

# PROGRAM facts

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

## Carbon Sequestration

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## THE COST OF CARBON DIOXIDE CAPTURE AND STORAGE IN GEOLOGIC FORMATIONS

The sequestration of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in geologic formations is a viable option for achieving deep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions without hindering economic prosperity. Due to the abundance of fossil fuels in the United States and around the globe as compared to other energy sources, there is strong interest in geologic sequestration, but cost is a key issue. The volume of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted from power plants and other energy systems is enormous compared to other emissions of concern. For example, a pulverized coal (PC) boiler operating on Illinois #6 coal (2.5 percent sulfur) may generate 0.03 pounds of sulfur dioxide per kilowatt hour (kWh) and emit CO<sub>2</sub> at a rate of 1.7 pounds per kWh.

### CONTACTS

#### Sean I. Plasynski

Sequestration Technology Manager  
National Energy Technology  
Laboratory

626 Cochrans Mill Road  
P.O. Box 10940  
Pittsburgh, PA 15236-0940  
412-386-4867

sean.plasynski@netl.doe.gov

#### Jared P. Ciferno

Coal Systems Analyst  
National Energy Technology  
Laboratory

626 Cochrans Mill Road  
P.O. Box 10940  
Pittsburgh, PA 15236  
412-386-5862

jared.ciferno@netl.doe.gov

The United States Department of Energy (DOE) has set two cost goals in its Carbon Sequestration Program: (1) CO<sub>2</sub> capture technologies for a greenfield PC plant should achieve 90 percent CO<sub>2</sub> capture with an increase in the cost of electricity (COE) of no more than 20 percent, and (2) CO<sub>2</sub> capture technologies for coal gasification should achieve 90 percent capture with no more than a 10 percent increase in COE. DOE's National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) has conducted systems analyses to estimate the cost of CO<sub>2</sub> capture and sequestration using a range of technologies. DOE has partnered with a number of respected engineering firms in conducting these analyses, including Nexant, Noblis, Alstom Power, Air Liquide, Babcock & Wilcox, SAIC, and Parsons. Every effort has been made to use real-world data and incorporate appropriate contingencies into the cost estimates.





Table 1. Estimates of the Cost of CO<sub>2</sub> Capture from Coal-Fired Power Plants and Sequestration in Geologic Formations

CO <sub>2</sub> Capture		Pulverized Coal									
		Subcritical		Supercritical		Ultra-Supercritical		Supercritical Oxyfuel		Ultra-Supercritical Oxyfuel	
		No	Yes	No	MEA	No	MEA <sup>b</sup>	No	Oxyfuel	No	Oxyfuel
Capital Cost (\$/kWe)	Base Plant	1,302	1,689	1,335	1,724	1,437	1,845	1,335	1,893 <sup>c</sup>	1,437	1,937 <sup>c</sup>
	Flue Gas Cleanup	246	323	228	300	204	273	228	318	204	292
	CO <sub>2</sub> Capture	-	792	-	749	-	673	-	210	-	197
	CO <sub>2</sub> Compression	-	89	-	84	-	76	-		-	
<b>Total Plant Cost<sup>1</sup> (\$/kWe)</b>		<b>1,549</b>	<b>2,895</b>	<b>1,563</b>	<b>2,857</b>	<b>1,641</b>	<b>2,867</b>	<b>1,563</b>	<b>2,930</b>	<b>1,641</b>	<b>2,898</b>
<b>COE</b>											
Capital Charges <sup>2</sup> (¢/kWh)		3.41	6.81	3.44	6.71	3.86	6.74	3.44	6.89	3.86	6.81
Operating Costs (¢/kWh)		2.99	4.64	2.85	4.33	2.60	3.86	2.85	4.01	2.60	3.56
CO <sub>2</sub> TS&M <sup>d2</sup> (¢/kWh)		-	0.47	-	0.40	-	0.38	-	0.40	-	0.36
<b>Total<sup>3</sup> (¢/kWh)</b>		<b>6.40</b>	<b>11.88</b>	<b>6.29</b>	<b>11.44</b>	<b>6.46</b>	<b>10.98</b>	<b>6.29</b>	<b>11.30</b>	<b>6.46</b>	<b>10.73</b>
Increase in COE (%) <sup>a</sup>		-	85	-	82	-	75	-	80	-	71
\$/ton CO <sub>2</sub> avoided <sup>a</sup>		-	75	-	68	-	61	-	57	-	50
<p>The following are the steam cycle design conditions (design pressure [psig] / main steam [°F] / temperature [°F]) for the five pulverized coal (PC) power plant types: Subcritical 2400/1050/1050; Supercritical 3500/1100/1100; Ultra-Supercritical 4000/1350/1400; Supercritical Oxyfuel 3500/1110/1150; and Ultra-Supercritical Oxyfuel 4000/1350/1400.</p>											
CO <sub>2</sub> Capture		Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle						<sup>a</sup> With respect to its non-capture case <sup>b</sup> MEA (monoethanolamine) <sup>c</sup> Base plant capital includes cryogenic ASU <sup>d</sup> TS&M (transportation, storage and monitoring)			
		GE Energy		E-Gas		Shell					
		No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes				
Capital Cost (\$/kWe)	Base Plant	1,323	1,566	1,272	1,592	1,522	1,817				
	Air Separation Unit	287	342	264	329	256	336				
	Gas Cleanup/CO <sub>2</sub> Capture	203	414	197	441	199	445				
	CO <sub>2</sub> Compression	-	68	-	69	-	70				
<b>Total Plant Cost<sup>1</sup> (\$/kWe)</b>		<b>1,813</b>	<b>2,390</b>	<b>1,733</b>	<b>2,431</b>	<b>1,977</b>	<b>2,668</b>				
<b>COE</b>											
Capital Charges <sup>2</sup> (¢/kWh)		4.53	5.97	4.33	6.07	4.94	6.66				
Operating Costs (¢/kWh)		3.27	3.93	3.20	4.09	3.11	3.97				
CO <sub>2</sub> TS&M <sup>d2</sup> (¢/kWh)		-	0.39	-	0.41	-	0.41				
<b>Total<sup>3</sup> (¢/kWh)</b>		<b>7.80</b>	<b>10.29</b>	<b>7.53</b>	<b>10.57</b>	<b>8.05</b>	<b>11.04</b>				
Increase in COE (%) <sup>a</sup>		-	32	-	40	-	37				
\$/ton CO <sub>2</sub> avoided <sup>a</sup>		-	35	-	45	-	46				
<p><b>References:</b></p> <p>1. "Cost and Performance Baseline for Fossil Energy Plants" August 2007 Presentation</p> <p>2. "Pulverized Coal Oxycombustion Power Plants" November 2007 Presentation</p>											

The table above presents a compendium of results from these DOE-funded studies. Highlights from the studies include the following:

- Coal-based plants using today's technology are capable of producing electricity at relatively high efficiencies of about 39 percent higher heating value (HHV), without capture, on bituminous coal, and at the same time meet or exceed current environmental requirements for criteria pollutants.

## ADDRESS

### National Energy Technology Laboratory

1450 Queen Avenue SW  
Albany, OR 97321-2198  
541-967-5892

2175 University Avenue South  
Suite 201  
Fairbanks, AK 99709  
907-452-2559

3610 Collins Ferry Road  
P.O. Box 880  
Morgantown, WV 26507-0880  
304-285-4764

626 Cochrans Mill Road  
P.O. Box 10940  
Pittsburgh, PA 15236-0940  
412-386-4687

One West Third Street,  
Suite 1400  
Tulsa, OK 74103-3519  
918-699-2000

## CUSTOMER SERVICE

**1-800-553-7681**

## WEBSITE

**[www.netl.doe.gov](http://www.netl.doe.gov)**

- Capital cost (total plant cost) for the non-capture plants are as follows: NGCC \$554/kW; PC \$1,562/kW; and IGCC 1,841/kW (average). With capture, capital costs are: NGCC \$1,172/kW; PC \$2,883/kW (average); and IGCC \$2,496/kW (average).
- At fuel costs of \$1.80/ton of coal and \$6.75 MMBtu of natural gas, the 20-year levelized COE for the non-capture plants are: 64/mills kWh (average) for PC, 68/mills kWh (average) for NGCC, and 78/mills kWh (average) for IGCC.
- When today's technology for carbon capture and sequestration is integrated into these new power plants, the resultant 20-year levelized COE including the cost of CO<sub>2</sub> transport, storage, and monitoring is: 97/mills kWh (average) for NGCC, 106/mills kWh (average) for IGCC, and 117/mills kWh (average) for PC. The cost of transporting CO<sub>2</sub> a 50-mile distance for storage in a geologic formation with over 30 years of monitoring is estimated to add about 4/mills kWh. This represents only about 10 percent of the total carbon capture and sequestration costs.
- A sensitivity study on natural gas price reveals that the COE for IGCC is equal to that of NGCC at \$7.73/MMBtu, and for PC, the COE is equivalent to NGCC at a gas price of \$8.87/MMBtu. In terms of capacity factor, when the NGCC drops below 60 percent, such as in a peaking application, the resulting COE is higher than that of an IGCC operating at baseload (80 percent capacity factor).