Geological sequestration of carbon dioxide in oil and gas reservoirs on the Texas Gulf Coast

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Abstract:

Carbon capture and storage, a subset of which involves injecting carbon dioxide (CO_2) into the subsurface in a process called geological sequestration (GS), has received renewed interest lately. The decision by the Obama administration to handle climate change and the request for legislation to cap CO_2 emissions follows an ever-increasing body of work performed by scientists and engineers all around the world, including in the US. The US Department of Energy (DOE) has large programmes in place involving billions of dollars to address this important issue. In Texas, large independents such as Kinder-Morgan and Denbury Resources Inc. have been active partners with scientific institutions, allowing researchers access to data and sites where CO_2 is currently injected. In addition, all majors have shown a strong interest in supporting the US GS research community. It is safe to say that West Texas is the world centre of excellence when it comes to CO_2 injection. Consequently, Texas has the skilled workers and the technology required to become a major player in this nascent industry.

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