



September 15, 2010

Dear Reader:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) invites comments on the enclosed document, *Draft Environmental Assessment for the Southeast Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership (SECARB) Phase III Anthropogenic Test Project, near Citronelle Oil Field, Mobile County, AL*. (Draft EA; DOE/EA-1785D), which was prepared by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) implementing regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500 to 1508) and DOE NEPA implementing procedures (10 CFR Part 1021).

The Draft EA evaluates the potential environmental consequences of providing a grant to SECARB for the injection of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide (CO₂) into a deep saline formation for enhanced oil recovery and geologic sequestration in Citronelle Oil Field in Alabama's Mobile County. The project is referred to as the Anthropogenic Test because the CO₂ is captured from the waste stream at Alabama Power's coal-fired Plant Barry. This project would demonstrate the geologic sequestration of 125,000 tons of CO₂ per year that would otherwise be vented to the atmosphere.

DOE's Proposed Action is to provide SECARB with approximately 80 percent of the funding for the project.

The Draft EA evaluated resource areas DOE commonly addresses in EAs and identified no significant adverse environmental impacts from DOE's proposed action or SECARB's proposed project.

A Notice of Availability will be published in the *Press Register* on September 19, 20 and 21, 2010, to announce the beginning of the 30-day public review and comment period. As stated in the notice, comments should be marked "SECARB Draft EA Comments" and sent to:

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Individual names and addresses, including email addresses, received as part of the comment documents normally are considered part of the public record. Persons wishing to withhold names, addresses, or other identifying information from the public record must state this request

prominently at the beginning of their comments. DOE will honor this request to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations, businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses will be included in the public record and open to public inspection in their entirety.

The public comment period ends on October 18, 2010. DOE will consider late submissions to the extent practicable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "W. J. Gwilliam". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "W" and "G".

W. J. Gwilliam

Physical Scientist/ NEPA Document Manager