



Public Hearing in Canberra

Applying the science of geosequestration

Power generation from stationary facilities, such as coal-fired power stations, is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions in Australia and therefore methods to capture and store CO₂ from these sources could have a significant impact on emissions. However, there are major challenges to be addressed including cost and environmental issues.

Representatives from the **National Generators Forum** (NGF) will attend a public hearing into the science and application of geosequestration by the House of Representatives Science and Innovation Committee in Canberra on Monday 4 December. The NGF maintains that major cuts in greenhouse emissions will require a range of approaches; one of which may involve the implementation of carbon capture and storage technology (geosequestration). Coal provides over 56 per cent of Australia's electricity generation and will continue to be the major supplier to this industry for many years to come. In a carbon constrained world, electricity prices would rise significantly for all consumers due to the higher capital and operating costs of lower or zero emitting technologies.

The NGF notes that viability is an issue and people must not lose sight of the need to maintain Australia's competitive advantage through continued access to cheap electricity. Both the pre and post combustion capture technologies will require vast amounts of capital to set up a fully integrated commercial system. The NGF will discuss their approach to the committee at the hearing including the need to put in place a nationally consistent legal and regulatory framework for CCS activities.

The Minister for Education, Science and Training, Julie Bishop, has requested that the Committee inquire into and report on the science and application of geosequestration technology in Australia, with particular reference to:

- The science underpinning geosequestration technology;
- The potential environmental and economic benefits and risks of such technology;
- The skill base in Australia to advance the science of geosequestration technology;
- Regulatory and approval issues governing geosequestration technology and trials; and
- How to best position Australian industry to capture possible market applications.

Venue: Committee Room 2R2, Parliament House, Canberra

Date: Monday 4 December 2006

4:35 pm **National Generators Forum** (Submission No 35)

6:00 pm Hearings close

The public hearing will be broadcast internally (audio only) on HMS radio frequency 98.7. Further details, including the terms of reference, membership of the Committee and advice on making submissions can be obtained on the Committee's website at

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/scin/geosequestration/index.htm> or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4150 or emailing scin.reps@aph.gov.au

For media comment: contact the Committee Chair Mr Petro Georgiou at Parliament House on (02) 6277 4419 or at his electorate office (03) 9882 3677.

For information: contact the Committee Secretary on (02) 6277 4150