

# **Scaleup and Site-Specific Engineering Design for Air Capture Technology**

DE-FE0032101

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2023 Carbon Management Research Project Review Meeting  
August 28 – September 1, 2023

# Project Overview

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## – Funding

- Govt. Share: \$2,808,243.00
- Cost Share: \$702,100.00
- Total: \$3,510,343.00

## – Overall Project Performance Dates

- Conditional Project Award: 10/01/2021
- Final Award: 11/29/2021
- Project Kickoff Meeting: 12/13/2021
- Final Report: December 31, 2024

# Project Overview

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## – Project Participants

- Lead Organization: Black & Veatch Corporation
- Partner Organizations: Global Thermostat, Sargent & Lundy, ExxonMobil
- Host sites: Southern Company, Elysian Ventures

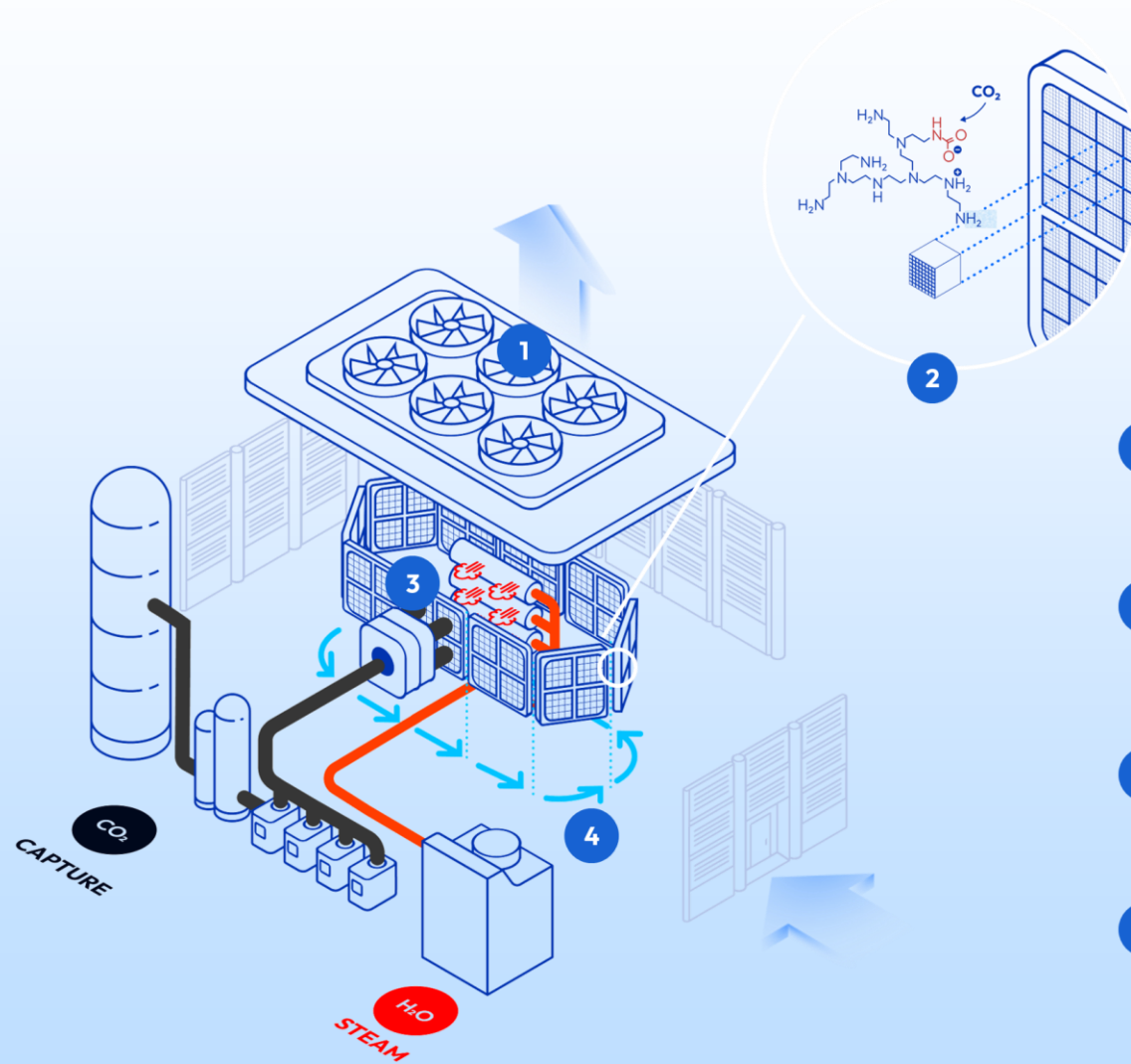


# Project Overview

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- Overall Project Objectives: Completion of an initial design of a commercial-scale, Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage Direct Air Capture (CCUS-DAC) system that captures a net of at least 100,000 tonne per year (TPY) carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere and sequesters through pipeline transportation to different geological storage sites.

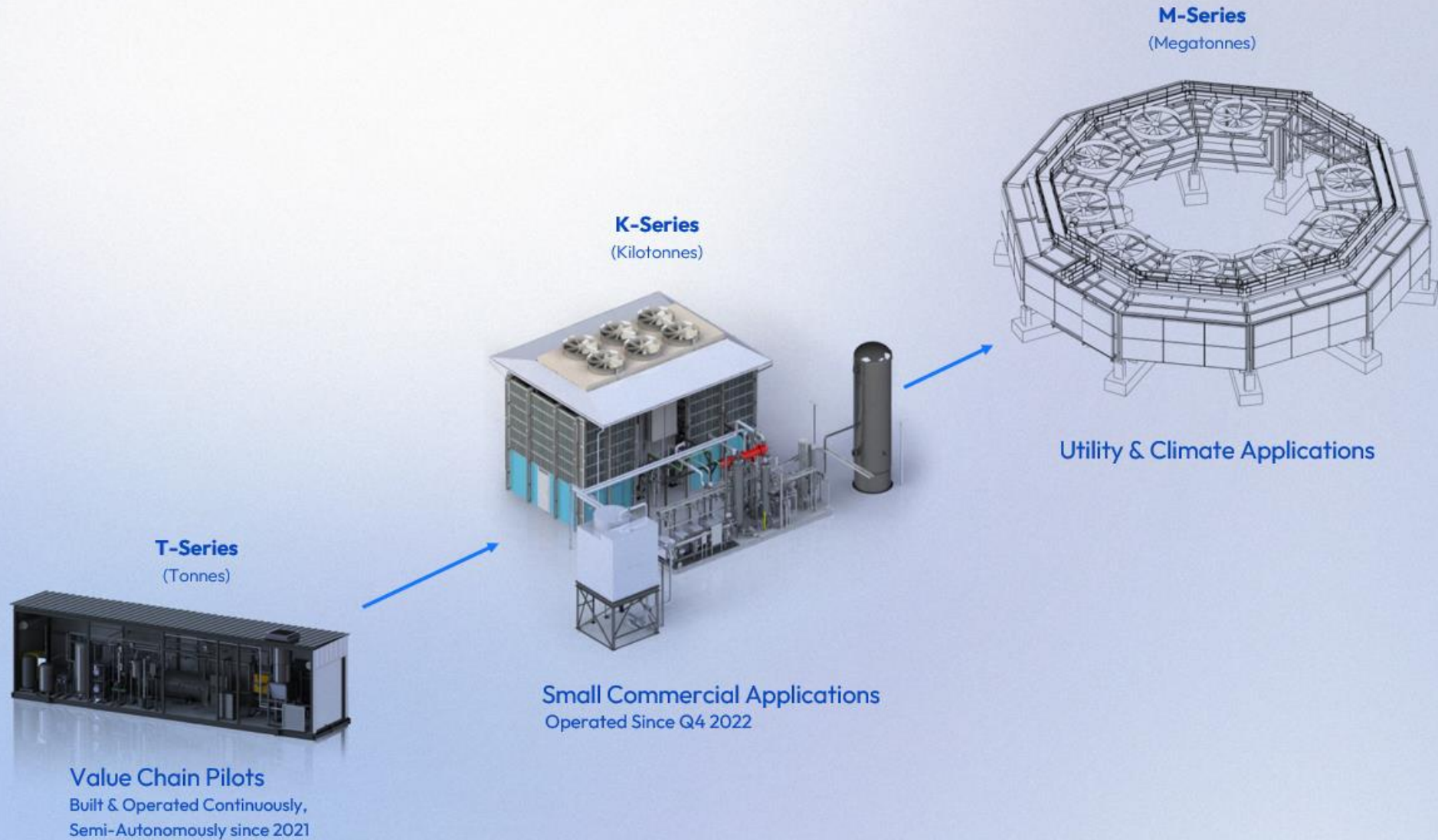
# Global Thermostat DAC Platform



## A Low Temperature, Solid Adsorbent Process

- 1** Air is pulled through our custom-designed contactors via high-efficiency, cooling-tower style fans
- 2** CO<sub>2</sub> molecules are selectively trapped by proprietary amine sorbent embedded in our ultra-high surface area, low pressure drop contactors
- 3** Low temperature steam directly injected onto the contactor rapidly releases the CO<sub>2</sub>, concentrating it for collection, use, or storage
- 4** The regenerated contactor panel reenters airflow to capture more CO<sub>2</sub>, restarting the cycle

# Scalable Modules for All Markets

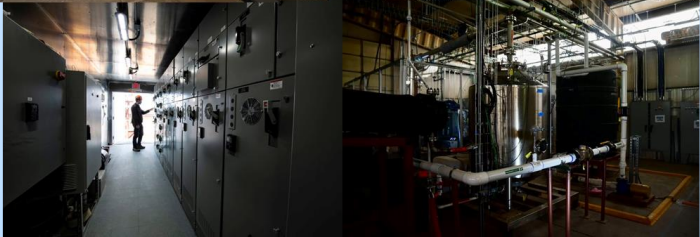
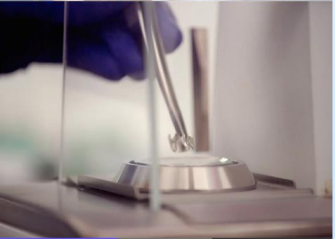




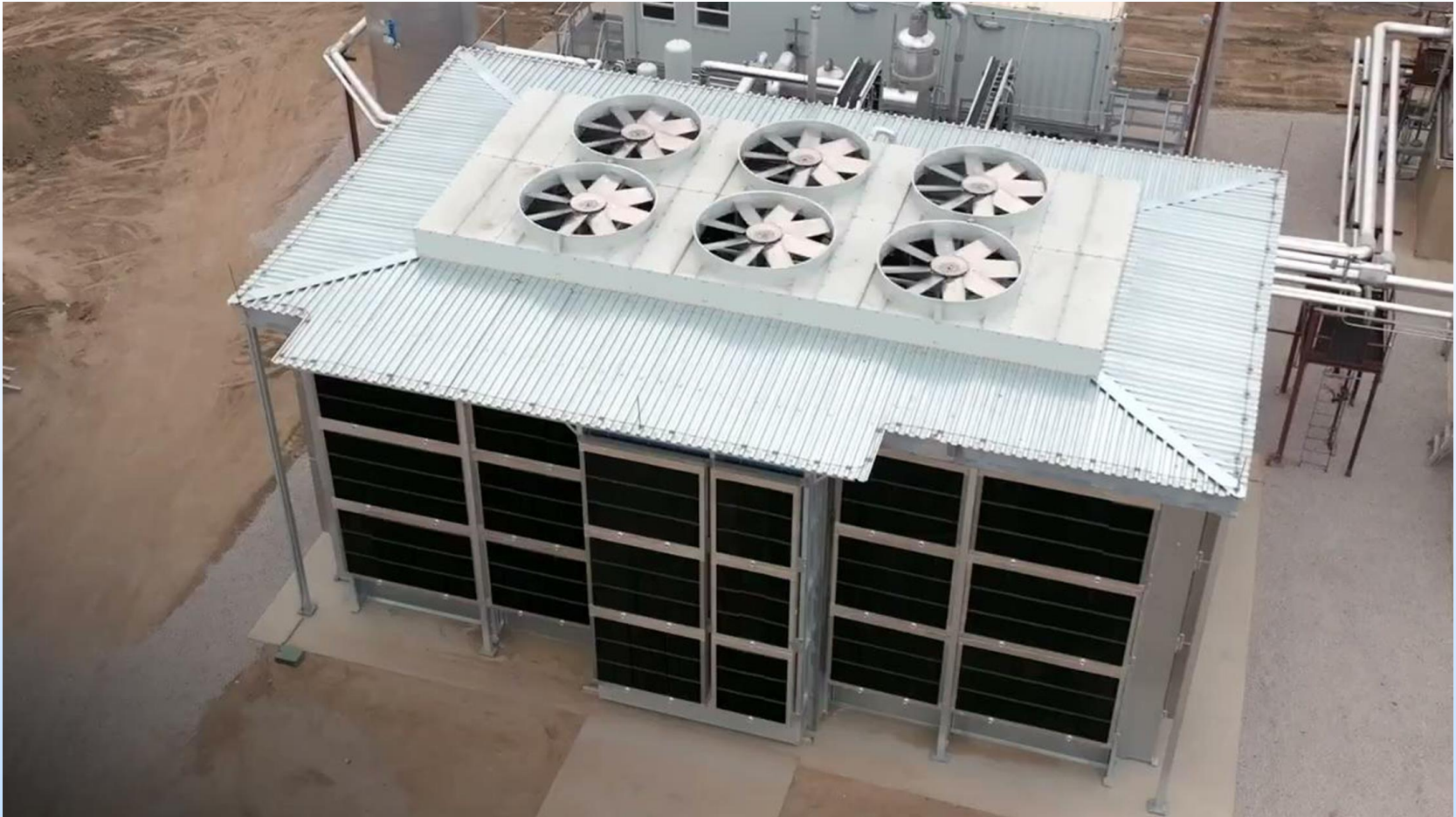
# GT Accelerated Development & Pilot Campus

Advanced R&D and integrated pilot campus at GT HQ near Denver, Colorado enables at-scale operation and rapid development cycles.

- 2+ Acre Facility
- State-of-the Art Analytical & Materials Labs
- Bench, Pilot & Commercial Scale Testing Facilities
- Fabrication & Prototyping Shop



# Kilotonne-scale GT DAC Demonstration



Operating since Q4 2022

- For 100+kta deployments, increase size of DAC module (scale up), duplicate DAC module (scale out), and centralized shared components



# Project Scope & Approach

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- Identify three DAC plant locations of different climates, nearby to active sequestration.
- Complete FEED study and cost estimate for standalone DAC installation, including utilities and compression, capable of >100,000 tonnes/year *net* CO<sub>2</sub> removal at the lead location.
  - Due to lack of reliable renewables at the sites, assume natural gas as the baseline energy source -- design CHP with packaged PCC amine system
  - DAC plant: GT, S&L
  - BOP/utilities: B&V
- Modify the lead location plant design for the subsequent two locations to adapt to the site specifics (climate, civil, etc.).
- TEA, LCA, EH&S assessment, business case assessment for each

# Project Sites

## Factors Affecting DAC Deployments at the Three Sites

- Differentials in productivity and energy demand due to climate (temperature and humidity) – rely on GT pilot-scale database
- Differentials in winterization requirements due to climate – use predictions based on GT experience in Colorado
- Differentials due to air quality – use predictions based on Colorado database
- Differences in energy costs (natural gas) and fixed costs (labor, maintenance, tax, and insurance) – input from host site partners
- All offer close by opportunities for sequestration



Site 1: Bucks, AL  
Hot / Humid Climate

Site 2: Odessa, TX  
Hot / Dry Climate

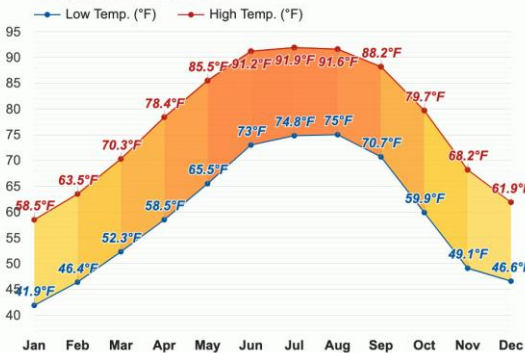
Site 3: Goose Creek, IL  
Mid-Continental Climate

# Project Site 1 – Bucks, AL

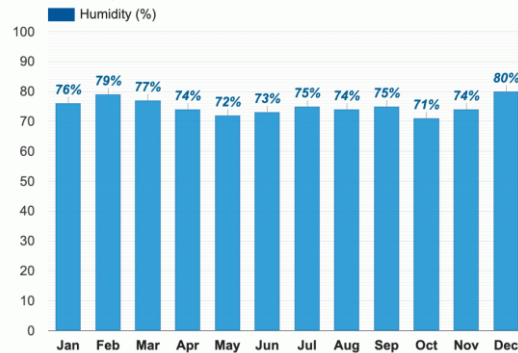
- Baseline Site: JM Barry Power Plant



Temperature - Bucks, AL



Humidity - Bucks, AL



## Climate considerations:

Hot, Humid

Lower delta T for regeneration

Higher thermal mass due to water content

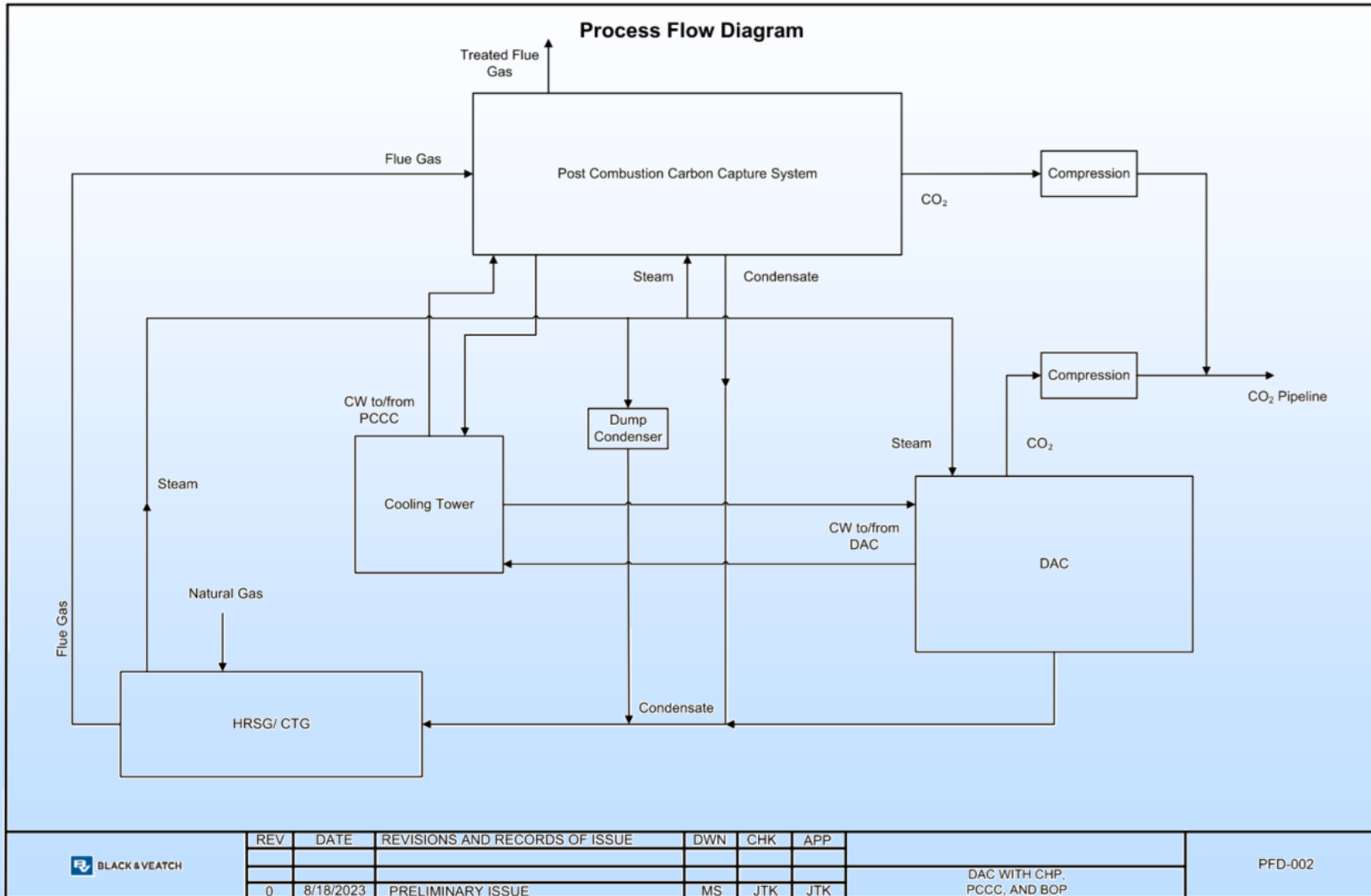
Favorable kinetics for adsorption

Slower monolith dehumidification during transition

No winterization/subfreezing operation considerations



# Conceptual Block Flow



# Scale-Up Approach

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- Build off of kilotonne-scale DAC plant
  - Retain concepts for movement system, regen box, seals, intake manifold, contactor cartridging, etc.
  - Retain 9:1 ratio of adsorption to desorption
  - Apply the same process steps
- Ring-shaped DAC module consisting of ten independent segments (wedges) and circular track
  - Each adsorption wedge compartmentalized but identical
- Develop size comparison matrices to evaluate capital & operating cost trends vs. segment size
- Down-select size based on efficiency, constructability, cost, commercial equipment availability
- Confirm and iterate viability of segment geometry for airflow uniformity and system pressure drop via CFD



# Sizing Matrix Example

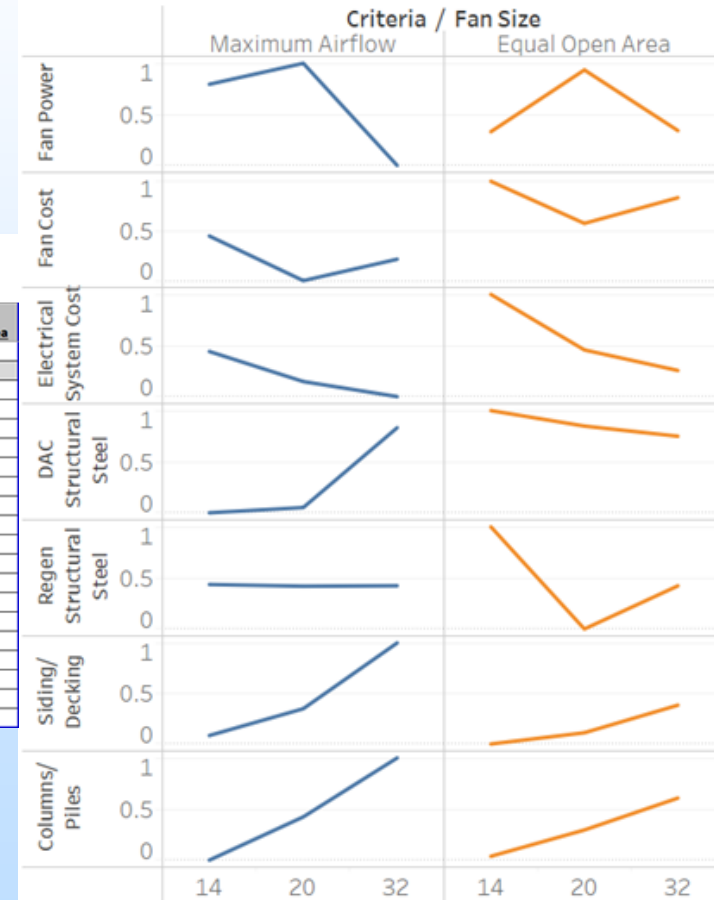
- Evaluate 14' vs 20' vs 32' CT fans correlated to two different contactor amounts:
  - “Equal Area” – Contactor frontal area sized to equal fan sweep area
  - “Maximum Airflow” – Contactor frontal area sized to accommodate airflow capability at the specified static pressure

Sizing Matrix Summary Table

Criteria	Unit	14-ft Fan Maximum Airflow	20-ft Fan Maximum Airflow	32-ft Fan Maximum Airflow	14-ft Fan Equal Open Area	20-ft Fan Equal Open Area	32-ft Fan Equal Open Area
<i>Metrics per Plant</i>							
Total Monolith Face Surface Area	(ft <sup>2</sup> )	97680	111300	118890	88960	99280	105700
Fan Power	W/ft <sup>2</sup> monolith	38.33	39.37	34.29	35.97	39.04	36.03
Fan Cost	\$/ft <sup>2</sup> monolith	\$50	\$29	\$39	\$77	\$57	\$69
Electrical System	\$/ft <sup>2</sup> monolith	\$101	\$63	\$44	\$173	\$103	\$77
Structural Steel (Fan Modules)	ton/kft <sup>2</sup> monolith	49.1	50.3	68.1	71.9	68.5	66.2
Structural Steel (Regen Box)	ton/kft <sup>2</sup> monolith	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.8	7.6	8.1
Siding/Decking	ft <sup>2</sup> /kft <sup>2</sup> monolith	275	713	1789	136	320	771
Columns/Piles	qty/kft <sup>2</sup> monolith	0.512	1.078	1.850	0.562	0.907	1.325
<b>Total Monolith Face Surface Area</b>	<b>Normalized</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>0.75</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.34</b>	<b>0.56</b>
<b>Fan Power</b>	<b>Normalized</b>	<b>0.79</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.33</b>	<b>0.94</b>	<b>0.34</b>
<b>Fan Cost</b>	<b>Normalized</b>	<b>0.45</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.22</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>0.58</b>	<b>0.83</b>
<b>Electrical System</b>	<b>Normalized</b>	<b>0.44</b>	<b>0.15</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>0.46</b>	<b>0.26</b>
<b>Structural Steel (Fan Modules)</b>	<b>Normalized</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.05</b>	<b>0.83</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>0.85</b>	<b>0.75</b>
<b>Structural Steel (Regen Box)</b>	<b>Normalized</b>	<b>0.44</b>	<b>0.42</b>	<b>0.42</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.42</b>
<b>Siding/Decking</b>	<b>Normalized</b>	<b>0.08</b>	<b>0.35</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.11</b>	<b>0.38</b>
<b>Columns/Piles</b>	<b>Normalized</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.42</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>0.61</b>

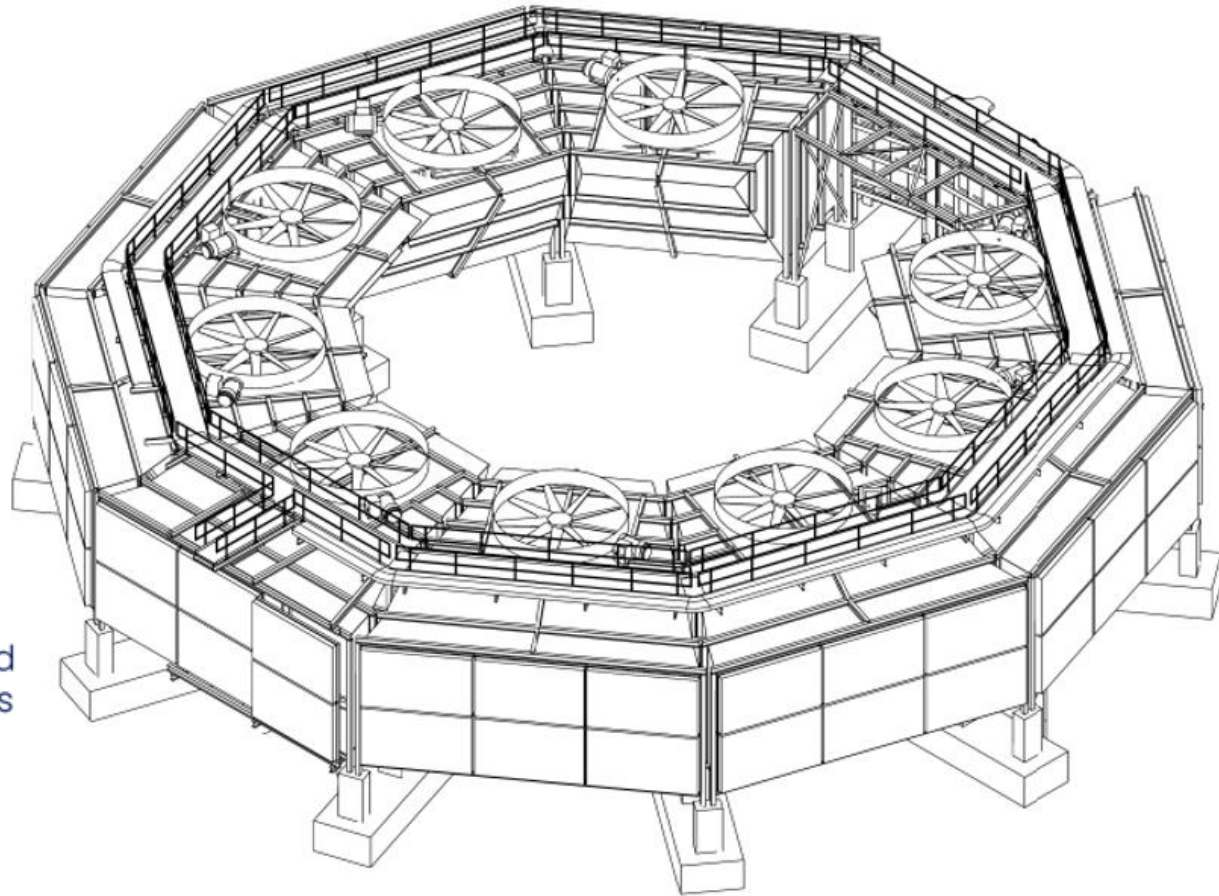
- Selected 15' diameter fan with a monolith area to fan open area ratio of 2:1
- While the fan power and electrical system costs scaled favorably as the fan diameter increased, the structural design aspects scaled poorly
- Smaller DAC segments and regeneration boxes result in better constructability and maximizes shop fabrication

Sizing Matrix Summary Slope Chart



# DAC Module Design

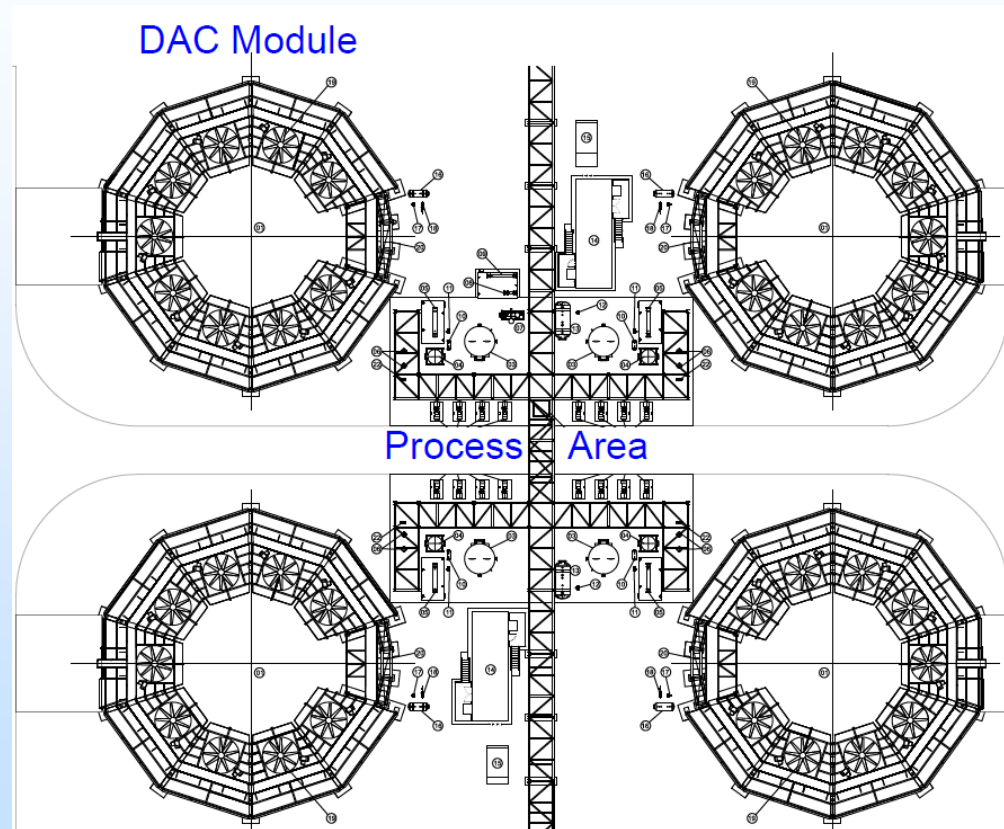
- 9x Air Adsorption Modules, each with 15' diameter axial fans
  - Each includes filters and louvers
  - Each independent and isolated
- 1x Regeneration Module
- Circular monolith movement system rotates 30 track-guided contactor panel assemblies
- One Air Adsorption Module is fitted with barn door to facilitate access



DAC MODULE  
ISOMETRIC

# “4-Pack” Repeat Unit

- DAC Module Diameter is 120'
- DAC Modules create 4-Pack Clusters
- Common 4-Pack Process Area
- Plant aggregate capacity scales by increasing the number of 4-Packs
- Centralized plant utilities
- Centralized plant CO<sub>2</sub> compression



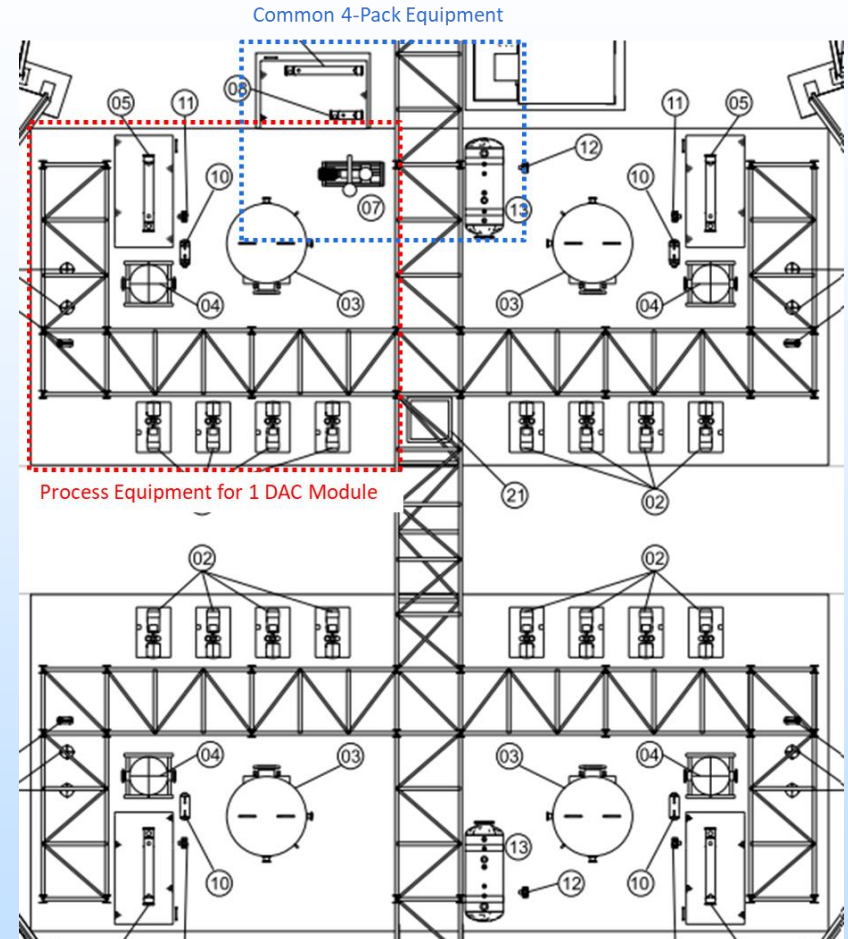
# Process Area

- Per DAC Module:

- Product Separator
- Product Condenser
- Steam Capacitance Vessel
- Air Evacuation/Harvest Vacuum Pumps

- Per 4-Pack:

- Product Coolers and Blower
- Condensate Collection
- 2x PDCs: switchgear, MCCs, VFDs, UPS, DCS





# DAC Modules





# Full DAC Plant

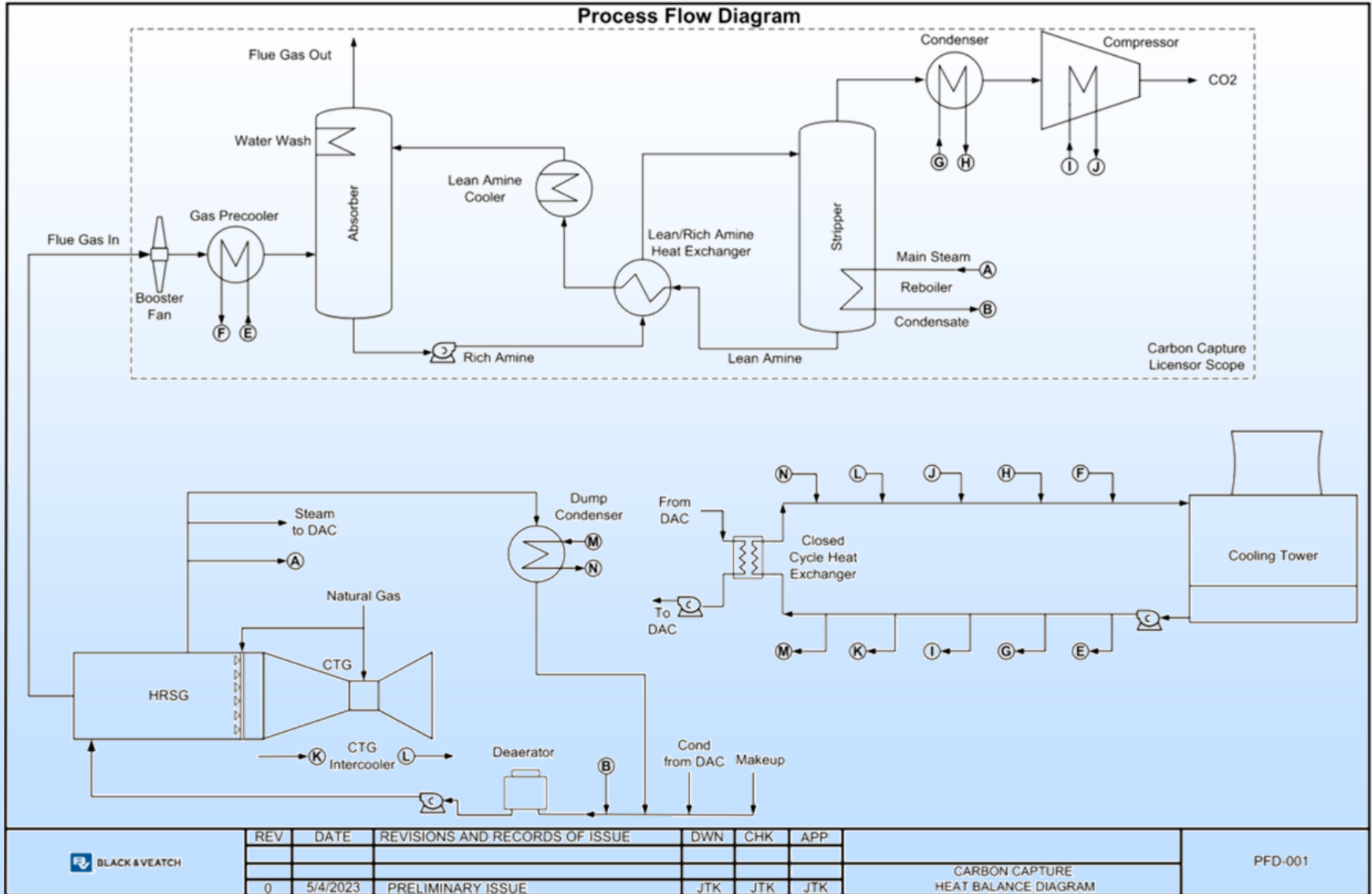


# Plant Utilities

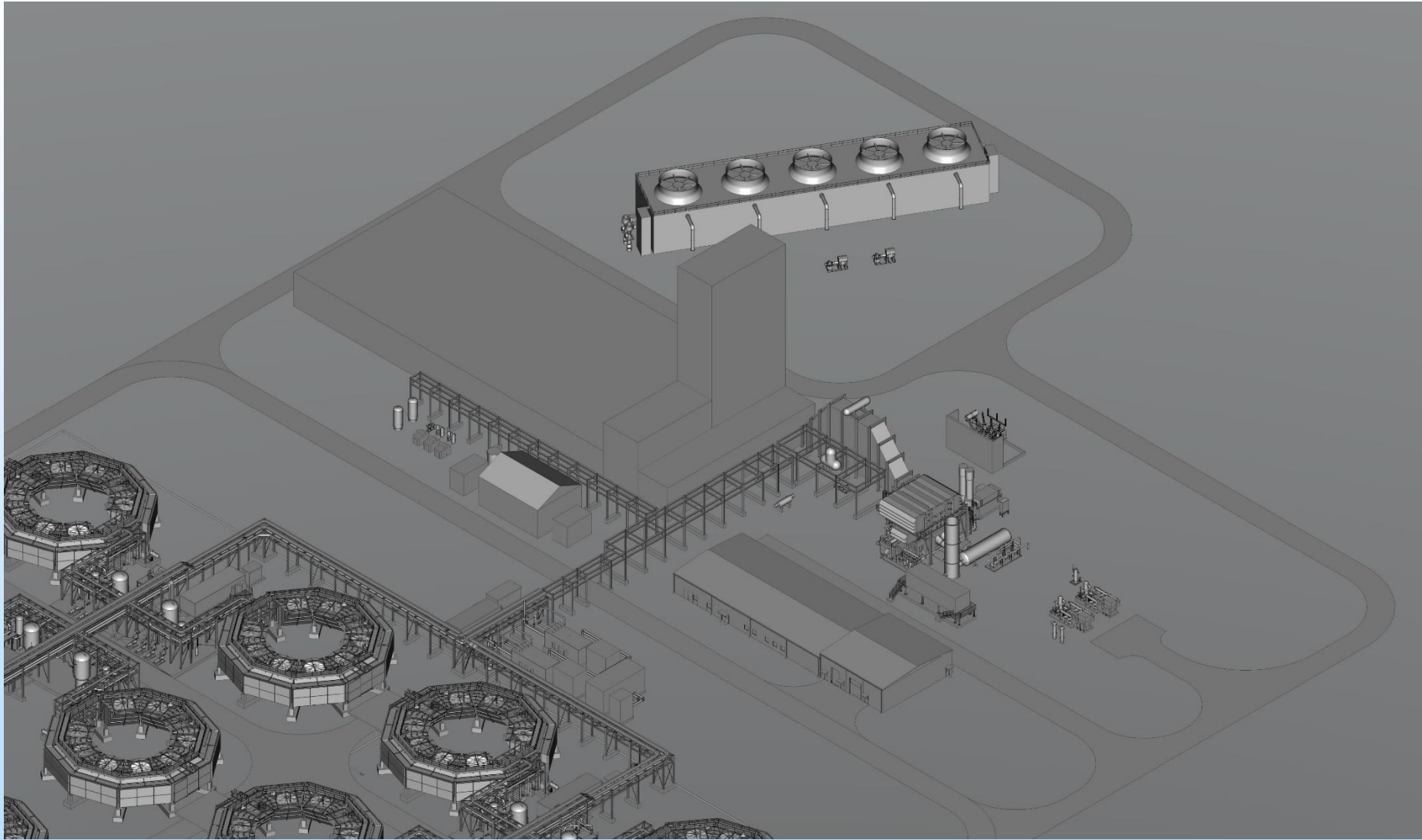
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- CHP
  - Single CTG/HRSG configuration
  - No STG to maintain flexibility and reduce complexity
  - Single pressure HRSG
    - SCR and CO catalyst for NO<sub>x</sub> and CO reduction, respectively
    - Supplemental duct firing to increase steam production and control
  - High efficiency, even at part load
  - High power (~115 MW) results in plenty of output margin
  - Low minimum CTG load of 20% while maintaining emissions compliance minimizes grid draw and startup durations
  - Post combustion carbon capture (PCCC) based on amine technology included to capture 95% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions produced by the CHP.
- Auxiliary boiler
  - Will only be used for startup warming of the PCCC system and will not be utilized during steady state operation.

# Plant Utilities PFD

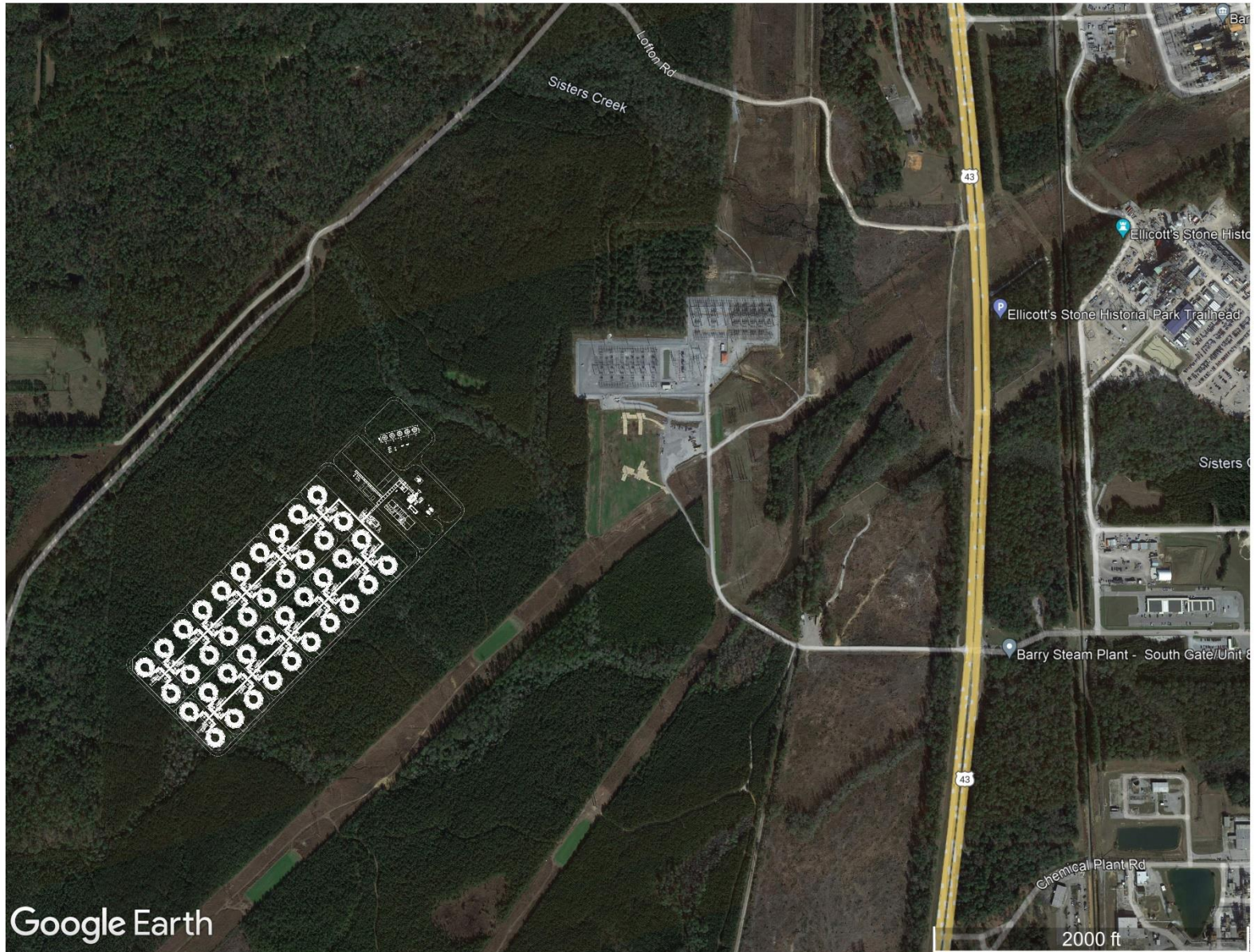


# Plant Utilities Rendering





# Bucks AL Conceptual Location





# Lessons Learned

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- General size of the CHP facility and DAC power requirements have changed significantly since the initiation of the project. The auxiliary power for CO<sub>2</sub> compression was not initially included.
- Startup requirements and sequence for the CHP, PCCC, and DAC systems were developed.
  - Startup and shutdown events were sequenced to minimize natural gas combusted, electricity drawn from the grid, and CHP run time without the PCCC operating.
- Bigger is not always better – non-linear civil & structural costs create an optimization between DAC module scale and construction cost
- Cascading DAC modularity creates implicit redundancy

# Plans for future testing/development/ commercialization

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- a. Current project
  - Large scale DAC module designed to FEL2 level with Class 4 estimate
  - DAC plant designed for >100 kta net capture from the atmosphere – complete TEA and LCA
  
- b. Next phase – after this project complete
  - Finalize the building block design for a climate-relevant plant; take to FEL3 design / Class 2 estimate
  - Construct the large-scale DAC module

# Summary Slide

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- DAC module designed for balance of scale and constructability
  - Cascading modularity in overall DAC plant design:
    - › Centralized utilities, servicing
      - › Distributed process areas, each servicing
        - › Four-packs of DAC modules, each comprised of
          - › Nine identical adsorption wedges, each containing
            - › Three contactor panels, each populated with
              - › Hundreds of active contactor bricks
- Modifications to primary Bucks AL plant design, cost, productivity in progress
  - Odessa TX - Hot & Dry: Lower energy requirement
  - Goose Creek IL - Cold & Wet: Winterization

# Thank You

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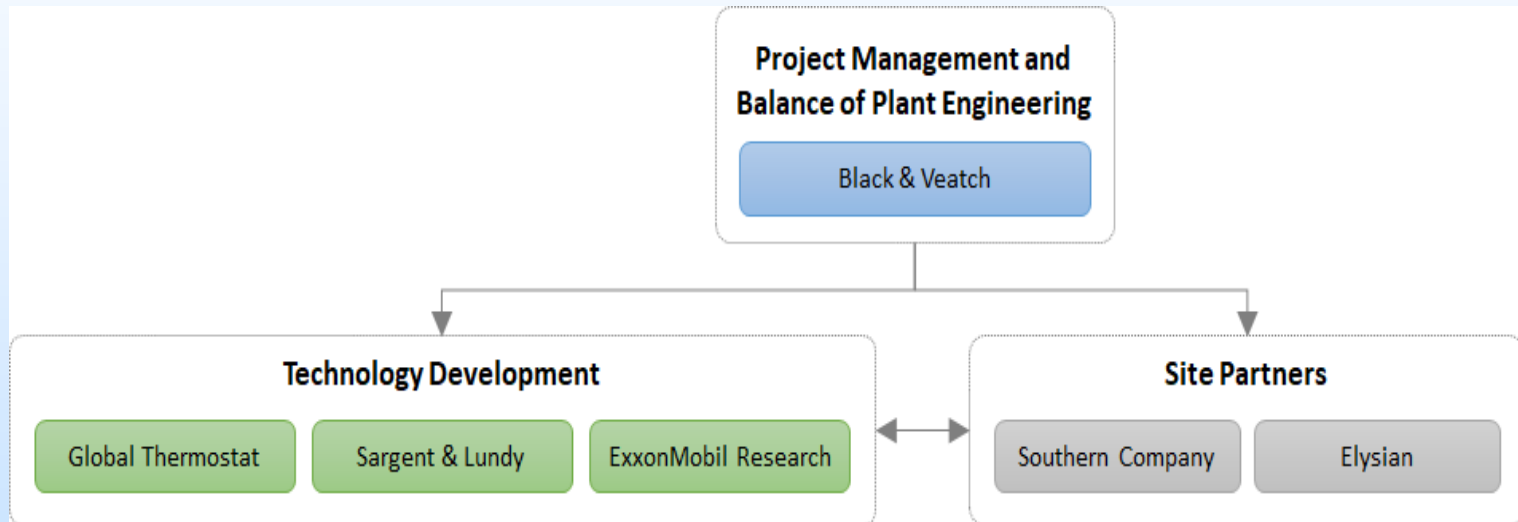
# Appendix

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- These slides will not be discussed during the presentation **but are mandatory.**



# Organization Chart



# Project Team

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- Black & Veatch
  - Mark Steutermann – Project Manager
  - Algert Prifti – Technology Manager
  - Dave Oldham – BOP Engineering Manager
- Global Thermostat
  - Dr. Eric Ping – VP, Process & Operations
  - Dr. Steph Didas – Director, Special Projects
  - Dr. Miles Sakwa-Novak – VP, Materials
  - Brianna Atherton, P.E. – VP, Plant Design & Manufacturing
  - Jed Pruett – Director, Process Development
  - Zachary Foltz – Development Engineer

# Project Team (cont.)

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- Sargent & Lundy
  - Kevin Lauzze – VP and Project Director
  - Nick Kutella – Project Manager
  - Cheryl Goodenough – Engineering Manager
  - Bill Sheeren – Process & Mechanical Engineer
- ExxonMobil Technology & Engineering (EMTEC)
  - Rustom Billimoria – Distinguished Scientific Advisor
  - Justin Federici – Project Manager
- Southern Company
  - John Carroll – Project Engineer
- Elysian
  - Bret Logue – Principal Elysian Ventures, LLC

# Gantt Chart

