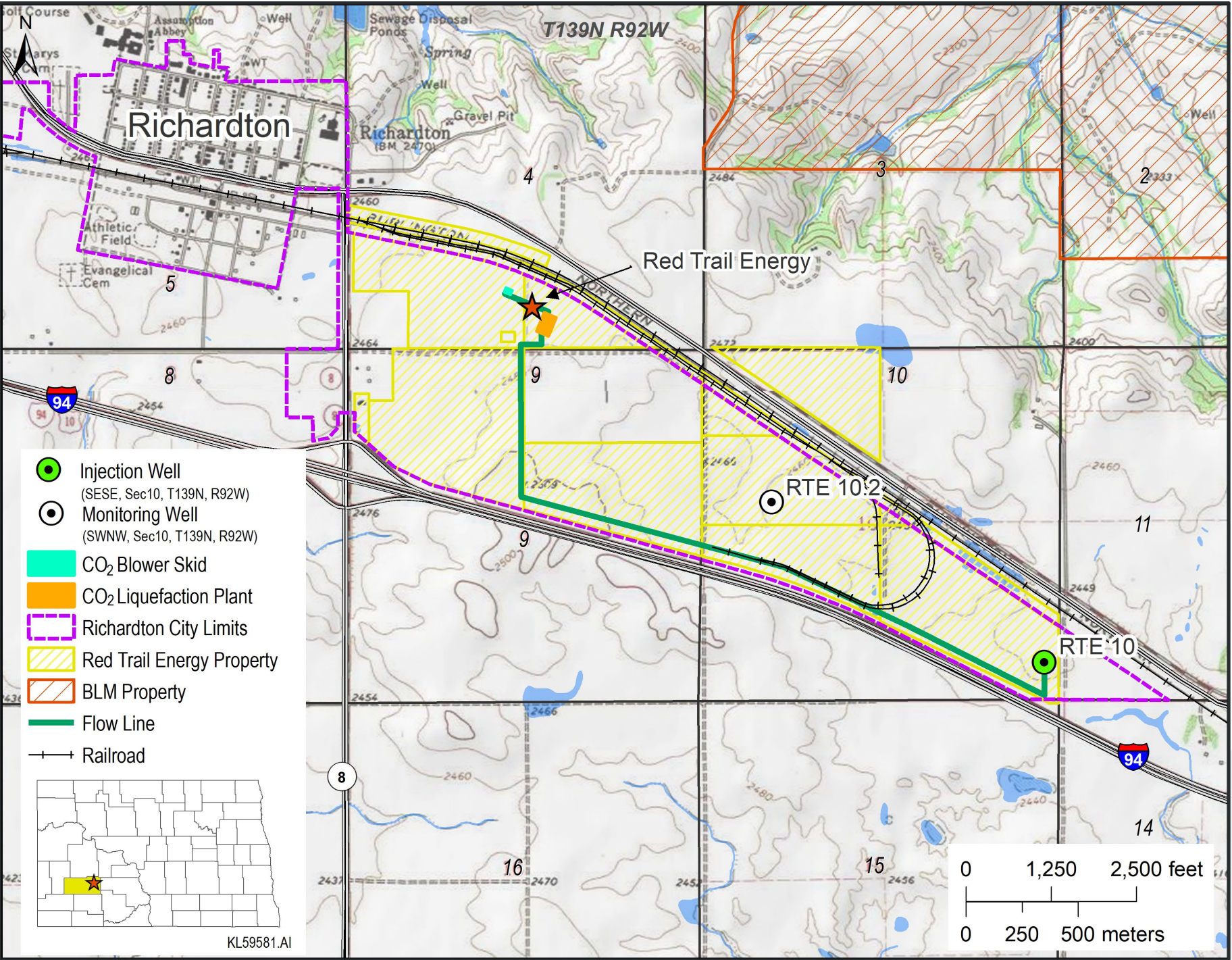


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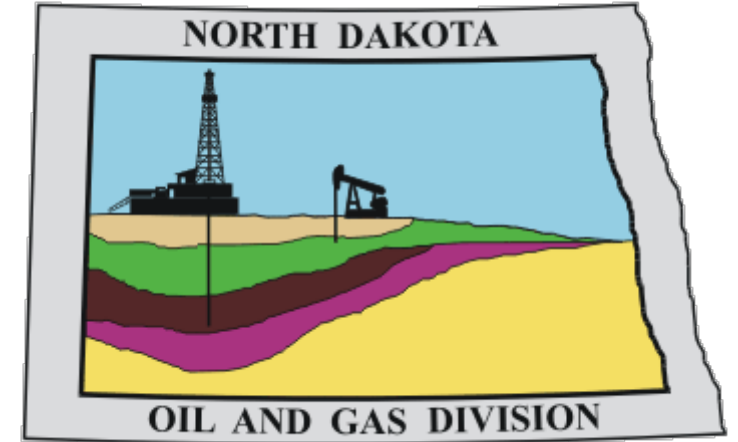
# RED TRAIL ENERGY SITE LAYOUT





# RTE NORTH DAKOTA SFP

Monitoring Type	RTE Monitoring Program	Target Structure/Project Area
Analysis of Injected CO <sub>2</sub>	Compositional and isotopic analysis of the injected CO <sub>2</sub> stream	Wellhead
CO <sub>2</sub> Flow Line	→ DTS/DAS and distributed strain sensing (DSS)	Capture facility to the wellsite
Continuous Recording of Injection Pressure, Rate, and Volume	Surface pressure/temperature gauges and a flowmeter installed at the wellhead with shutoff alarms	Surface-to-reservoir (injection well)
Well Annulus Pressure Between Tubing and Casing	Annular pressure gauge for continuous monitoring	Surface-to-reservoir (injection well)
Near-Surface Monitoring	Groundwater wells in the AoR, dedicated Fox Hills monitoring wells, and soil gas sampling and analyses	Near-surface environment, USDWs
Direct Reservoir Monitoring	Wireline logging, external downhole pressure and temperature gauges, and DTS/DAS fiber optic cable	Storage reservoir and primary sealing formation
Indirect Reservoir Monitoring	→ Time-lapse geophysical surveys, gravity surveys, inSAR and passive seismic measurements.	Entire storage complex
Internal and external mechanical integrity	Tubing-casing annulus pressure testing (internal)	Well infrastructure
	→ DTS/DAS fiber optic cable, ultrasonic imager tool (USIT) (external)	
Corrosion Monitoring	Flow-through corrosion coupon test system for periodic corrosion monitoring.	Well infrastructure

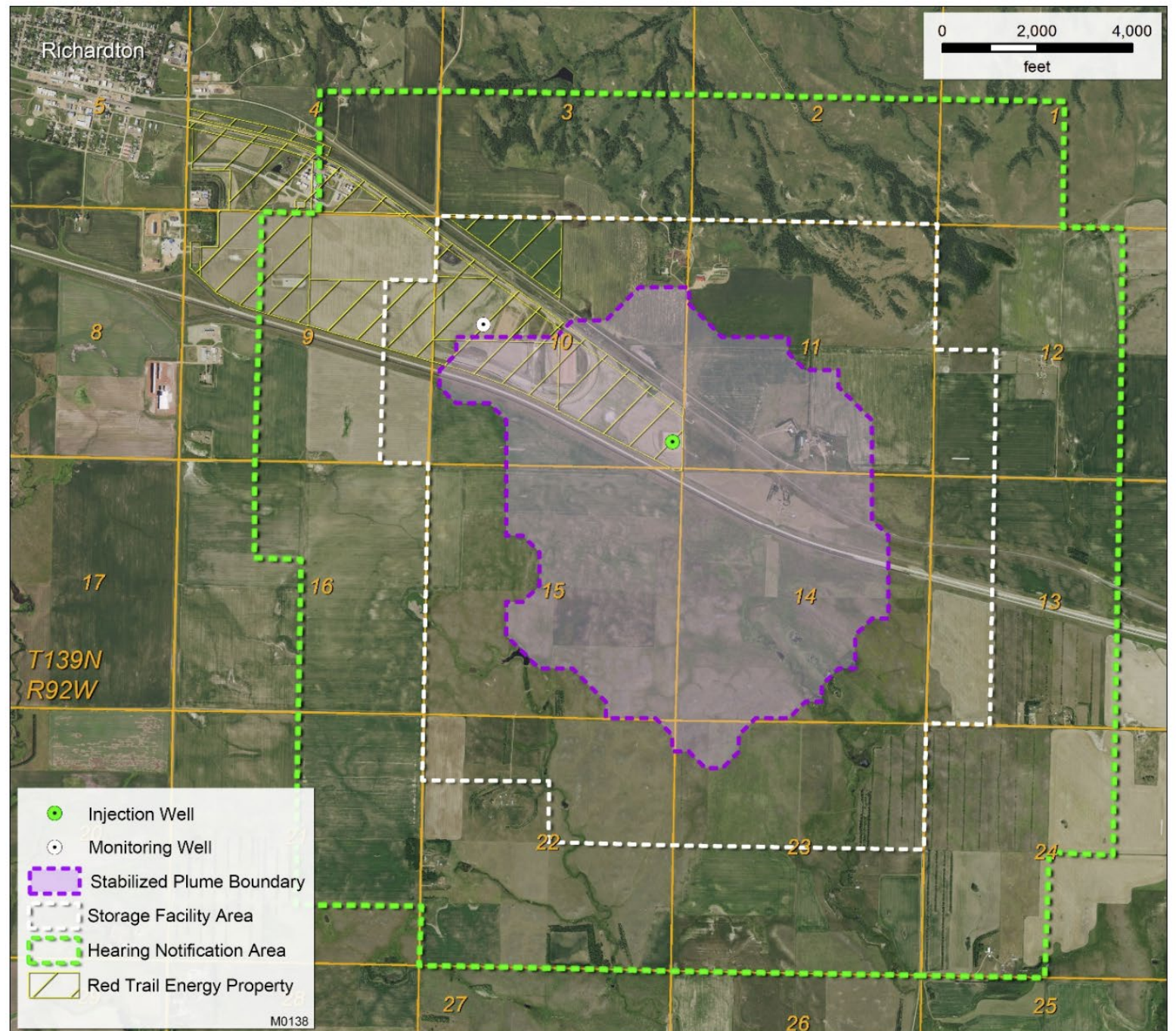


→ Supplemental U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)–PCOR Partnership monitoring activities integrated with RTE’s SFP.

- SFP ensures safe storage and compliance.
- SFP requires a periodic testing and monitoring plan.



# RED TRAIL ENERGY STORAGE FACILITY AREA





# MONITORING CO<sub>2</sub> SATURATION AND PRESSURE

Analyze historical InSAR.

Build and install reflective monuments to improve surface signal.

Surface expression of injection operations.

InSAR



SASSA

Autonomous units for recording SOV, vibroseis, and passive noise.

Parameter testing to optimize autonomous sourcing.



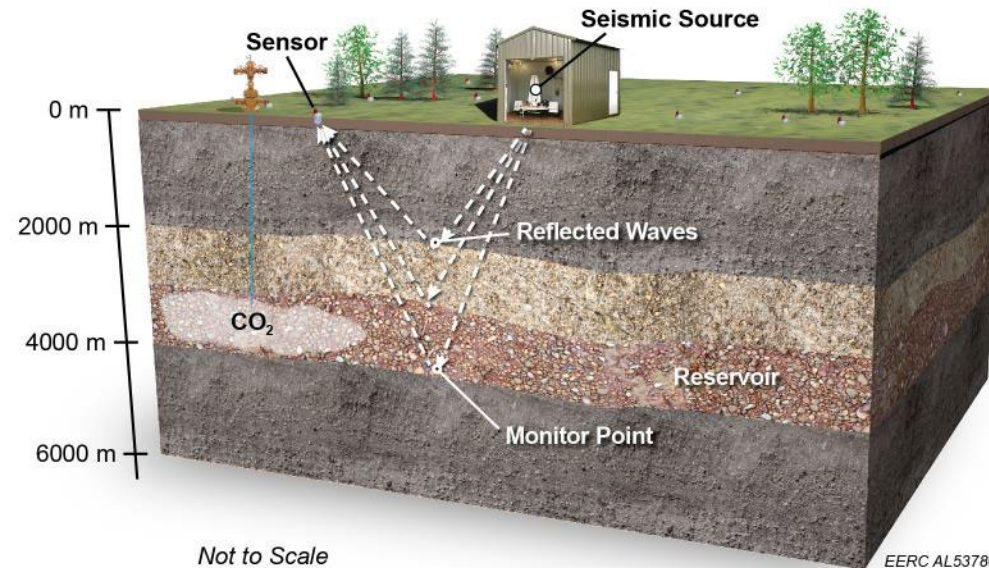
## Fiber-Optic Systems

DAS and DSS systems sense changes related to saturation and pressure.

Record vibroseis for VSP (3D and walkaway).

Record strain and passive noise.

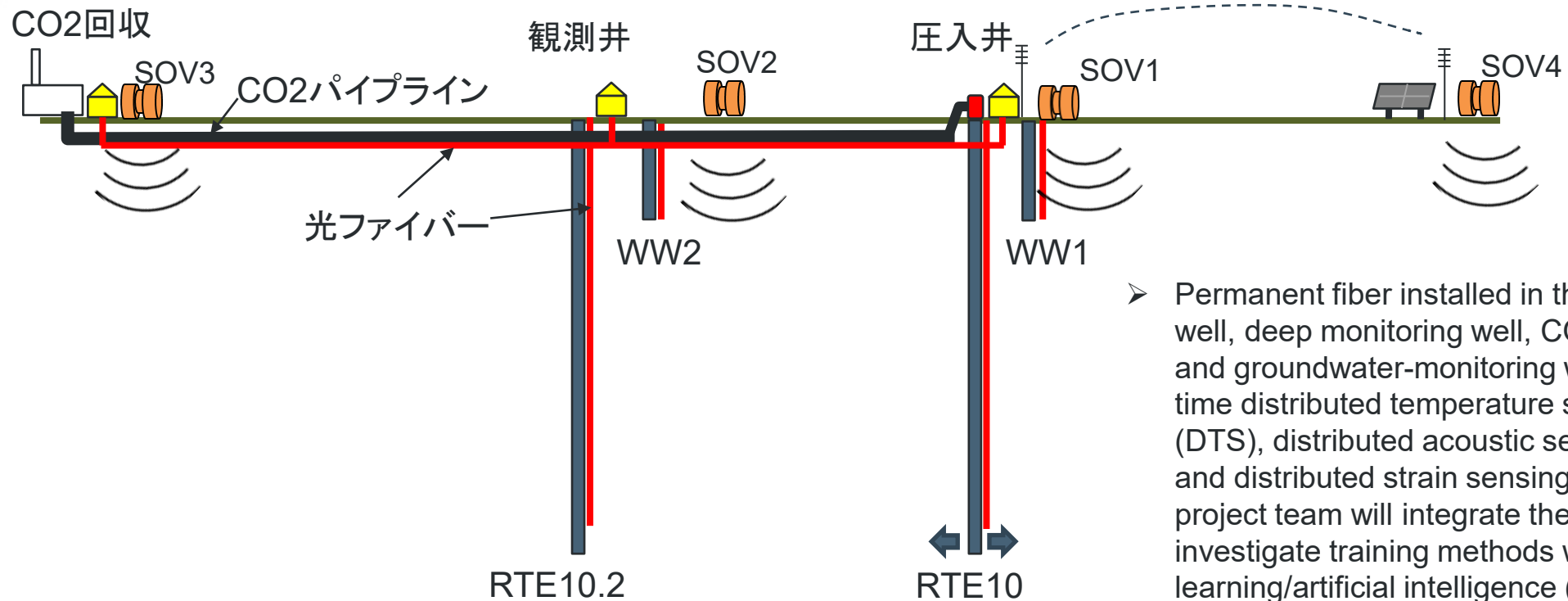
Parameter testing to optimize recording.



*The project team will investigate the integration of these data sets into automated-predictive decision-making.*



# 光ファイバーによるCO2モニタリング



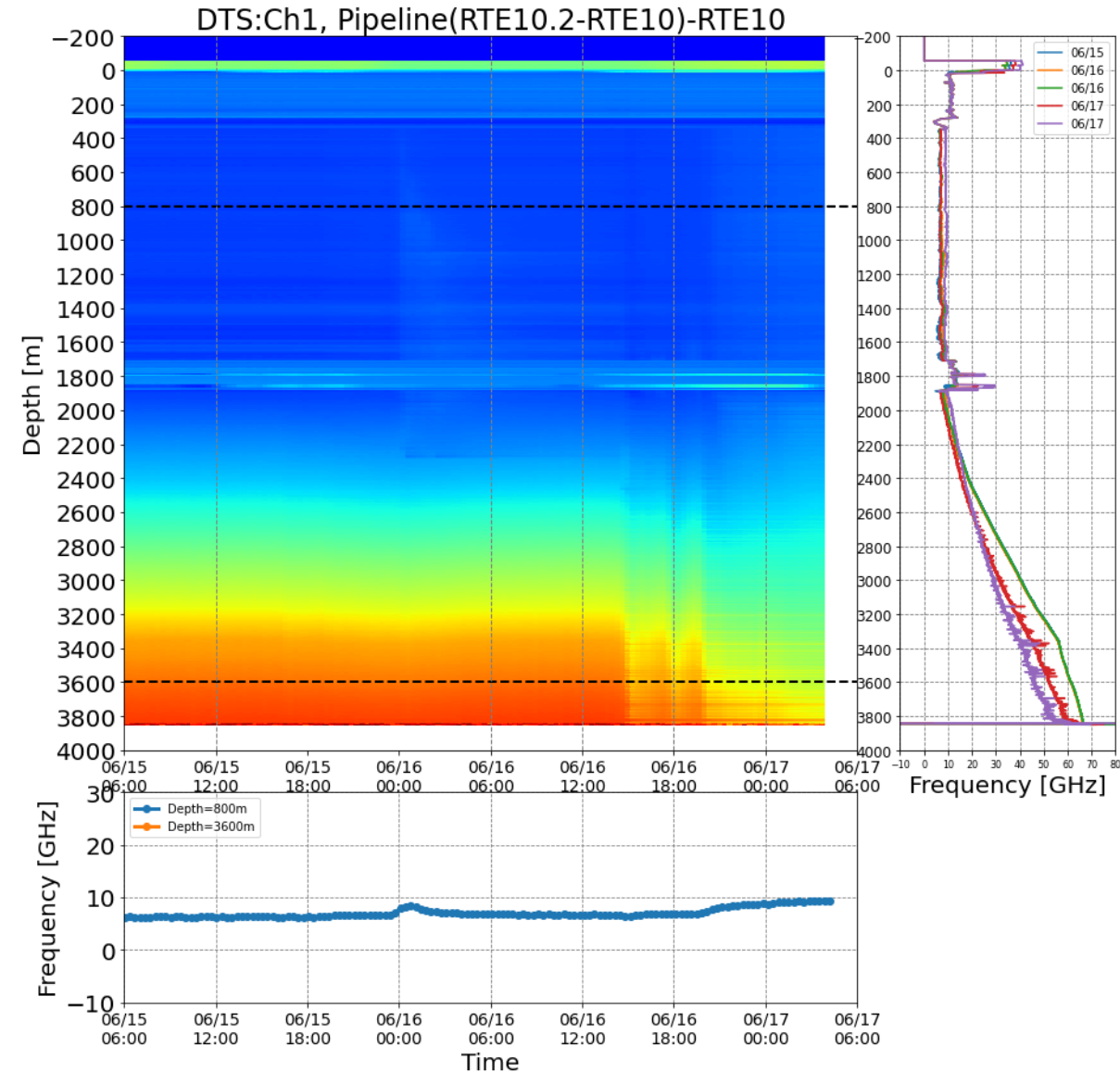
- Permanent fiber installed in the injection well, deep monitoring well, CO<sub>2</sub> flowline, and groundwater-monitoring wells for real-time distributed temperature sensing (DTS), distributed acoustic sensing (DAS), and distributed strain sensing (DSS). The project team will integrate these data and investigate training methods with machine learning/artificial intelligence (ML/AI) for predictive decision-making.

*Credit: Takayuki Miyoshi at RITE*

DAS (音響計測)	CO2プルームの広がり把握(DAS/VSP)
DSS (ひずみ計測)	坑井健全性、貯留層/遮蔽層安定性監視、CO2挙動監視
DTS (温度計測)	坑井周辺のCO2挙動監視(坑井健全性)

# DISTRIBUTED FIBER-OPTIC STRAIN AND TEMPERATURE

- DTS and DSS calibrated with casing-convey pressure/temperature gauges.
- DTS will continuously monitor temperatures for wellbore integrity.
- DSS will continuously measure and monitor stress changes related to reservoir changes and integrate with other pressure data.





# INTEGRATED GEOMECHANICAL MONITORING



InSAR

- Integration between injection data, InSAR, and DSS.
- High-frequency (weekly) data and AI/ML-ready.

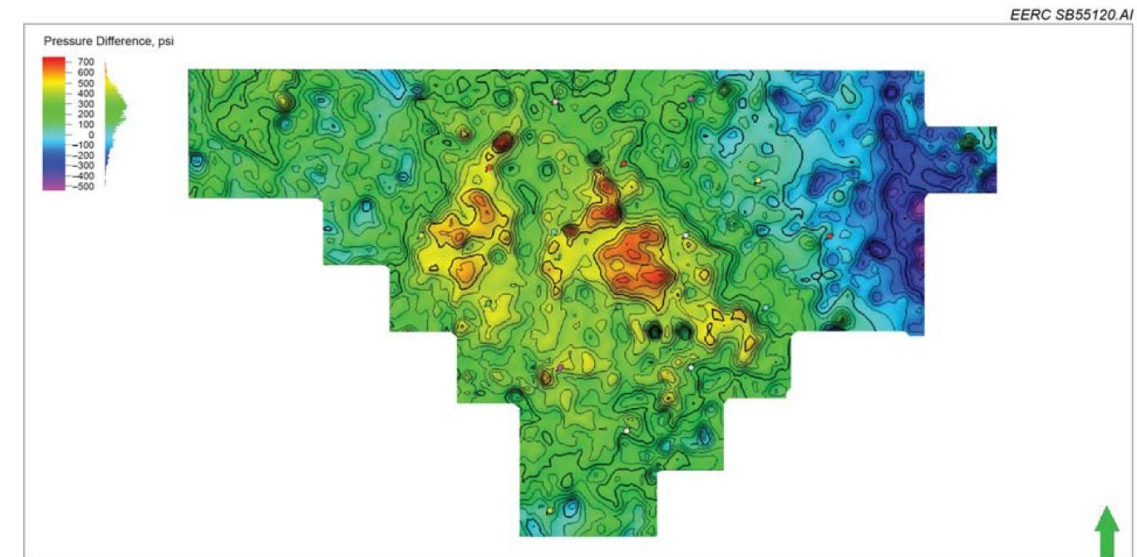
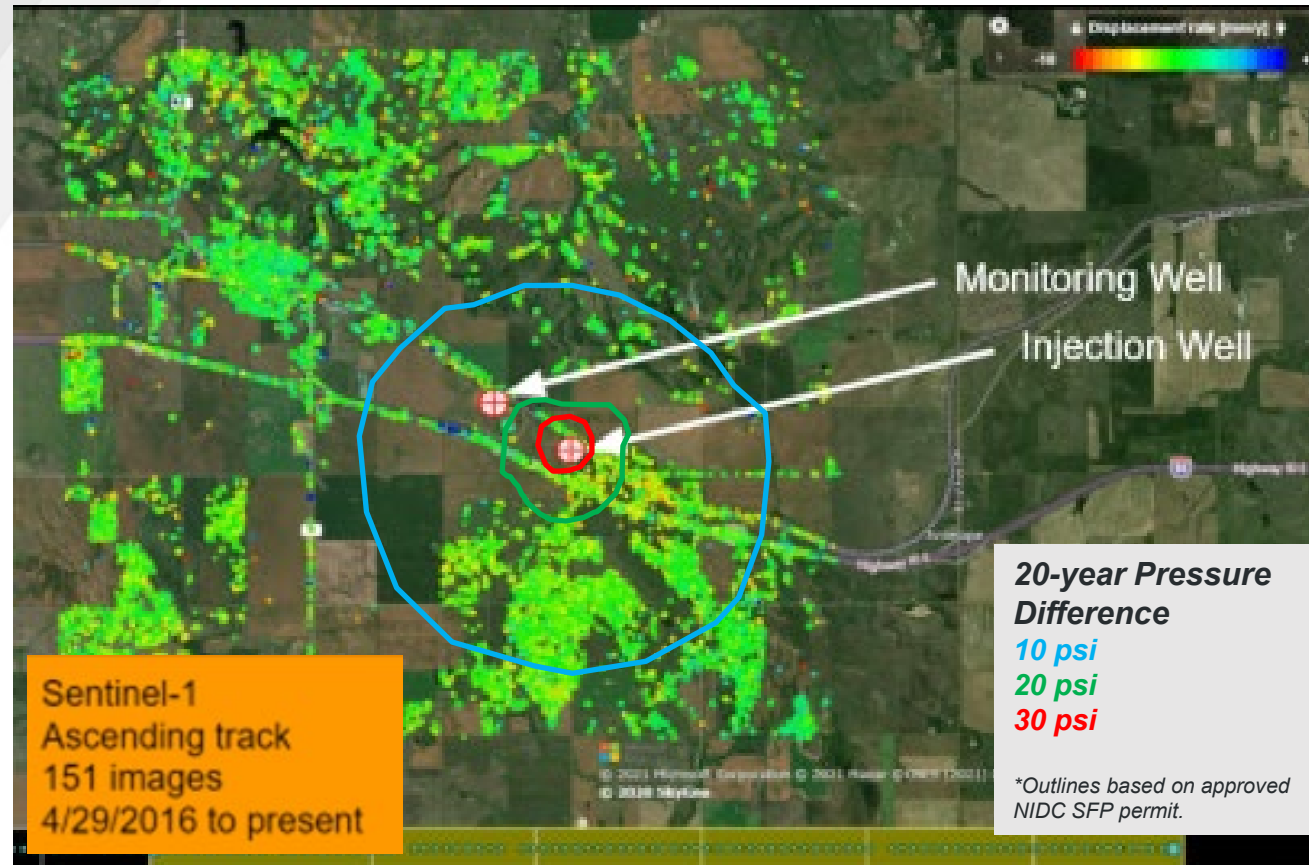
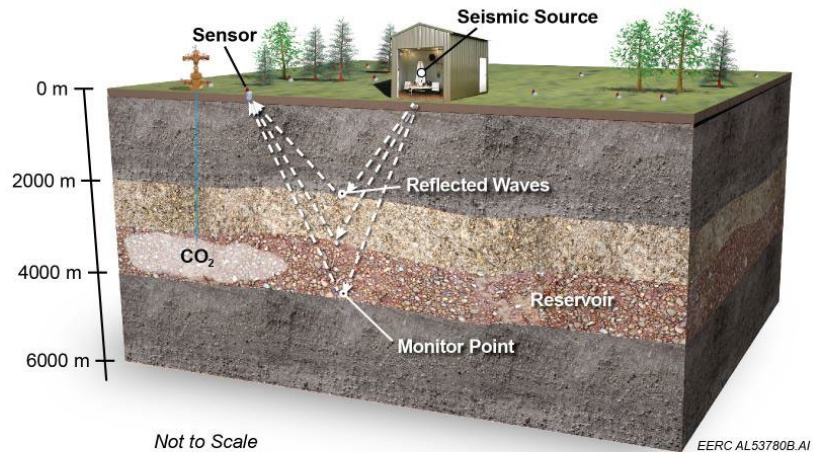


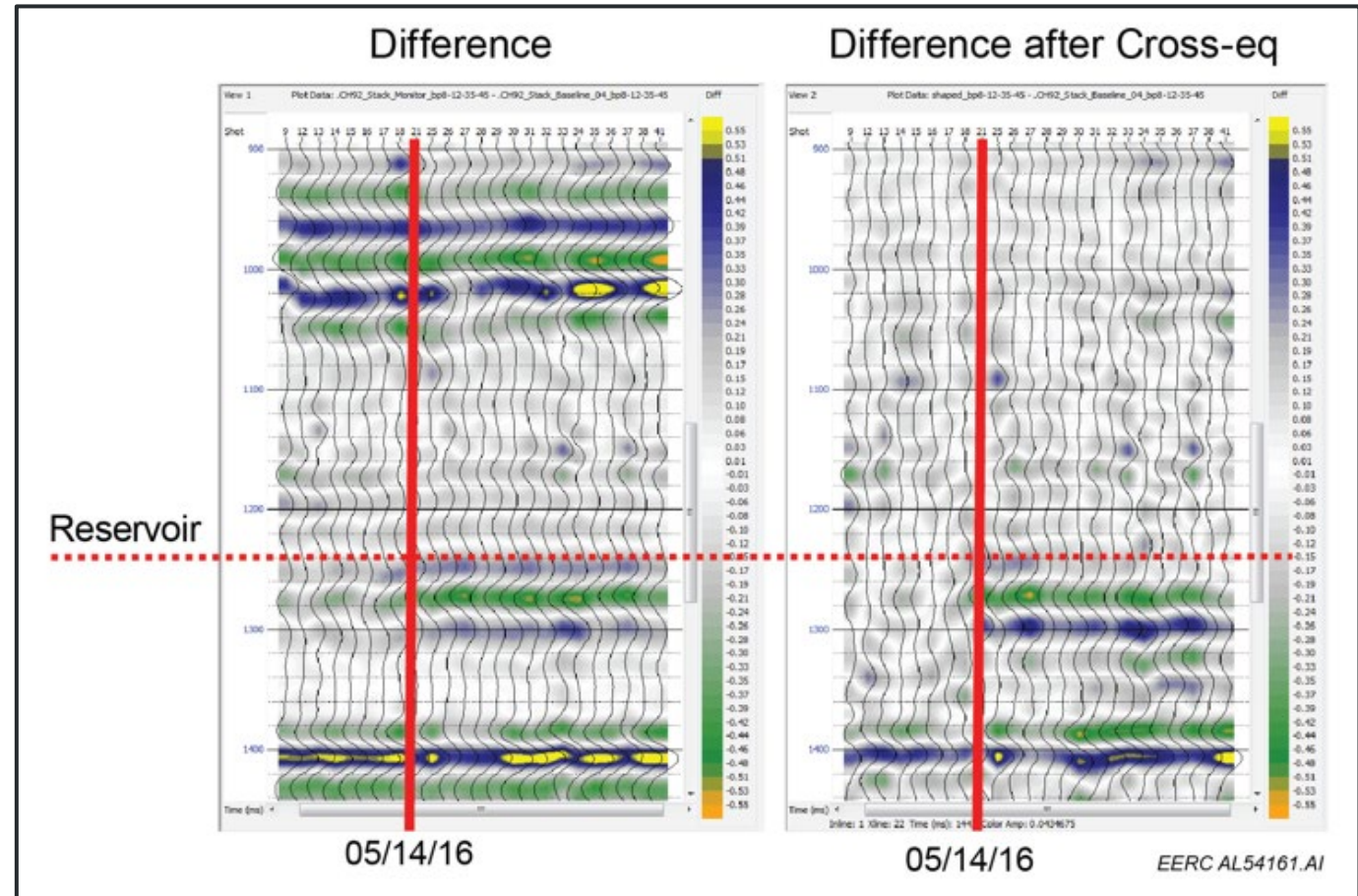
Fig. 14. Reservoir pressure differences between September 2015 and December 2016 inverted from measured InSAR data.

# SCALABLE AUTOMATED SPARSE SEISMIC ARRAY (SASSA)

- Monitoring of strategically located subsurface discrete locations for understanding plume extents.
- Single-fold weekly reflection changes indicate change in CO<sub>2</sub> saturation.
- Integrate with dynamic reservoir simulations.

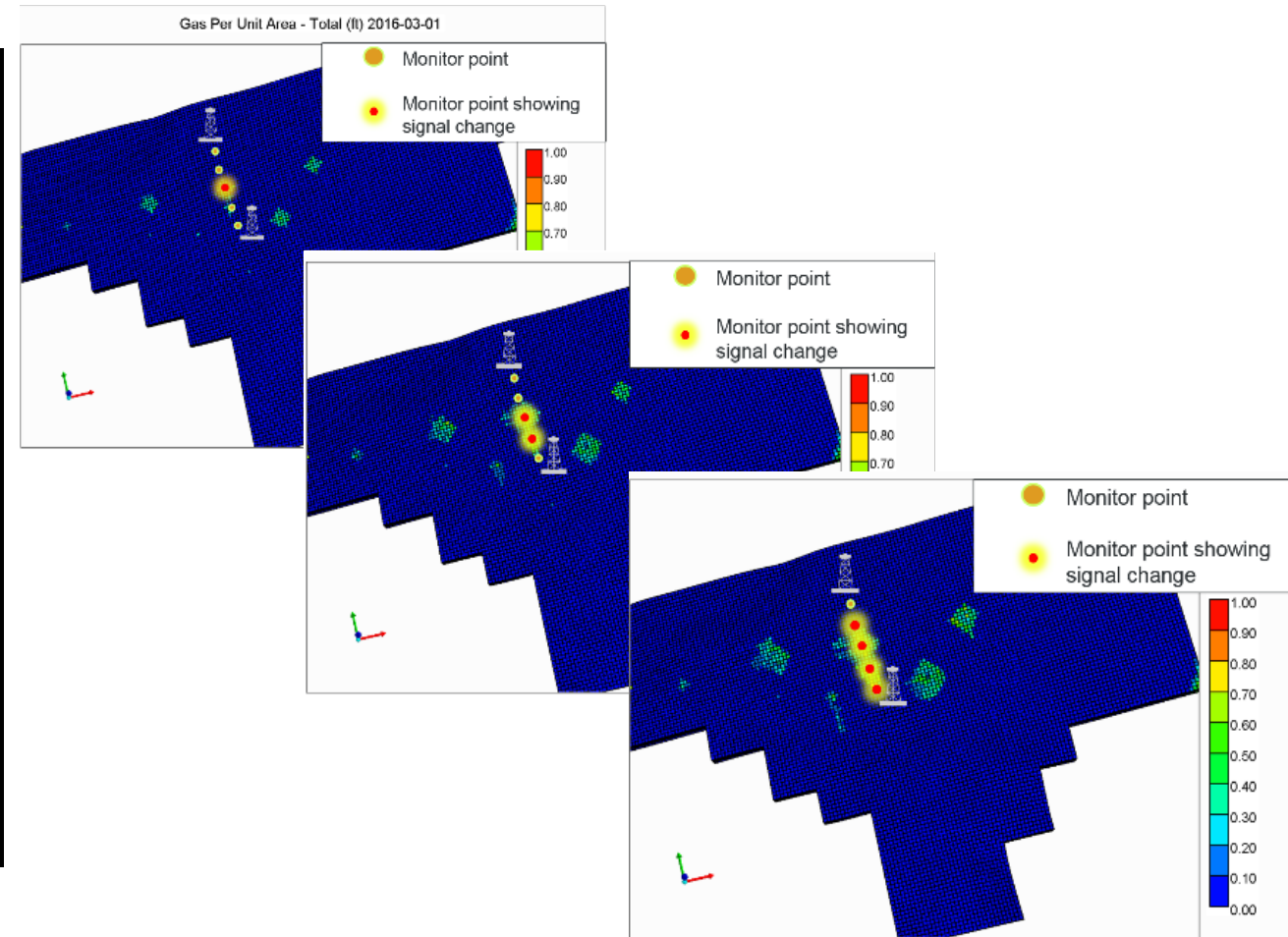
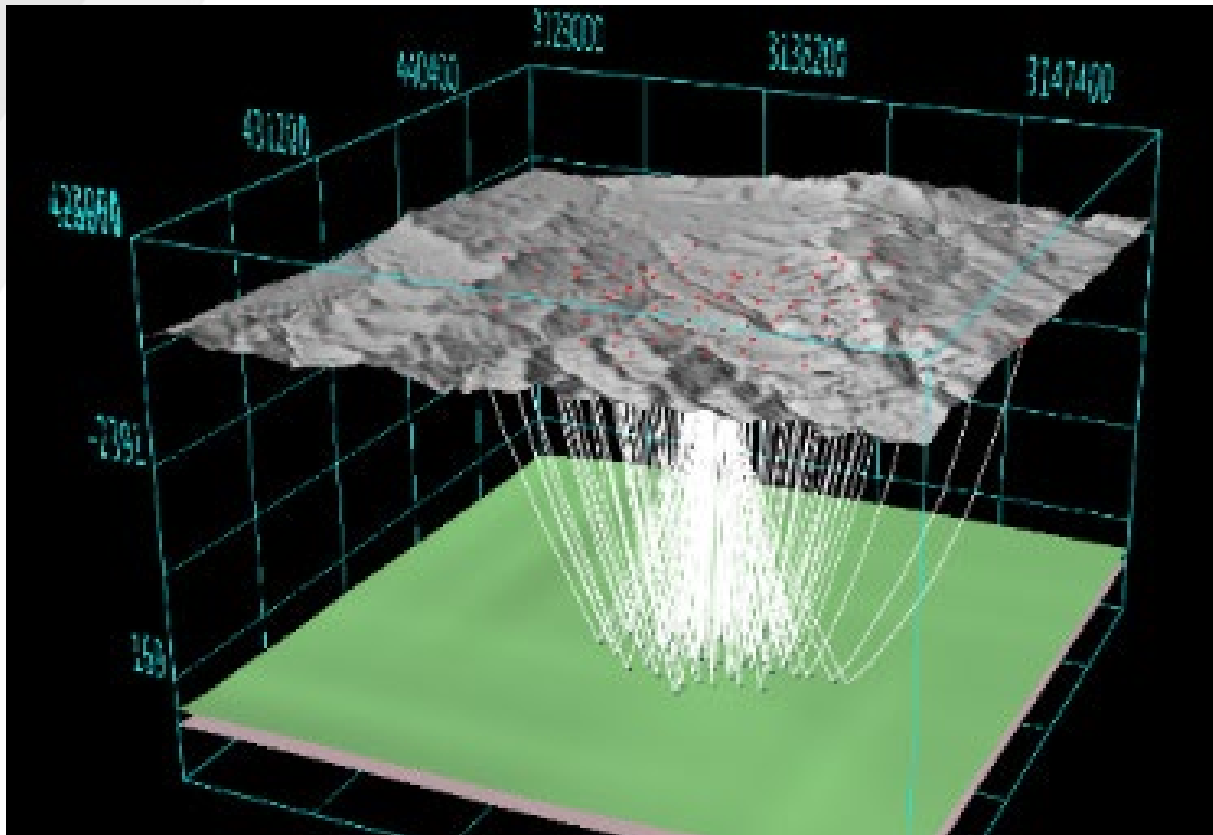


## *Bell Creek Oil Field, MT – SASSA Example*





# SASSA

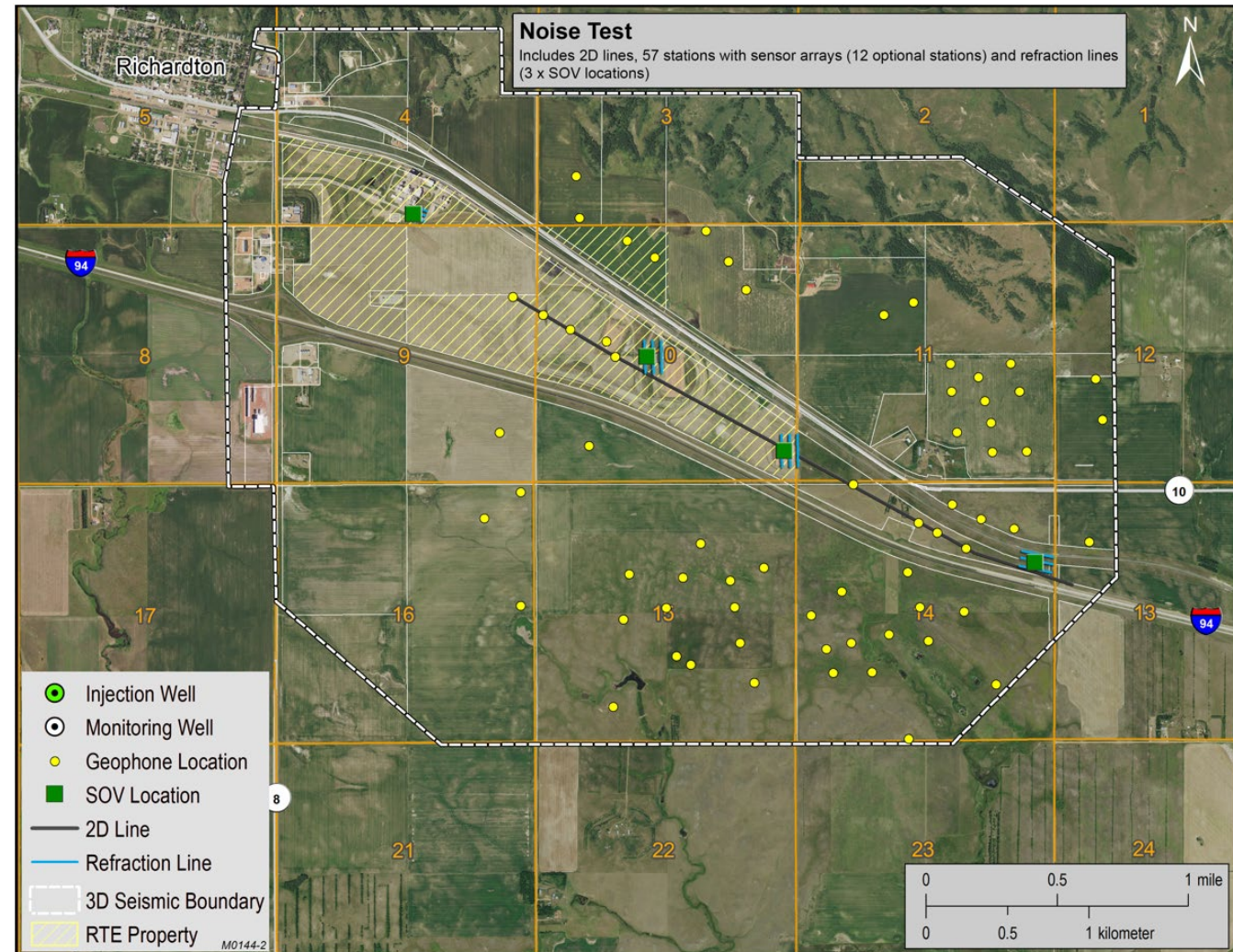


# SASSA PLANNING – NOISE TEST

Enhancing and optimizing cost-effective methods that reduce surface impact, lower HSE risk, and allow for safer storage.

- Deployment of a sparse array of geophones at strategic locations for monitoring the injected CO<sub>2</sub> plume.
- RITE's SOV source will be recorded with the sparse array on a daily/weekly basis.

- 96 Zland 3C nodes to be deployed for noise characterization and SASSA baseline.
- 20 Geospace GSX-C nodes for demonstration of on demand remote harvesting.
- 750 Stryde nodes deployed in high-density arrays for noise characterization and monitoring phase of SASSA.

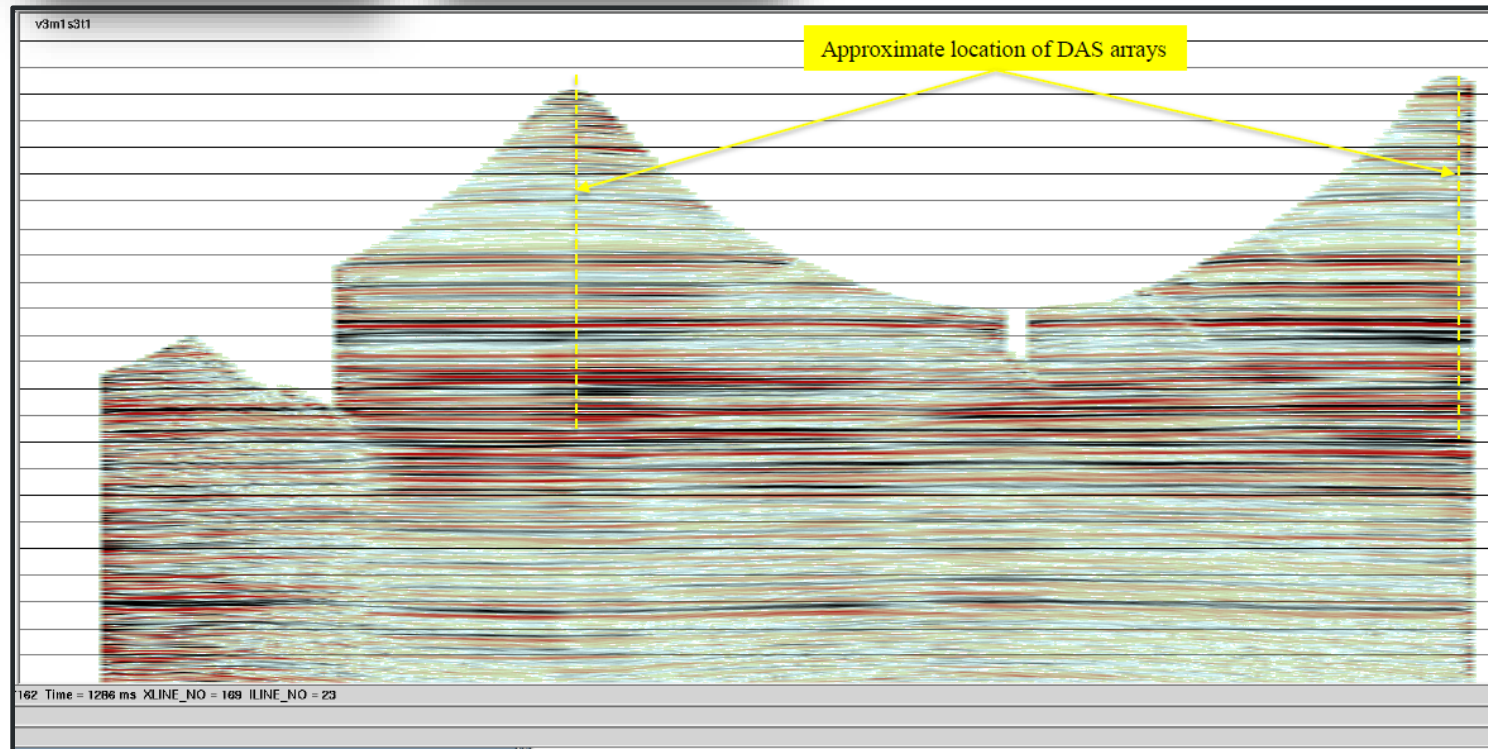


<https://www.dmr.nd.gov/oilgas/seismic/permitfiles/970304.pdf>



# HIGH-FREQUENCY VERTICAL SEISMIC PROFILES

- Four SOVs are installed in sheds for protection.
- Each SOV includes a geophone installed beneath the foundation to capture source signature.
- Maximum ground force is 15 tonnes.

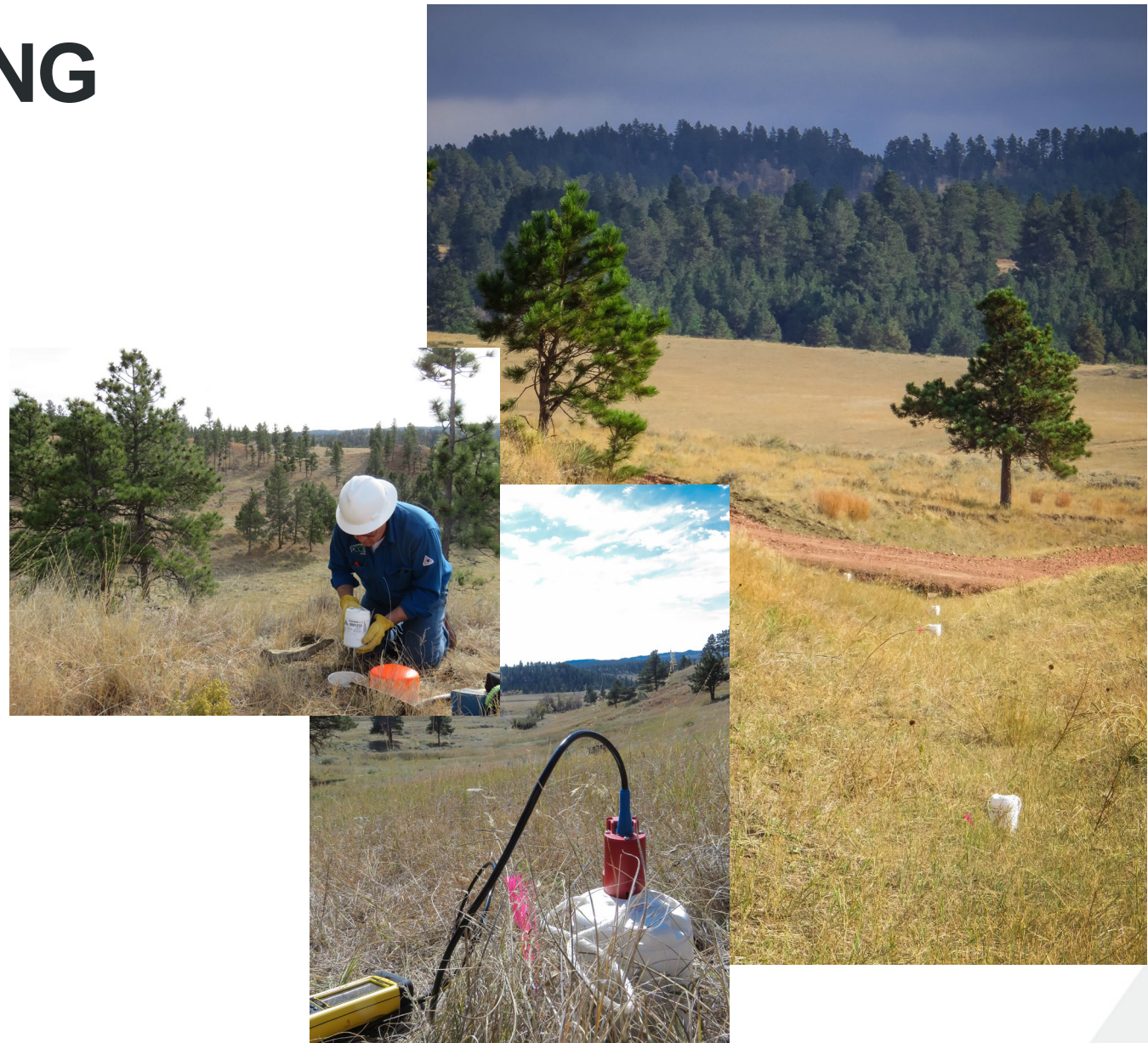




# SUSTAINABLE MONITORING

- Ensure safe storage and regulatory compliance.
- Robust risk-based sustainable monitoring plan to meets storage goals.
- Allows for adaptations to the monitoring plan.
- Track the movement of CO<sub>2</sub> and assure permanence for geologic storage.
- Provide measurements of downhole and reservoir conditions for real-time decision-making and process optimization.
- Decrease the cost and uncertainty in measurements and satisfy regulations.
- Provide long-term postinjection monitoring.

***Be good stewards of the land...***





# PCOR PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE MISSION:

*Accelerating Commercial Deployment of CCUS in the Region*





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