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CCS: “THE STAGE IS SET FOR A NEW CARBON STORAGE ECONOMY IN THE GULF COAST REGION” [GAS IN TRANSITION]

Sep 17, 2021 3:30:pm

SUMMARY

“The Gulf Coast is ready to build a CCS hub. If we can’t do it here, we can’t do it anywhere,” says Tip Meckel, a scientist working at the Gulf Coast Carbon Center in Austin, Texas. [Gas in Transition, Volume 1, Issue 5]

BY: KAREL BECKMAN

According to Meckel, co-author of a recent paper outlining the possibilities of CCS in the Gulf of Mexico, there are no technological barriers to build large-scale CCS facilities connected to industrial coastal hubs. “It’s a question of the right incentives.” He is optimistic about the future of CCS. “I am predicting that in a few decades we will be shipping CO2 across the world like we do other commodities now.” Is the US about to move into carbon capture and storage (CCS) in a big way? There are signs that it might be. On April 19, Joe Blommaert, president of ExxonMobil’s Low Carbon Solutions unit, wrote in a blog post that “we believe the time is right for a large-scale collaboration in the United States between government at every level, private industry, academia and local communities to create an “Innovation Zone” approach to dramatically accelerate CCS progress.” Blommaert noted that “ExxonMobil has been assessing the concept of multi-user CCS hubs in industrial areas located near geologic storage sites, such as depleted oil and gas reservoirs”, and had concluded that Houston would be “the perfect place” for such a concept. A...

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