Geomechanical Framework for Secure CO₂ Storage in Fractured Reservoirs and Caprocks for Sedimentary Basins in the Midwest U.S.

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Presentation Outline

- 1) Technical Status
- 2) Accomplishments to Date
- 3) Lessons Learned
- 4) Synergy Opportunities
- 5) Project Summary
- Appendix Material









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- Project team includes S. Bhattacharya, Neeraj Gupta, Joel Main, Glenn Larsen, Ashwin Pasumarti, Nat Voorhies, James E. Hicks, Amber Conner, Mark Kelley.





Development Services Agency



- 3 year project from October 2014-September 2017.
- Project is divided into seven main technical tasks.





Technical Status-Objectives

- This work was designed to perform realistic analysis of geomechanical risk factors related to CO₂ storage:
 - Which reservoir rock formations are more fractured in the region?
 - Which rocks have larger risk factors related to subsurface deformation?
 - What are the key methods and tools for evaluating geomechanical effects of CO₂ storage in deep layers?
 - How can these methods be safely and cost effectively employed?
 - How can we better understand basin-scale stress-strain regime to more accurately define stress magnitude at depth?



Technical Status-Objectives

Objectives

- Characterize fractured reservoirs stress/strain setting in Appalachian Basin region.
- Assess CO₂ storage processes based on rock core tests and geophysical logging.
- Evaluate the potential and effects of subsurface geomechanical deformation.







Technical Status-Basin Scale Stress-Strain Analysis

 Analyze regional geologic stress regime, fracture density, geomechanical parameters.
Subsurface Stress Orientation





Geophysical Image Logs



Technical Status-Basin Scale Stress-Strain Analysis

- 1,760 fractures/breakouts analyzed from 10 wells' image logs, fractures interpreted for:
 - Fracture intensity variation spatially
 - Predominant fracture orientation.







Fracture Intensity

Technical Status-Geomechanical Parameters in the Region

- Geomechanical test data for region was compiled and analyzed for spatial, population trends.
- Data was supplemented with tests on 8 rock <u>core samples</u>.







Parameter	Confining Pressure (psi)	Bulk Density (g/cc)	Compressional Velocity (ft/s)	Shear Velocity (ft/s)	Dynamic Young's Modulus (1e+6 psi)	Dynamic Poisson's Ratio	Bulk Modulus (1e+6 psi)	Shear Modulus (1e+6 psi)	Compressive Strength (psi)	Static Young's Modulus (1e+6 psi)	Static Poisson's Ratio
Count	50	50	39	39	39	39	39	39	44	44	44
Minimum	460	2.24	12500	7636	4.44	0.085	2.17	1.92	15,161	1.87	0.151
Maximum	3160	2.83	22629	13199	16.22	0.350	11.38	6.53	89,225	11.45	0.417
Range	2700	0.59	10129	5563	11.78	0.27	9.22	4.61	74,064	9.57	0.266
Median	1650	2.60	17094	9568	8.78	0.26	5.74	3.44	30,020	5.77	0.26
Mean	1656.60	2.60	17302.97	9791	8.69	0.25	6.35	3.47	33,136	6.23	0.26
Sample Standard Deviation	615.94	0.15	2592.66	1182.57	2.48	0.07	2.71	0.96	15,529	2.59	0.07



Technical Status- Geomechanical Conditions

- Fracture treatment data used to help constrain in-situ stress magnitudes.
- More than 20,000 data compiled on instantaneous shut-in pressures and breakdown pressures from KY, MI, NY, OH, WV. Data suggest ISIP (~Sh_{min}) gradient of ~0.7-1.0 psi/ft



 3 Sites identified for more detailed analysis & geomech. simulations.





- >9700 ft. of image log data processed from 3 wells to identify natural fractures, breakouts, drilling induced fractures.
 - Arches site
 - 2,650 ft. analyzed through the Rose Run, Copper Ridge, Davis Shale, Eau Claire, and Mt. Simon formations

East-Central Appalachian Basin site

- 3,600 ft. analyzed through the Queenston, Utica, Point Pleasant, Trenton, Black River, Gull River, Wells Creek, Beekmantown, Rose Run, Copper Ridge, Conasauga, Maryville, and Basal Sand
- Northeastern Appalachian Basin site
 - 3,400 ft. analyzed through the Utica, Trenton-Black River, Little Falls, Rose Run, Galway A Dolomite, Galway B Sand, Galway B Dolomite, and Galway C Sand



 Arches site: 134 fractures, 55 induced fractures, 5 micro-faults, and 586 breakouts were interpreted on image logs.





Arches Site Drilling Induced Features

Arches Site Natural Features



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• East-Central Appalachian Basin site: 70 fractures, 2 micro-faults, 242 breakouts, 522 induced fractures.



Stress Direction

East-Central Appalachian Basin Site Drilling Induced Features



Breakout - Induced fracture

East-Central Appalachian Basin Site Natural Features



• Fracture - Micro Fault - Minor Fault



East-Central Appalachian Basin

site: Several Deformed beds at the Basal Sand-Precambrian contact.





• Northern Appalachian Basin Site: 73 fractures, 20 induced fractures, 4 micro-faults, and 12 breakouts were interpreted on image logs.



Northern Appalachian Basin Site Drilling Induced Features



Breakout - Induced fracture

Northern Appalachian Basin Site Natural features



Fracture
Micro Fault
Minor Fault



 Image log analysis, examination of rock core, and thin sections suggest sparse fractures in deeper Ordovician-Cambrian age CO₂ storage zones.



 Geologic models were built for the 3 sites based on regional well logs, structural geology, and hydraulic parameters.





E-Central Appalachian Basin Site

Northern Appalachian Basin Site



Model Laver



- Geomechanical and petrophysical properties not well-defined in deep saline formations
- Basic and advanced well logs were analyzed to derive geomechanical and petrophysical parameters to define CO₂ injection and cap rock units
 - mineralogy, porosity, permeability, density, Young's modulus, Poisson's ratio, vertical stress, and horizontal stresses





 Geomechanical layers were defined for key storage and caprock formations

> Ex. Arches Mount Simon Sandstone: Divided Basal Sand reservoir into 7 units that are distinct, in terms of poro-elastic properties for coupled flow-geomechanical simulation

	Poro- elastic Units	Bottom Depth (feet)	Young's Modulus	Poisson's ratio	Sh _{min} / feet	Sh _{max} / feet	Porosity	Perm.
Seal	Alluvium- Eau Claire	3,227	8.68	0.29	1.31	3.08	0.02	0.52
Reservoir	P1 Basal Sand	3,249	6.52	0.27	0.68	1.05	0.1	7
	P2 Basal Sand	3,284	7.79	0.25	0.64	1.08	0.06	8
	P3 Basal Sand	3,339	7.08	0.26	0.65	1.03	0.07	17
	P4 Basal Sand	3,416	7.09	0.26	0.64	1.02	0.07	17
	P5 Basal Sand	3,477	5.53	0.28	0.67	0.96	0.12	119
	P6 Basal Sand	3,509	5.85	0.27	0.68	0.98	0.11	55
	P7 Basal Sand	3,643	5.97	0.27	0.68	0.98	0.11	14



 Coupled fluid-flow reservoir geomechanics simulations were completed for the 3 test study areas.



Reservoir Model



Analysis Framework for Coupled Fluid-Flow Geomechanics Simulations





- Coupled flow-geomechanics simulations used to assess:
 - Vertical uplift
 - Fracture activation
 - Induced seismicity
 - Safe operation protocols



WELL Site	Image Log Intervals (ft.)	HSTRESS Log Intervals (ft.)				
Northeast Appalachian Basin	3,870-7,305	3,880-7,282				
East-Central Appalachian Basin	5,024-8,709	3,090-8,660				
Arches	906-3,700	170-3,704				
Total Footage Interpreted	9,914	12,506				



Coupled flow-geomechanics simulations metrics:

Gas Saturation



A Min. Effective Stress

Formula: Change in Min Effective Stress 2030-01-01 J layer: 17

20.000

File: 1b_eastbend 10.000 20.000 30.000 2,4002,5002 User: pasumarti Date: 5/24/2017 Scale: 1:62119 Z/X: 19.00:1 Axis Units: ft 6002,7002,8002,9003,0003,1003,2003,3003,4003, Davis 447 400 9002 352 0002 Eau Claire 304 256 003 3003 209 1003 Mount Simon 161 5003 113 6003 65 7003 1.00 miles 0.50 17 1.00 2.00 km

30.000

-30

Pressure



Volumetric Strain



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10.000

- How much CO₂ can we safely inject and store within reasonable geomechanical constraints?
- Coupled flow-geomechanics simulations results were analyzed to examine geomechanical constraints on storage capacity.

Scenario #	Shear Failure?	Tensile Failure?	Surface Uplift (mm)	Storage Capacity (millions of MT)		
1 - Base Case (Most Conservative)	No	No	32	11.25		
2	No	No	32	11.25		
3	No	No	27	11.25		
4	No	No	22	12.5		
5 (Most Optimistic)	No	Νο	1.2	38.25		



Technical Status- Geomech. Sims

• Together, these three study areas provide a realistic portrayal of the range of geomechanical impacts of CO₂ storage in the Midwest U.S.



Arches Site

East-Central Appalachian Basin site



Northern Appalachian Basin site



No indication of tensile or shear failure, The stress-strain perturbations are isolated beneath the caprock. Given the shallow depth of the Mount Simon, up to 32 mm of uplift may be expected at the surface >10 million metric ton capacity per well for 30 year injection scenario. No tensile or shear failure, stress-strain perturbations isolated beneath the caprock, up to 4 mm of uplift may be expected at the surface (due to higher Young's modulus values and the deeper injection zone), 30year effective capacity of ~10 million metric tons CO_2 , attractive candidate for stacked, multi-reservoir storage of commercial-scale volumes of CO_2 .

Simulation results showed that commercial-scale injection was not feasible due to extremely low injectivity. Geomechancial effects secondary issue. Maybe a fracture reservoir zone.



Technical Status- Geomech Sims

 Vertical profile (from the surface to the injection zone) of the minimum horizontal effective stress before and after injection suggests minor effects into caprock and shallow intervals.



Arches Site

East-Central **Appalachian Basin site**





Technical Status- Guidance for Geomechanical Site Characterization

- Guidance document developed for sites with geomechanical concerns in the following areas:
 - Geophysical Logging
 - Geomechanical Rock Core Testing
 - Injection Testing
 - Geomechanical Monitoring
- Conclusion- many geomechanical testing, monitoring, and operating options available to ensure safe, secure CO₂ storage.







- There are many deep saline formations and depleted oil & gas fields suitable for CO₂ storage requiring consideration of the potential interaction with unconventional shale gas development.
- Mapping of 10,719 Marcellus and 2,114 Utica-Point Pleasant unconventional well top-hole and bottom-hole locations and true vertical depths portrays the wells' spatial distribution in the subsurface.





- Stimulated reservoir volume extends from well along multiple treatment stages. Many (50-75) stages may form a sort of "fracture tunnel" in the subsurface.
- While large areas are covered by horizontal shale gas SRVs, they are mostly limited to discrete, vertical shale intervals, which are not key caprocks for CO₂ storage.





 More than 13,000 horizontal shale gas wells were mapped to determine their impact on CO₂ storage zones.





Utica-Pt. Pleasant





- Organic shales in the Midwest are not considered primary caprocks for CO₂ storage formations
- Marcellus shale & Utica Point-Pleasant shale are vertically separated from most key CO₂ storage rock formations by several caprock layers and/or intermediate layers with combined thickness >1,000 feet in most areas. Exception = Oriskany Sandstone.







- Geomechanical simulations suggest that stress changes from CO₂ storage applications are unlikely to affect developed shale gas intervals where they might activate previously hydraulically fractured zones.
- Potential geomechanical effects on legacy oil & gas wells appear to be limited to areas with both CO₂ storage zones and shale gas development, mostly in northern West Virginia and southwestern Pennsylvania, where there is a high concentration of Marcellus wells.



Accomplishments to Date

- Technical tasks complete. Remaining work = Final Technical Reporting
- Systematic assessment of the stress-strain setting for geologic formations in the Appalachian Basin,
- ✓ 3. Compile geomechanical parameters & data analysis,
- ✓ 4. Petrophysical log analysis and integration,
- \checkmark 5. Methodology for evaluating potential geomechanical stress at CO_2 storage sites,
- 6. Reservoir simulations to evaluate geomechanical deformation in geologic reservoirs in the region,
- \checkmark 7. Caprock simulations, and
- $\sqrt{8}$. Assessment of CO₂ storage in areas with hydraulic fracturing for shale gas development.



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Year

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Lessons Learned

- Analysis on natural fracture orientation indicates a complex pre-dominant northeast-southwest trend in horizontal stress.
- Processing and analysis of 9,700 ft of geophysical image logs provides a better understanding of geomechanical conditions and features in the Midwest U.S.
- Guidance developed for sites with geomechanical concerns for geophysical logging, rock core testing, injection testing, and geomechanical monitoring.
- Marcellus shale & Utica Point-Pleasant shale are vertically separated from most key CO₂ storage rock formations by several caprock layers and/or intermediate layers.



Lessons Learned

- Description of geomechanical setting for sites in the Arches Provinces, Northeast Appalachian Basin, and Northern Appalachian Basin depict variations in geologic storage across the region.
- Coupled CO₂ injection flow-geomechanics simulations illustrate geomechanical effects and constraints on CO₂ injection rates, storage capacity, and geomech effects.
- Together, research provides a realistic portrayal of the range of geomechanical impacts of CO₂ storage in the Midwest U.S. Acquiring site-specific geomechanical parameters is essential for a wholistic evaluation of CO₂ injection sites. Results generated in this research benefit the establishment of CO₂ storage applications.



Synergy Opportunities

- Project has significant synergies with other ongoing work on carbon storage technologies (carbon capture & storage), shale gas developments, other CO₂ storage research.
- Provides a better understanding of geomechanical stress parameters for Midwest U.S., a key issue for CO₂ storage in the region's deep rock formations.
- Reduces uncertainty related to existing/future power plant locations by mapping key geomechanical items.
- Results may be used for issues like induced seismicity, safe injection protocols, and system design.



Project Summary

- Systematic inventory of site-specific geomechanical parameters for potential CO₂ storage reservoirs in the Midwest U.S.
- Better understanding of stress parameters for the region, which are key input for geomechanical analysis.
- Reduction in uncertainty related to key geomechanical analysis input, such as magnitude of geomechanical stress in the reservoirs.
- Methodology for characterizing deep rock formations with geophysical logs, rock core tests, geomechanical analysis, and CO₂ storage potential.
- Support research on induced seismicity in the reservoirs by developing a regional stress framework and determining safe injection pressures.
- Assessment of the impact of shale gas development on CO₂ storage potential for the region.



Thanks!



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Appendix



Benefit to the Program

- The project addresses FOA 1037 Area of Interest 1-Geomechanical Research.
- Specifically, research impacts include:
 - characterizing the paleo-stress/strain setting in the Midwest U.S.,
 - defining geomechanical parameters,
 - evaluating the potential for (and effects of) subsurface deformation,
 - assessing CO₂ storage processes based on rock core tests and geophysical logging in the regions being considered for large-scale CO₂ storage.





Benefit to the Program

- Geomechanical stability of rock formations has been identified as a major challenge to large-scale carbon capture and storage applications.
- Faults, fractures, seismic stability can affect CO₂ injection potential and storage security.

Sminchak, J.R., and Gupta, N. 2003. *Aspects of induced seismic activity and deep-well sequestration of carbon dioxide*. Environmental Geosciences, v. 10, n. 2, pp. 81-89.





Benefit to the Program

- This work was designed to perform realistic analysis of geomechanical risk factors related to CO₂ storage:
 - Which reservoir rock formations are more fractured in the region?
 - Which caprocks have larger risk factors related to fracturing?
 - What are the key methods and tools for evaluating fractured zones in deep layers?
 - How can these methods be safely and cost effectively employed?
 - How can we better understand basin-scale stress-strain regime to more accurately define stress magnitude at depth?



Project Overview

- The project addresses geomechanical issues for CO₂ storage applications. Specifically, research impacts include:
 - characterizing the paleo-stress/strain setting in the Midwest U.S.,
 - defining geomechanical parameters,
 - evaluating the potential for (and effects of) subsurface deformation,
 - assessing CO₂ storage processes based on site specific geomechanics.



NOT TO SCALE



Project Overview

- Project consists of 7 main technical tasks:
 - 2. Systematic assessment of the stress-strain setting for geologic formations in the Appalachian Basin,
 - 3. Compile geomechanical parameters & data analysis,
 - 4. Petrophysical log analysis and integration,
 - 5. Methodology for evaluating potential geomechanical stress at CO₂ storage sites,
 - 6. Reservoir simulations to evaluate geomechanical deformation in geologic reservoirs in the region,
 - 7. Caprock simulations, and
 - 8. Assessment of CO_2 storage in areas with hydraulic fracturing for shale gas development.



Organization Chart

- 3 year project from October 2014-September 2017.
- Project is divided into seven main technical tasks.





Gantt Chart

 Project is designed with a sequential series of tasks over 3 years.

	BP1			BP2				BP3				
Task Name		FY2015			FY2016				2017			
		Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Task 1: Project Management & Planning	•											
1.1 Update Project Mgmt. Plan	u											
1.2 Project Management												
1.3 Project Controls												
1.4 NEPA Reporting												
Task 2: Basin Scale Stress-Strain Analysis							9					
2.1 Tectonic Setting Def. for Midwest U.S.				u								
2.2 Reg Analy. of Paleo-Stress Orien. & Mag												
2.3 Sys. Rev. of Geomech & Petophys Prop.												
Task 3: Geomech. Data Analysis									9			
3.1 Data Proc from Well Logs/tests												
3.2 Geo and Geomech Des of Well Sites								u				
3.3 Static Geomech Rock Core Test&Analys.								u				
Task 4: Petrophys Log Analysis & Integra.									P			
4.1 Trans. Petrop Log Data to Geomech Para												
4.2 Calibr. of Logs with Static Geomech Data												
Task 5: Dev. Meth for Geomech Site Char					┛					- u		
5.1 Geophys. Logging Options for CO ₂ Sites												
5.2 Geomech Rock Core Test Options												
5.3 Inj Test Options for CO ₂ Storage Sites												
5.4 Geomech Mon Options for CO ₂ Sites												
Task 6: Fractured Res. Sims for CO ₂ Stor.												
6.1 Numerical Model Definition/Setup												
6.2 Caprock Simulation Scenario Runs												
6.3 Simulation Results Processing/Visualiz											u	
Task 7: Caprock Sims for CO ₂ Stor.												
7.1 Numerical Model Definition/Setup												
7.2 Caprock Simulation Scenario Runs												
7.3 Simulation Results Processing/Visualiz											u	
Task 8: CO ₂ Stor/Shale Gas Risk Factors												
8.1 Mapping CO ₂ Stor Zones & Shale Gas												
8.2 Class. of Risk Factors Rel to CO ₂ -Sh Gas											u	
Task 9: Reporting and Tech Transfer												
9.1 Progress Reporting		u	u	u	u	u	u	u	u	u	u	u
9.2 Technical Summary Reports				u				u			u	
9.3 Final Reporting					1							u
9.4 Project Meetings	u				u				u			u



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