A Long-term Approach to Public Participation at the Illinois Basin – Decatur Project

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Illinois Basin – Decatur Project

A collaboration of the Midwest Geological Sequestration Consortium, the Archer Daniels Midland Company (ADM), Schlumberger Carbon Services, and other subcontractors to inject I million metric tons of anthropogenic carbon dioxide at a depth of 7,000 +/- ft (2,000 +/- m) to test geological carbon sequestration in a saline reservoir at a site in Decatur, IL

Outcome: Stakeholder engagement strategy that resonates with the Public

- Began public engagement early
- Made public engagement a priority
- Created, evaluated, and refined communications plan
- Integrated public engagement into project management
- Made sufficient investment in time and resources
- Understood and consulted community
- Maintained flexibility and diligence



CCS Engagement Foundations

- International Finance Corporation – World Bank Group
- IAP2
- World Resources
 Institute Community
 Engagement Guidelines
- U.S. DOE Public Outreach and Education for Carbon Storage Projects



Guidelines for Community Engagement in Carbon Dioxide Capture, Transport, and Storage Projects

Effective Stakeholder Engagement

- Fosters relationship between project developers, regulators, and communities
- Establishes open lines of communication
- Addresses questions and concerns
- Identifies and mitigates potential risk
- Provides no guarantee of public support

Engagement Objectives

- Provide factual information
- Cultivate knowledgeable stakeholders
- Create trust between stakeholders and project team
- Inform about potential project risks & benefits
- Address perceived risks
 - no less "real" for implementing outreach
 - can rapidly expand transform into public opposition if ignored.

Informal Engagement

Flexibility + Awareness + Respect + Intuition + Adaptation + Knowledge

Formal Engagement Processes

- Public notice of permit application
- Public comment period
- Public can request public hearing
- Public hearing
- Public comment period
- Response to comments
- Public issuance of draft permit
- Public comment period
- Respond to comments
- Public appeal period for final permit

Research Q&A for Science & Society

- How do you know the CO₂ is staying where you put it?
- What happens in the event of earthquakes?
 - Induced seismicity
 - Fracture and catastrophic release of stored CO₂
- Where does formation water go when CO₂ is injected?
 Increased pressure
- Does CO₂ injection fracture rocks during injection?
- What are long-term implications of project?
- Who is liable if something goes wrong with the project?
- How do you know it is safe?

Key Points Learned

- Public engagement is critical
- Projects provide successful examples of engagement
- Do your homework
- Establish relationships
- Talk a lot
 - to as many different people as possible
 - as often as possible
- Know your audience
- Know your topic
- Be prepared
- Listen, respond, respect

Outcome: Projects provide precedent for regulatory interaction

- Proactively engage regulators
 - Engage early and know the regulatory time clock
- Start early
- Seek out examples (publicly available)
- Provide balance of information detail important, but can distract
- Remain flexible
- Exceed requirements for public engagement and monitoring
- Expect technical collaboration between USEPA and applicant
- USEPA focused on making technical, risk-based permitting decisions
- Modeling should be discussed in detail with USEPA prior to development and verification

Operating in a Complex Regulatory Context

- Permitting in an emerging regulatory framework
- Illinois (USEPA Region V) has primacy: IEPA
 - UIC Class I, III, IV, V
 - UIC Class II through Illinois Department of Natural Resources Mines and Minerals Oil and Gas Division
- Most recent new Illinois permit for a Class I Non-Hazardous well was issued in 1970s
- Class VI finalized December 2010, States apply for primacy by September 2011, reapply for Class VI permits by December 2011 Illinois did not apply for primacy, permit reverts to US EPA Region V
- Applied for Class VI permit in December 2011 for IBDP/CCS#1, received February 2015 – after cease of injection.

IBDP Risk Assessment and Stakeholder Engagement



The Role for Monitoring Among Stakeholder Groups



Engagement Necessitates Exceeding Permit Requirements





the ENERGY lab

BEST PRACTICES for:

Public Outreach and Education for Carbon Storage Projects





First Edition



Between Research, Regulations, and Commercialization

Regulations will drive monitoring activities

- Ongoing and evolving
- Research has not yet defined monitoring requirements
- Researchers should consider commercial needs
- Environmental baseline essential regardless of regulatory requirements
 - Risk mitigation
 - Support CCS primary deployment goals
- Public engagement guidelines should be exceeded
 - Proactive approach increases transparency
 - Move beyond formal engagement requirements

"Engagement is an opportunity, NOT a barrier."



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Stakeholder Engagement is shared responsibility of three main groups

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Local Decision Makers

Regulators



WORLD Resources Institute





Understand local community context

Exchange information about the project





Identify the appropriate level of engagement



Continue engagement throughout the project's life cycle





Communities must perceive they have the ability to influence decision-making processes.

Project planning, management, and engagement can inform project design and operation – resulting in mutually beneficial outcomes. Gaining the trust of the community is the key to successful engagement and, if that trust is broken, it can be impossible to regain.

Public engagement will be affected by the local political and social dynamics, but the structure and design of the engagement process itself is important.

Engagement and outreach cannot be added on to a project as an afterthought, but must be integrated throughout the process.

Successful outreach and engagement around a project does not always translate into successful deployment of CCS in that community.