



For Immediate Release
July 25, 2006

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BOTH TEXAS PROPOSALS ON SHORT LIST TO HOST FUTUREGEN

Odessa, Jewett Among Four Finalists for \$1 Billion, Innovative Power Project

AUSTIN, Texas – Sites in Odessa and Jewett were named as finalists today in a national competition to host FutureGen, the \$1 billion initiative sponsored by the Department of Energy (DOE) to design, build and operate a 275-megawatt energy facility that produces electricity and hydrogen from coal with near-zero emissions by capturing and sequestering carbon dioxide.

“It is a grand slam for both the Odessa and Jewett proposals to be named to the FutureGen short list,” said State Geologist Dr. Scott Tinker, Director of FutureGen Texas and the Bureau of Economic Geology at The University of Texas at Austin.

“It required a Texas-sized effort during the past year to develop and submit these very technical proposals. I appreciate the support of everyone who rallied in support of these proposals, including Governor Perry, Lieutenant Governor Dewhurst, House Speaker Craddick, the Texas congressional delegation and state legislators, The University of Texas, Regional Councils of Government and local officials,” Dr. Tinker said.

The FutureGen Industrial Alliance, which will operate the power plant and research facility, announced the short list at a Washington, D.C. press conference. The Alliance received 12 site proposals from seven states. The Alliance is expected to select the final site in late 2007 and the plant is scheduled to be operational by 2012.

“We consider the Odessa and Jewett sites to be top contenders and we will continue pressing the merits of both proposals with the Alliance. Now the real work begins. We have another year of exhaustive work ahead of us as we provide the Alliance with additional information. We will do all we can to bring FutureGen home to Texas,” Tinker said.

Key components of the Texas proposals, according to Tinker, include:

- State legislation indemnifying the Alliance against CO₂ liability.
- Full cooperation of TCEQ and the key agencies for expedited environmental permitting.
- The largest capacity of any state for the safe storage of CO₂ in underground brine formations.
- The largest potential market for CO₂ as a commodity for enhanced oil recovery of any state.
- Four decades of experience in handling and underground injection of CO₂ & global leaders in sequestration research.
- The expertise, technological know-how, and trained workforce to build FutureGen.
- A vibrant electric market with strong future demands for power.

The Bureau of Economic Geology is one of two world-renowned research units in the Jackson School of Geosciences at The University of Texas at Austin, which is the largest academic school of geological sciences in the nation. U.S. News & World Report ranks the school's earth science graduate programs No. 9 in the U.S.

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