

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2008-09
23 October 2008

Question: SR-26
Topic: International progression of geosequestration
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Senator Johnston asked:

Dr Foster—I do not remember the precise date myself. I should know that. It is 300 metres too.

Senator JOHNSTON—All right. Are you watching the international progression of geosequestration? I am aware of a couple of interesting projects. We have got that one in Germany—the name escapes me—which has just started, which is transporting the liquid carbon over some 300 kilometres to a site. Are you actively surveying what is going on out there in terms of these things and can you tell me about it?

Dr Foster—I cannot tell you about that one in detail. Again, I would be happy to provide you with that information.

Senator JOHNSTON—I would be very much obliged.

Answer:

The German project referred to is the Vattenfall project at Schwarze Pumpe. A 30 megawatt oxyfuel pilot power plant was inaugurated in September 2008. Carbon capture processes are currently undergoing testing. Storage is expected to commence in April 2009 with a total of 100,000 tons of carbon dioxide being transported by truck to a depleted gas field over a period of three years.

There is another German project underway at Ketzin operated by CO2SINK. Injection of carbon dioxide began in June 2008 with 30,000 tons per year of carbon dioxide being injected for two years. The carbon dioxide source is from the production of hydrogen.

The Archer Daniels project is being operated by the Midwest Geological Sequestration Consortium and the Illinois State Geological Survey in collaboration with Archer Daniels Midland Company (ADM) at Decatur, Illinois. Carbon dioxide will be captured

from ADM's ethanol plant and a total of one million tons will be injected into the Mount Simon Sandstone over three years. The injection wells are being drilled on ADM's property and injection should commence in October 2009.

This project is one of six demonstration projects being conducted under the Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnerships of the US Department of Energy. The other five projects are:

- SECARB – Cranfield oil field, Natchez, Mississippi. This is an EOR program.
- SWCARB – Farnham Dome, Utah. Deep saline reservoir with injection of up to 900,000 tons over four years.
- MRCSP – Ohio. Injection of a total of one million tons.
- WESTCARB – San Joaquin Basin, California. One million tons from a 50 megawatt power plant over four years.
- PCOR – either Alberta Basin, British Columbia or Williston Basin. The Weyburn Project in Canada comes under this regional partnership.