

(17) Determination of CO2 Storage Capacity and ECBM Potential of Lignite Coals

This three-year effort will seek to develop estimates of the gas content and CO2 storage capacity of lignite coals in the Fort Union Group of the North Dakota and Montana portions of the Williston Basin and to determine the potential for application of the CO2-based ECBM in those coals.

Total project cost: \$500,000

Funding request: \$400,000

Project Lead: University of North Dakota, Energy and Environment Research Center

Project Participants: North Dakota Industrial commission Oil and Gas Division; the North Dakota Department of Commerce Division of Community Services, State Energy Program; and the Montana Board of Oil and Gas

Start Date: May 23, 2005

End Date: May 23, 2008

Presentations/Publications

None.

Patents

None.

Progress in Past Quarter and Current Status

The initiation of project activities has been delayed because of delays in finalizing formal cost-share agreements between the EERC and partners providing cost-share. Because of this delay, no costs have been incurred to the project. However, substantive discussions in this regard were held with potential partners.

Plans for Next Quarter:

It is anticipated that formal cost-share agreements with the cost-share providing partners will be finalized early in Quarter 2 of 2006. Finalized cost-share agreements will be submitted to NASEO for approval prior to the initiation of activities. Once the cost-share agreements are finalized and approved by NASEO, Task 1 activities will be immediately initiated. Because of the delayed start of the project activities, it is the intent of the EERC to condense the time frame for Task 1 – Field Site Selection, reducing it from 6 months to approximately 3 months. It is anticipated that an area in Burke County, North Dakota, will be the focus of the field site selection activities and that final site selection will be determined by the end of Quarter 2.