

Nirvana Frameworks for Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage for Enhanced Oil Recovery

Barry Goldstein

State Government of South Australia

9.29.2020 - 10.1.2020 – AAPG Annual Convention and Exhibition 2020, Online/Virtual

Abstract

South Australia is poised for the deployment of carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS) for enhanced oil recovery (EOR) and the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions. Pursuant to South Australian State Government's Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Act 2000 licences and licence applications for entitlements for CCUS cover 175,593 sq km (bigger than Florida and more than twice the size of Tasmania). Nearly 3 decades of local experience exists in the safe subsurface storage of natural gas in the Moomba Field in the Cooper Basin. The legislated framework for CCUS-EOR in South Australia enables projects that both mitigate climate change while sustaining prosperity and energy security. Unless demonstrated otherwise, relevant gas storage licences are deemed contemporaneously compatible with other (separate) licences for petroleum exploration through to production. It is legislated that no royalties will apply to underground gas storage in South Australia. Indeed, the relevant legislation and regulations simply call for leading practice objective-based (goal-seeking) industry operations. This goal-seeking framework is delivered through one window to government (lead agency) - to simultaneously gain and sustain trust with the public and investors with regard to land access for trustworthy oil and gas operations. To assure both communities and investors having positive experiences and expectations for the outcomes from exploration and production (E&P) investment - government regulators and policy makers should be expected to make unbiased and wise decisions - based on facts and evidence - in the net interest of constituents, and without capture by special interests focused on just a narrow part of the full spectrum of public good. Effective engagement requires respect for, and empathy with people with deeply-

felt concerns in relation to proposed land access for oil and gas exploration and production. It is no longer enough for those entrusted to steward regulatory frameworks for the life-cycle of oil and gas operations to be just technically focused. This presentation will describe the South Australian State Government's evolutionary steps towards nirvana for upstream petroleum projects in general, and specifically, CCUS-EOR projects.

AAPG Datapages/Search and Discovery Article # 91200 © 2020 AAPG Annual Convention & Exhibition Online, Sept. 29- Oct. 1.