

PROJECT facts

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY
NATIONAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY

Petroleum Environmental
Solutions

05/2006



COALBED METHANE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Background/Problem

In the past decade there has been an explosion of interest in coalbed methane or natural gas development. A number of management problems related to how to develop this unconventional resource, how to handle the large volume of produced water, and how to protect the environment have arisen. DOE's effort to provide public information and guidelines of Best Management Practices has resulted in three Guidebooks. To expand the public reception of this information a series of workshops in key areas of coalbed methane interest were initiated.

During the previous project, Handbooks for Preparing, Evaluation, Development, Environmental Plans and Background Development Pertinent to Coal Bed Methane Production (DE-FG26-02NT15380) was developed and published as three volumes. The publications included the location of coal and CBM deposits, regulatory issues, water rights, the volumes and quality of CBM produced water, treatment of produced water, and beneficial use alternatives for disposal of produced water. The workshops help ensure that this data will be available to the public in an easily accessible/open manner.

PARTNER

ALL Consulting
Tulsa, OK

MAIN SITES

Gillette, WY
Billings, MT
Denver, CO
Albuquerque, NM

Project Description/Accomplishments

CBM development on Public Lands in the west and water management relative to CBM development is of major interest to a number of groups including: ranching and agricultural interests, citizens living in the area, hunters, fishermen, state and federal agencies, and environmental groups. The workshops present information on leasing and development of environmental and planning studies that must be in-place prior to any CBM activities, including project-specific planning. A major goal of the project was to provide public and landowner education and coordination to groups with an interest in CBM.

The focus of the four CBM produced water workshops is a five state area of the Rocky Mountains (Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, and New Mexico). This is an active growth area where CBM is a significant natural gas resource. A major emphasis of the workshops is demonstrating alternative beneficial uses for CBM produced water.



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PROJECT DATA

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Jul. 7, 2003-Nov. 30, 2004

Total Project Value

\$50,000

DOE/Non-DOE Share

\$50,000/\$0

CUSTOMER SERVICE

1-800-553-7681

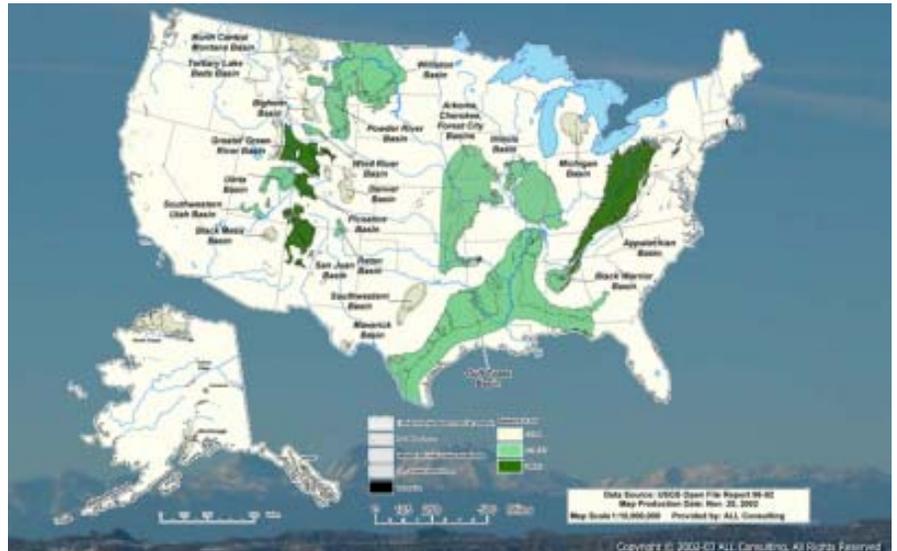
WEBSITE

www.netl.doe.gov

Benefits/Impacts

The studies have provided models, and data critical to support land use decisions for Federal Agencies, County and State planners in four western states (Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Wyoming). Data gathering and research on CBM, abandoned oil field sites and animal populations provides valuable scientific evidence on past and potential future effects of oil and gas development on water quality, soil remediation and habitat disturbance. The information is used to inform the public of scientific facts concerning specific topics, which have generated controversy and/or misinformation from private groups or individuals. Workshops were held in Gillette, WY - July 2003, Billings, MT - August 2003 (in connection with Montana Petroleum Association Annual meeting, Denver, CO - April 28-29, 2004 (coordinated with the American Petroleum Institute), Albuquerque, NM - October 11, 2004 (in conjunction with the International Petroleum Environmental (IPEC) conference).

The workshop format allows presentation of a wide variety of information on CBM development and environmental concerns related to produced water. Workshops are the best way to reach the audience of land owners, ranchers, CBM developers, state and federal agencies and environmental groups interested in CBM development. Diverse viewpoints and expert presentations are offered at the workshops. The workshops make use of the extensive information gathering during previous ALL contracts on CBM development, water treatment and alternative uses of CBM produced water. An additional workshop has been added at no additional cost to DOE. This workshop will be held at the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC) meeting in Anchorage, AK in May 2005.



Coal basins in the U.S.