

### Critical Challenges. Practical Solutions.



### DEVELOPING AND VALIDATING PRESSURE MANAGEMENT AND PLUME CONTROL STRATEGIES IN THE WILLISTON BASIN THROUGH A BRINE EXTRACTION AND STORAGE TEST (BEST) – PHASE II

### DE-FE0026160

### John Hamling Energy & Environmental Research Center

U.S. Department of Energy National Energy Technology Laboratory Mastering the Subsurface Through Technology Innovation, Partnerships and Collaboration: Carbon Storage and Oil and Natural Gas Technologies Review Meeting

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Critical Challenges.

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# OUTLINE

- Technical Status
  - Active Reservoir Management (ARM)
  - Brine Treatment Test Bed
- Accomplishments
- Lessons Learned
- Synergy Opportunities
- Summary



# UNIQUE CONSIDERATIONS OF COMMERCIAL GEOLOGIC CO<sub>2</sub> STORAGE SITES

- Buoyant fluid
- Large volumes = large footprint
- Regulatory compliance, liability, and associated costs
- Conformance and utilization efficiency
- Access to pore space
  - Leasing, unitization, trespass
- Assuring permanence and credits



Because of a host of technical, social, regulatory, environmental, and economic factors, brine disposal tends to be more accessible and generally quicker, easier, and less costly to implement compared to dedicated CO<sub>2</sub> storage.



# CONSIDERATIONS OF EMPLOYING BRINE EXTRACTION AS A MEANS OF ENGINEERED PRESSURE MANAGEMENT AT DEDICATED $CO_2$ STORAGE SITES

- Incremental cost
  - Wells and infrastructure
  - Operating and energy
- Requires disposal of extracted brine
  - Treatment and discharge
  - Reinjected into a <u>different</u> suitable geologic formation
- Efficiency losses
  - bbl<sub>out</sub> > incremental bbl<sub>in</sub>
- Complicates project
- Additional health, safety, and environmental risk





### Brine extraction can enable dedicated $CO_2$ storage and improve the geologic $CO_2$ storage potential of a site.

# TWO COMPLEMENTARY COMPONENTS

### ARM Test

- Reduce stress on sealing formation
- Geosteer fluid plume
- Divert pressure from leakage pathways
- Reduce area of review (AOR)
- Improve injectivity, capacity, and storage efficiency
- Validate monitoring techniques, and forecast model capabilities

### Brine Treatment Test Bed

- Alternate source of water
- Reduced disposal volumes
- Salable products for beneficial use



Illustration modified from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory <u>https://str.llnl.gov/Dec10/aines.html</u>



# FIELD IMPLEMENTATION

- Evaluate ARM strategies
- Validate ARM performance against forecasts
- Evaluate ARM economics
- Test monitoring techniques
- Brine treatment technology test bed and technology testing
- Field test ARM implementation and operations



# **TECHNICAL STATUS**

### Phase I – Complete

- Regional characterization
- Site screening and feasibility study
- Site selection
- Geologic modeling
- Reservoir simulation resulting in ARM schema
- Site infrastructure design and field implementation plan



### Phase II – Under Way

- ARM site preparation
  - Permitting
  - Well drilling
  - Surface infrastructure installation
  - Site characterization/model updates
- Test site preparation
  - Permitting
  - Test bed facility installation
  - Solicitation of treatment technologies
- ARM operations
  - Injection/extraction testing
  - Monitoring, verification, and accounting (MVA) implementation
  - Model updates/history matching

- Test bed treatment operations
  - Facility shakedown/training
  - Long-term performance evaluations
- ARM site closeout
  - ARM site decommissioning
  - Finalization of ARM test results/ data
- Brine treatment test bed site closeout
  - Treatment test bed decommissioning
  - Finalization of test bed results/ data



### ACTIVE WATER DISPOSAL SITES AS A PROXY FOR DEDICATED CO<sub>2</sub> STORAGE



Approximate Site Boundary

# SITE GEOLOGY

Inyan Kara Formation

- Nearshore/shallow marine sandstone
- 1568-m depth (5145 ft)
- ~120 m thick (400 ft)

**Broom Creek Formation** 

- Eolian/nearshore marine sandstone
- 2277-m depth (7470 ft)
- ~20 m thick (65 ft)

Both formations have thick sealing units and are potential  $CO_2$  storage targets in the Williston Basin.

EERC



EERC WP53220.A



### THE DESIGN (BALANCE)









### **Practical Solutions.**

# **MVA PROGRAM**

### Reservoir Surveillance

- Well evaluation
  - Logging, coring, testing
- Borehole to surface electromagnetic (BSEM)
- Active reservoir surveillance
  - Pressure, temperature, flow rates, fluid density
- Tracer survey
- Fluid sampling

### Safety and Performance

- Tank and pipeline monitoring and response plans
- Dual containment pipeline
- Flow and density meters
- Power and chemicals
- Pipeline monitoring
- High-level/low-level shutdown
- Remote sensing



Lowermost USDW

Inyan Kara Formation

**Broom Creek Formation** 

Amsden Formation

Rink SWD 2

Rink SWD 1

Gauge Types

P = Pressure CP= Casing Pressure T = Temperature

D = Fluid Density

### **BRINE TREATMENT TEST BED**



Enable development, pilot testing, and advancement of extracted and produced water treatment technologies that can meaningfully reduce brine disposal volumes and provide an alternate source of water and/or salable products for beneficial use.

![](_page_17_Picture_3.jpeg)

# **BRINE TREATMENT TEST BED**

- Permanently installed heated enclosure with a concrete floor integrated with ARM-related infrastructure
  - 30–60<sup>+</sup>-day extended-duration tests
  - 24/7/365 operations-capable
  - Monitoring of energy, flow, chemical usage, etc.
  - Waste management
- Pilot treatment rates ranging from 5 to 25 gpm
- Pretreatment
  - Blending of water to target TDS level of 180,000 mg/L or tailored blends to suit capabilities and/or limitations of selected technologies
  - Suspended solids removal (dissolved air flotation [DAF])
  - Dissolved organics removal (granular activated carbon [GAC])
- Technology demonstration bay
  - Accommodates standard semitractor trailer (53 ft long) inside the building

RINK FACILITIES

OWLINE FROM

RINK FACILITIES

**Rural Wate** 

Supply

- 300 kW electric power
- Propane (5000-gal tank)
- Noncontact cooling water (30 gpm)

![](_page_18_Figure_16.jpeg)

# **BRINE TREATMENT TEST BED OPERATIONS**

• Shakedown testing of all pretreatment equipment prior to pilot tests.

- Selected technologies connected to the test bed facility electric, propane, cooling water (EERC assistance to ensure safety requirements are satisfied).
- Technology vendors to provide operations staff, with assistance by EERC staff.
- During steady-state operation, EERC staff will conduct energy and material balances (power consumption, process flows, influent and effluent quality analyses).
- Extended operating periods (60+ days) to identify maintenance requirements and any operational issues.
- Operations will be scheduled to coincide with preferable operational windows (weather, ARM test program, etc.) where possible.

### Top-ranked technologies may receive operating cost offsets.

![](_page_19_Picture_8.jpeg)

# SOLICITING BRINE TREATMENT TECHNOLOGIES

- NETL, EPRI, and the EERC are coordinating efforts to define water treatment goals and solicit technologies for pilot testing.
- The North Dakota and Florida facilities will provide unique water treatment scenarios but will have similar operational capabilities.
  - Both facilities will provide opportunity for extended-duration testing.
- The EERC test bed is anticipated to be operational in the fall of 2017.
- Site access agreements will be negotiated between host site operator, EERC, and brine treatment technology provider.

![](_page_20_Figure_6.jpeg)

![](_page_20_Picture_7.jpeg)

### **OUREACH AND INFORMATION**

#### IMPLEMENTING AND VALIDATING RESERVOIR PRESSURE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES IN THE WILLISTON BASIN

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#### OVERVIEW

![](_page_21_Picture_5.jpeg)

#### ACTIVE RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT

![](_page_21_Picture_9.jpeg)

FIELD IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

![](_page_21_Picture_13.jpeg)

![](_page_21_Picture_14.jpeg)

WATER TREATMENT TEST BED FACILITY

ARM Tert

#### TEST BED FACILITY FEATURES UTILITIES

![](_page_21_Picture_20.jpeg)

![](_page_21_Picture_21.jpeg)

Conceptual extracted water treatment flow diagram

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#### Renergy & Brokenmental Research Center University of North Dakota + 16 North 28rd Street, Rep 6018 -

WILLISTON BASIN **D**E WATER TREATMENT UND NOR () EN **TECHNOLOGY** TEST BED

#### WE SEEK TO PILOT-TEST TECHNOLOGIES CAPABLE OF TREATING HIGH-TDS WATER.

TREATMENT AND HANDLING of high-TDS (total dissolved solids) waters associated with energy production are challenging and not readily or economically accomplished using conventional water treatment techniques. Geologic injection is often required to effectively manage fluids associated with electrical power generation, oil and gas production, and active reservoir management for geologic CO, storage.

As part of a public-private collaboration, a facility is being constructed in western North Dakota to pilot-test high-TDS water treatment technologies that can:

- · Produce alternate sources of water for industrial or domestic use
- Produce salable products.
- Meaningfully reduce brine disposal volumes.

Pilot testing provides critical understanding of technology performance under field operating conditions. This understanding enables the advancement and The test bed will feature the abil commercial adoption of viable technologies capable of and produced waters in order to treating these challenging waters for beneficial use. compositions ranging from ~450

The Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC) facility is anticipated to be open spring 2020. is seeking companies interested in pilot-testing water treatment technologies at the facility. This is EERC engineering staff will be or a collaborative effort with Nuverra Environmental activities to assist with connection Solutions (Nuverra) and the U.S. Department of Energy to monitor and gather process p (DOE) National Energy Technology Laboratory. developers are expected to pro-

During steady-state operation, 8 conduct energy and material bal process flows, and influent and A report summarizing demonstr performance data and technolo

and submitted to DOE. Nondisc agreements between the EERC, developers will be negotiated pr

Currently, no guarantee is offere will be available to assist interested treatment technology developers. However, the field site and facilities for water treatment demonstrations, including potential cost offsets for power, cooling water, and effluent disposal, may be made available at no or reduced cost to selected demonstrations.

Johnsons Co

The extracted water treatment test b 13 miles east of Watford City, North

to North Dakota Highway 23 on the operated commercial saltwater disp

The Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC) and Nuverra Environmental Solutions (Nuverra) have partnered on a multiyear project to demonstrate new strategies and methods of injection well operation. These strategies could reduce the number of injection wells needed for fluid disposal and increase availability of water for beneficial use.

#### WHERE IS THE PROJECT HAPPENING?

The project will be conducted at the Nuverra-operated Johnsons Corner site, which was established in 2008 as a commercial saltwater disposal (SWD) facility. Nuverra operates two existing saltwater injection wells at its facility. These wells, regulated by the North Dakota Industrial Commission, inject into the thick Inyan Kara sandstone at a depth of 5400 ft. Although most project activity will be conducted exclusively at the Nuverra site, some nonintrusive monitoring activities, such as the layout and retrieval of a surface monitoring array, would require temporary (a few weeks) access to surrounding private land. This monitoring survey is necessary to gather performance data from the injection zone. The monitoring activity will occur twice during the project. We will be contacting individual landowners to discuss our request for access.

#### WHEN WILL THE PROJECT OCCUR?

The project is anticipated to last 4 years (July 2016 - July 2020), with field activities at the site planned between March 2017 and June 2020.

#### WHAT DO WE PLAN TO DO?

The project will include five main activities. First, two new wells will be drilled on the site of Nuverra's existing SWD operation: one extractor well into the Inyan Kara Formation and one injection well into the Broom Creek Formation. Second, subsurface monitoring instruments will be installed in all four wells. Third, shallow probes and other monitoring equipment will be installed to monitor the project site. Fourth, a low-impact (small equipment and minimal intrusion

![](_page_21_Picture_43.jpeg)

EERC UND NORTH DAKOTA

**Nuverra** 

Site map showing proposed site layout.

for landowners) survey will be conducted to map the injection formation. Fifth, a brine treatment facility will be built to test emerging water treatment technologies.

![](_page_21_Picture_46.jpeg)

22

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• Design and preparation work largely accomplished.

- Contracts and teaming arrangement between project partners and many vendors are in place.
- Most site access agreements are in place.
- Site survey work completed.
- Site electrical design and engineering complete.
- Project permits and bonds have been filed and received (including drilling, injection, and brine-handling facilities).
- Brine treatment test bed facility engineering design is 99% complete.
- Scouting trip for BSEM survey has been completed.
- Pipeline design has been completed.
- Procurement and assembly of unit processes are in progress.
- Next step is infrastructure and well installation and testing, with ARM and brine treatment technology tests to follow.

![](_page_22_Picture_12.jpeg)

### **LESSONS LEARNED**

- A small induced change in pressure can impact a large area surrounding the well in highly permeable systems.
- Monitoring brine on brine plume development is more challenging than CO<sub>2</sub>, but the density and salinity contrast should be sufficient.
- Brine plume migration is not an exact proxy for CO<sub>2</sub>, but experience with other injection/production studies suggests appropriate corrections can be made.

- Extensive site characterization program will substantially improve forward modeling accuracy.
- Operational flexibility allows project to be adaptive to geologic uncertainty.
- Treatment of high-TDS water remains challenging; no "magic bullet."
- Market drivers are still limited for driving treatment technology advances.

![](_page_23_Picture_8.jpeg)

## SYNERGY

- Produced water treatment and use
- Wastewater and produced water disposal
- Crosscutting water treatment applications and technology development
- North Dakota Carbon Safe Phase 2
  - Core and characterization
- EPRI-led Florida BEST Phase 2 project
  - e.g., technology vetting, complementary ARM test program, knowledge-sharing workshop, etc.

![](_page_24_Figure_8.jpeg)

### SUMMARY

- BEST field test projects are designed to field-test ARM strategies.
  - North Dakota and Florida
- Both will operate brine treatment technology test bed facilities.
- Program likely to have benefits for CO<sub>2</sub> storage and broad range of industries by:
  - Reducing stress on sealing formations.
  - Providing mechanism for controlling pressure and injected fluid plume.
  - Reducing AOR.
  - Increasing storage capacity/efficiency.

### Next Steps

- ✓ Receive well permits
- Procure remaining material and vendors
- □Brine treatment facility construction
- Drill and complete BEST-E1 and BEST-I1
- Conduct characterization program, and update ARM test schema
- □Complete infrastructure installation
- Brine treatment technology vetting and selection

![](_page_25_Picture_17.jpeg)

# **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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![](_page_26_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Picture_7.jpeg)

# **THANK YOU!**

V

![](_page_28_Picture_0.jpeg)

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### **CONFIDENTIAL APPENDIX**

![](_page_29_Picture_1.jpeg)

### **BENEFIT TO THE PROGRAM**

This project is expected to result in the development of engineering strategies/approaches to quantitatively affect changes in differential formation pressure and to monitor, predict, and manage differential pressure plume movement in the subsurface for future CO<sub>2</sub> saline storage projects. Additionally, the brine treatment technology evaluation is expected to provide valuable information on the ability to produce water for beneficial use. The results derived from implementation of the project will provide a significant contribution to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Carbon Storage Program goals. Specifically, this project will support Goals 1 and 2 by validating technologies that will improve reservoir storage efficiency, ensure containment effectiveness, and/or ensure storage permanence by controlling injected fluid plumes in a representative  $CO_2$  storage target. Geologic characterization of the target horizons will provide fundamental data to improve storage coefficients related to the respective depositional environments investigated, directly contributing to **Goal 3**. In addition, this project will support **Goal 4** by producing information that will be useful for inclusion in DOE best practices manuals.

![](_page_30_Picture_2.jpeg)

# **PROJECT OVERVIEW – GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

- Confirm efficacy of the ARM approaches developed during Phase I
  - Formation pressure
  - Predicting and monitoring plume movement
  - Validating pressure and brine plume model predictions
- Implement and operate a test bed facility for the evaluation of selected brine treatment technologies
- Three development stages over 48 months
  - 1. Site preparation and construction
  - 2. Site operations including ARM and extracted brine treatment technology testing and demonstration
  - 3. Project closeout/decommissioning and data processing/reporting

![](_page_31_Picture_10.jpeg)

### **ORGANIZATION CHART**

![](_page_32_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_32_Picture_2.jpeg)

Critical Challenges.

### GANTT **CHART**

			Budget Period (BP) 2											BP3				BP4	
			2016 2017					2018				2019				2020			
Task	Start	End	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Dee	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15	Q16
Task 1.0 – Project Management, Planning and Reporting	Date 7/7/16	Date 7/6/20	Jul Aug Sep		Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug Sep		Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jur	Jul Aug Se		s Jan Feb Ma	r Apr May Jur	Jul Aug Se		Jan Feb Mai	Apr May Jun
1.1 – Project Management	7/7/16	7/6/20		D1 🔻 🔶	M1														
1.2 – Project Reporting	7/7/16	7/6/20																	D7 & D8 🔻
Task 2.0 – ARM Site Preparation	7/7/16	12/31/17								D2									
2.1 – ARM Permitting	7/7/16	9/30/17		M2 4			ſ	M5 M6											
2.2 - Well Installation	8/1/16	12/31/17							Ī	MB									
2.3 - Surface Infrastructure Installation	10/1/16	12/31/17							Ì	M9									
2.4 – Updated Site Characterization and Modeling	12/1/16	12/31/17																	
Task 3.0 – Test Bed Site Preparation	7/7/16	12/31/17						M3											
3.1 - Test Bed Facilities Permitting	7/7/16	9/30/17						M4		M10									
3.2 - Test Bed Facility Installation	8/1/16	12/31/17								M7									
3.3 – Solicitation of Treatment Technologies	7/7/16	12/31/17							ľ	7D3 & D4									
Task 4.0 – ARM Operations	1/1/18	3/31/20						L	┝	M	1		14						M16
4.1 - Injection/Extraction Testing	1/1/18	3/31/20								M M	2							Ĺ	
4.2 – MVA Implementation	1/1/18	3/31/20																	
4.3 – Model Updates/History Matching	1/1/18	3/31/20																	
Task 5.0 – Test Bed Treatment Operations	1/1/18	3/31/20							L	1	M13								
5.1 - Facility Shakedown/Training	1/1/18	3/31/18												۰M	15				M18
5.2 - Long-Term Performance Evaluations	4/1/18	3/31/20								Ļ									
Task 6.0 – ARM Data Processing/Project Closeout	4/1/20	6/30/20																L,	M19 🔶
6.1 – ARM Site Decommissioning/Disposition	4/1/20	5/31/20																	D5
6.2 – Finalization of ARM Test Results	4/1/20	6/30/20																	
Task 7.0 – Test Bed Data Processing/Project Closeout	4/1/20	6/30/20																L,	M20 🔶
7.1 – Test Bed Decommissioning/Disposition	4/1/20	5/31/20																	D6 🔻
7.2 – Finalization of Test Bed Results	4/1/20	6/30/20																	
Note: The contract modification for Phase II was fully executed on Septe	ember 9, 2016.		Deliverables V						Key for Milestones (M)										
			D1 – Updated PMP M1 – Pro					- Proj	roject Kickoff Meeting				M11 - Initiate Stage 1 of Experimental Scenario M12 - Initiate Collection of Operational Data						
			D2 – Freid implementation Plan (FIP) Finalized M2 – Pe D3 – Water Treatment Technology Selection Process Summary M3 – W					-ren Wa	/ater Treatment Test Bed Permit Received				M13 – Water Treatment Test Bed Fully Operational						
			D4 – Preliminary Schedule of Technologies M4 – St					- Sta	tart Water Treatment Facilities Construction				M14 – Initiate Stage 2 of Experimental Scenario						
			D5 – Vol. 1	D5 – Vol. 1 – ARM Engineering and Evaluation Summary M5 – Pr					- Per	ermit to Drill Received				M15 – First Treatment Technology Evaluated					
			D6 – Vol. 2	D6 – Vol. 2 – Technology Evaluation Report M6 –						Start Site Preparation				M16 – Completion of ARM Operations					
			D7 – Data Submission to EDX						- First Treatment Technology Selected					M17 – Conduct Repeat BSEM Survey					
			D8 - Lessor	D8 – Lessons Learned Document Mi						ell Installation	Complete		M1	M18 – Completion of Water Treatment Technology Demonstration					

M9 - Surface Installation Complete

M10 – Water Treatment Facilities Complete

![](_page_33_Picture_2.jpeg)

M19 - ARM Site Decommissioning/Disposition Completed

M20 - Water Treatment Test Bed Decommissioning/Disposition Completed

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![](_page_34_Picture_9.jpeg)

### **BACKUP SLIDES FOR Q&A**

![](_page_35_Picture_1.jpeg)

# **CO<sub>2</sub> PROXY JUSTIFICATION**

• CO<sub>2</sub> volume predictions can be made injection and production data.

- EERC has experience with this.
- Workflows have been developed to account for differences between.
- Practically speaking, using brine is generally quicker, easier, and less costly to implement compared to CO<sub>2</sub>.
- Injection formation and AOR will have similar response to ARM
- Volumes of water being handled mimic commercial-scale volumes of CO<sub>2</sub>.
- For large-scale CO<sub>2</sub> storage (million+ tons/yr) pressure plume likely to exceed fluid plume; small changes in pressure can result in large changes to the extent of the pressure plume.
  - Field pressure interactions will be examined by the BEST experiment.
  - Field monitoring for pressure interactions will be tested by BEST.

![](_page_36_Picture_10.jpeg)

![](_page_37_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_37_Picture_1.jpeg)

1.4

0.9

![](_page_38_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_38_Figure_1.jpeg)

### **Practical Solutions.**

![](_page_39_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_39_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### Salinity (molar) Plume after Brine Extraction K Layer: 21

![](_page_39_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_39_Figure_4.jpeg)

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