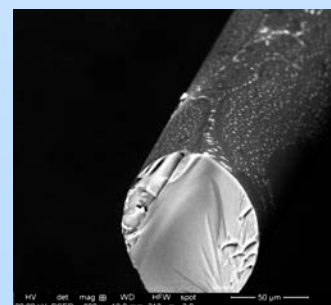


# Methods and Tools for Monitoring Groundwater Impacts

Christina Lopano  
NETL - RIC



U.S. Department of Energy  
National Energy Technology Laboratory  
Mastering the Subsurface Through Technology, Innovation and Collaboration:  
Carbon Storage and Oil and Natural Gas Technologies Review Meeting  
August 16-18, 2016



# NETL Research Presentations and Posters

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2016

- **12:40 PM** Monitoring Groundwater Impacts - Christina Lopano
- **1:55 PM** Multi Variate Examination of the Cause of Increasing Induced Seismicity – Kelly Rose
- **4:40 PM** Exploring the Behavior of Shales as Seals and Storage Reservoirs for CO<sub>2</sub> – Ernest Lindner
- **5:05 PM** Risk Assessment for Offshore Systems – Kelly Rose
- **5:30 PM** Metal-based systems in Extreme Environments – Jeff Hawk
- 6:15 p.m. **Poster Session**
  - Kelly Rose - Developing a carbon storage resource assessment methodology for offshore systems
  - Doug Kauffman - Catalytic Conversion of CO<sub>2</sub> to Ind. Chem. And eval. Of CO<sub>2</sub> Use and Re-Use
  - Liwei Zhang - Numerical simulation of pressure and CO<sub>2</sub> saturation above an imperfect seal as a result of CO<sub>2</sub> injection: implications for CO<sub>2</sub> migration detection

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2016

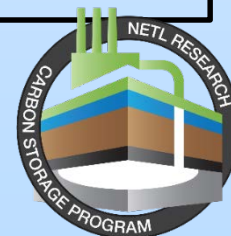
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<https://edx.netl.doe.gov/carbonstorage/>  
<https://edx.netl.doe.gov/offshore/>  
<https://edx.netl.doe.gov/ucr/>



# Methods & Tools (Task 8): Natural geochemical signals to monitor leakage to groundwater

## FY 2016 Team

- J. Rodney Diehl, NETL-RIC
- Hank Edenborn, NETL-RIC
- Djuna Gulliver, NETL-RIC
- Ale Hakala, NETL-RIC
- Christina Lopano, NETL-RIC
- Dustin McIntyre, NETL-RIC
- Paul Ohodnicki, NETL-RIC
- Ki-Joong Kim, ORISE-NETL
- James Gardiner, ORISE-NETL
- Christian Goueguel, ORISE-NETL
- Thai Phan, ORISE-NETL
- Mengling Stuckman, ORISE-NETL
- Brian Stewart, U.Pitt, ORISE
- Shikha Sharma, WVU, ORISE
- Jinesh Jain, AECOM - NETL
- R. Burt Thomas, AECOM - NETL



*Technical approach employs a multidisciplinary team (chemists, geologists, microbiologists, materials engineers) to develop and demonstrate novel tools and techniques for MVA*

# Benefit to the Program

---

- Program Goals:
  - Validate/ensure 99% storage permanence.
  - Develop best practice manuals for monitoring, verification, accounting, and assessment; site screening, selection and initial characterization...
- Project benefits:
  - *There is a need to be able to quantify leakage of CO<sub>2</sub> to the near surface and identify potential groundwater impacts. This project works to develop a suite of complementary monitoring techniques to identify leakage of CO<sub>2</sub> or brine to USDW's and to quantify impact.*

# Project Overview: Goals and Objectives

**Monitoring Groundwater Impacts** – What suite of measurements and/or tools can be used in groundwater to detect CO<sub>2</sub> and/or brine leakage and to evaluate the impact?

- Task 8
- Develop and apply metal isotope tracers for QMVA
  - Develop & test novel materials and sensors for in-situ monitoring
  - Better understand physical-chemical-biological parameters impacting signals for geochemical tracers

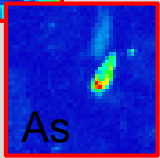
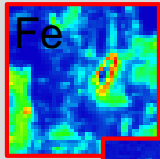
- Task 9
- *Test and validate the use of CO<sub>2</sub> monitoring devices under field conditions*
  - *Establish the utility of metal isotopes to track migration of a CO<sub>2</sub> plume*
  - *Understand natural variability in background*

12:30pm

Wed

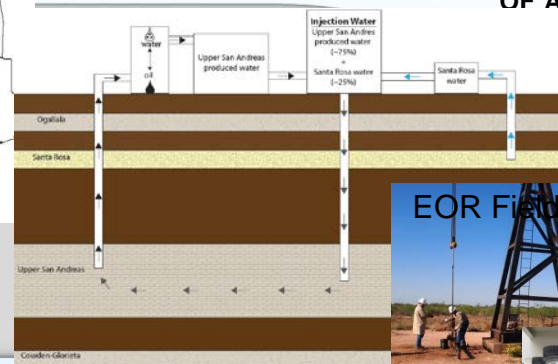
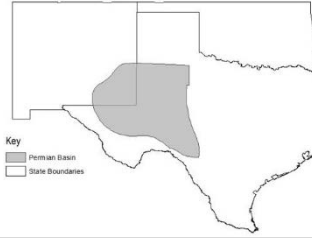


## UNDERSTAND NATURAL BACKGROUND VARIABILITY



METHODS – COMPLEX WATERS

## ESTABLISH THE UTILITY OF ISOTOPES TO TRACK MIGRATION OF A CO<sub>2</sub> PLUME

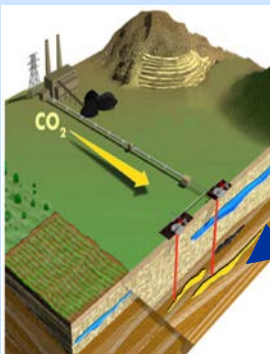


EOR Field Site



Thermal springs (Natural Analog)

- Develop & demonstrate a suite of geochemically-based monitoring strategies for groundwater systems
- Statistical understanding of natural signals in CO<sub>2</sub> storage systems.
- Determine sensitivities of techniques in real world conditions



Migration into Shallow Aquifers

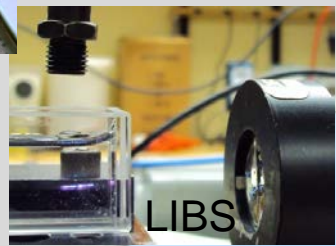
Migration into other Deep Formations

VALIDATE/ENSURE 99% STORAGE PERMANENCE

Fiber Optics



Continuous CO<sub>2</sub> Monitoring Devices



LIBS

TEST AND VALIDATE THE USE OF CO<sub>2</sub> MONITORING DEVICES UNDER FIELD CONDITIONS

# Geochemical Monitoring Tools

## 1. Natural **Geochemical Tracers** in Groundwater

TRL 3-4

- develop and demonstrate a protocol for the use of a combination of natural geochemical tracers (e.g., isotopic, chemistry, trace elements, etc.) to monitor groundwater systems

## 2. Assessment & Validation of shallow **Continuous CO<sub>2</sub> Monitoring Devices**

- understand the response and limitations of CO<sub>2</sub> monitoring devices (volumetric methods and direct measurement via NDIR) relative to CO<sub>2</sub> detection

## 3. Development and Assessment of **LIBS** for In-situ Measurement of CO<sub>2</sub> Impacts in Groundwater

- Use LIBS as a tool to monitor chemical signals in groundwater (in-situ) that reflect potential impacts to groundwater resulting from the introduction of CO<sub>2</sub> and/or brine.

## 4. Development and Assessment of **Novel Fiber-Optics Technologies** for Chemical Sensing

- develop and demonstrate robust fiber-optic based materials & tool(s) capable of sensing (at elevated P & T) the introduction of CO<sub>2</sub> and/or brine into overlying formations or groundwater systems

TRL 2-3<sup>9</sup>



# Groundwater Monitoring: Metal Isotope Tracers



## NETL ORD - Application to Complex Field Samples

- Metal isotope systems: track fluid-rock interaction, fluid origin, fate & transport. Use distinct isotope end-members to trace movement of plume in injected formation & to monitor leakage into overlying formations. Examples:
  - Mineral-fluid exchange (e.g.,  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ,  $^7\text{Li}/^6\text{Li}$ ,  $^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$ )
  - Subsurface redox conditions (e.g.,  $^{56}\text{Fe}/^{54}\text{Fe}$ ,  $^{238}\text{U}/^{235}\text{U}$ )
  - Origin and environmental tracking of brines (e.g.,  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ,  $^7\text{Li}/^6\text{Li}$ ,  $^{11}\text{B}/^{10}\text{B}$ )
- Isotopes available FY16 (MC-ICP-MS):
  - $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$
  - $^7\text{Li}/^6\text{Li}$
  - $^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$  and  $^{235}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$
  - $^{11}\text{B}/^{10}\text{B}$
- Type of samples: water & rock
  - Field sampling: filtered and acidified samples
  - Water: surface waters or monitoring wells
    - **Separations from matrix (NETL RIC methods)**
    - Run using MC-ICP-MS

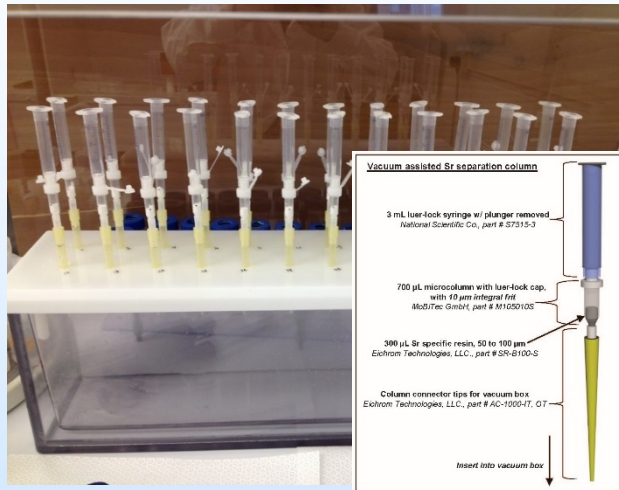


NETL's Thermo Scientific NEPTUNE PLUS MC-ICP-MS at University of Pittsburgh, Dept. of Geology & Environmental Science

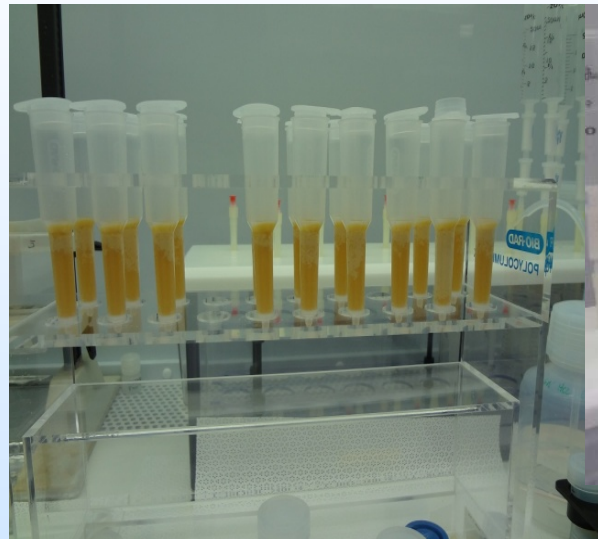


# Metal Isotopes: Past Work

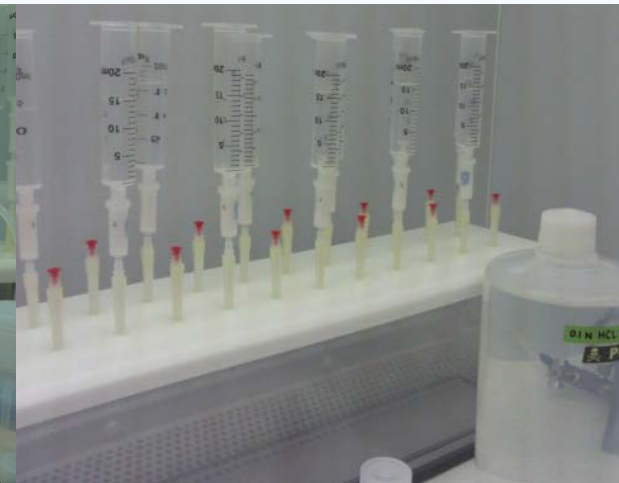
Robust analytical procedures are fully developed for Sr, Li, B, U isotopes



Sr isotope separation setup  
(Wall et al., 2013)  
Typical Reproducibility:  
 $2SD=0.1\text{‰}$   
(24 samples/16 hours)



Li isotope separation setup  
(Phan et al., 2016)  
Typical Reproducibility:  
 $2SD=1.0\text{‰}$   
(16 samples/24 hours)

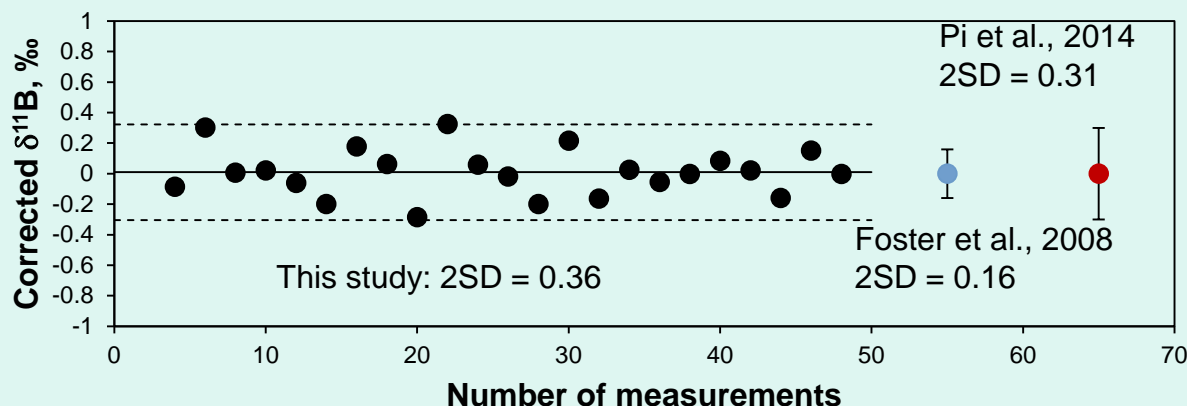


U isotope separation setup  
(Phan et al., submitted)  
Typical Reproducibility:  
 $2SD=0.1\text{‰}$   
(24 samples/48 hrs)

# Metal Isotopes: B Methodology

**B isotopes are purified using sublimation method**

**Comparison our measurements of SRM-951 with previous works**



Measurements of reference samples:

Seawater (NASS-6):      **Oil produced water:**

Rep 1: 40.3 ‰              Rep 1: 19.0 ‰

Rep 2: 40.4 ‰              Rep 2: 18.4 ‰

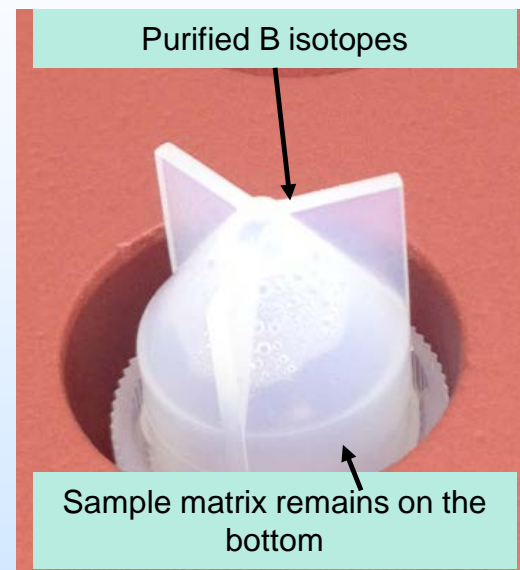
Rep 3: 40.4 ‰               $\delta^{11}\text{B} = 18.7 \pm 0.7$

$\delta^{11}\text{B} = 40.4 \pm 0.1$

→ consistent to published value  $39.7 \pm 0.4$

Typical Reproducibility:

2SD=1.0‰



B isotope separation setup

Sample volume: 50  $\mu\text{L}$

Temperature: 98 °C

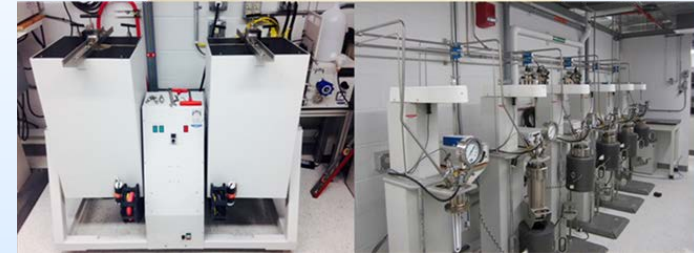
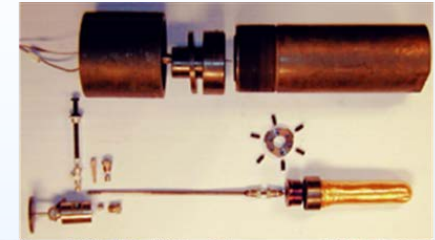
Duration: >12 hrs

24 samples/24 hours

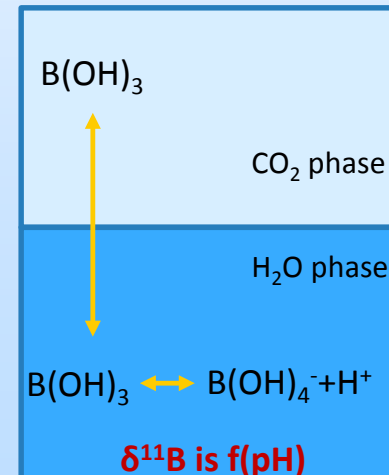
# B Isotopes: Lab Experimentation

## *Phase systems constraining $\delta^{11}\text{B}$ behavior*

- Hypotheses
  - Boron species partition between the  $\text{CO}_2$  and brine phase.
    - Boron isotope signals in groundwater/formation minerals may permanently record  $\text{CO}_2$  plume interaction.
    - $\delta^{11}\text{B}$  : a natural tracer of integrated long term leakage.
- Experimental Approach
  - Determine the pH, T, P behavior of boron isotope partitioning between  $\text{CO}_2$  and brine.
  - Rocking Autoclave
    - Sample each fluid phase
    - MC-ICPMS analysis of  $\delta^{11}\text{B}$



NETL - Albany High Pressure Lab



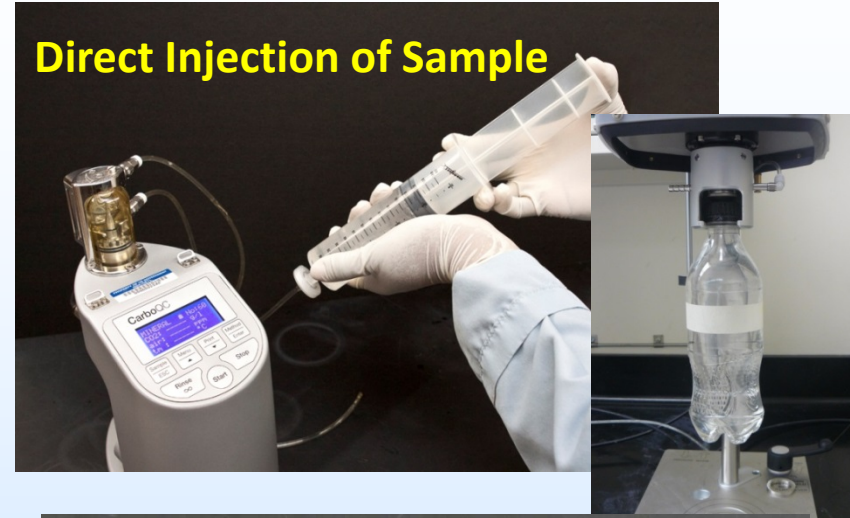
San Andres Fm.  
dolomite

## TECHNIQUES

### 1. CarboQC (CQC)– measure CO<sub>2</sub> via volumetric expansion

- Grab sampling (i.e. not continuous)
- Surface or shallow depth (~ 8 – 60 m) depth using a pump)
- Measurements directly in the field w/in 2 min. or analysis of sealed field samples in the lab

#### Direct Injection of Sample

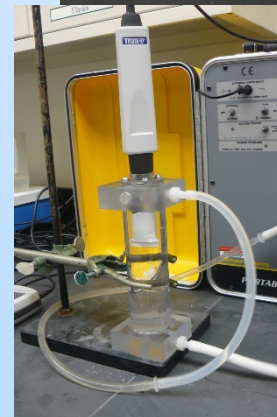


#### NDIR probe



### 2. NDIR – non-dispersive infrared real time analysis

- Continuous measurement
- Diffusion across membrane
- Flow-through system designed for pumped water
- Diffusion/pressure effects under investigation





# Direct Field CO<sub>2</sub> Measurements:

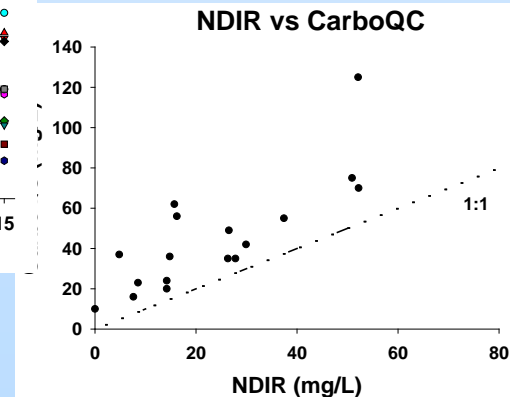
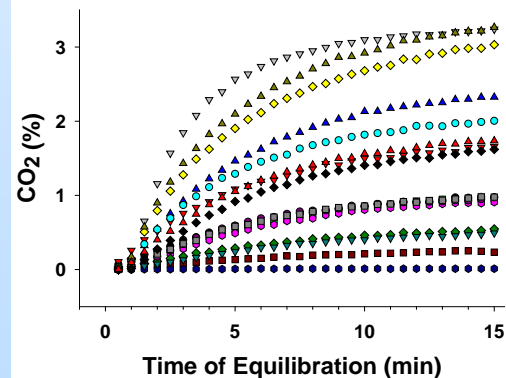
## Side-by-Side Comparison of Methods (NDIR vs CQC)

- CarboQC and NDIR methods: tested using pumped water from groundwater monitoring wells at the Illinois Basin – Decatur Project (IBDP), in collaboration with the Illinois State Geological Survey

- The CarboQC method was modified to allow direct in-line sampling of pumped water
- The NDIR sensor correlated well with dissolved CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in the lab and field, but required extended time (>15 min) for gas equilibration across the sensor membrane
- Occasional analytic disparities between the two methods occurred that may be related to water quality and are under investigation



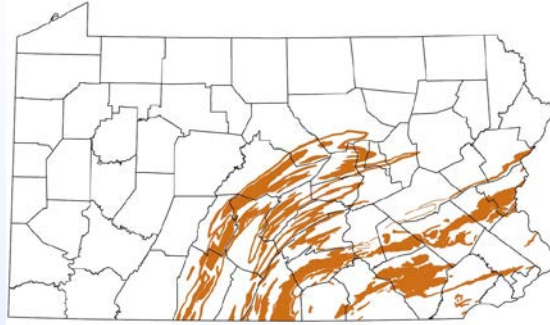
Vaisala Sensor - Decatur Samples



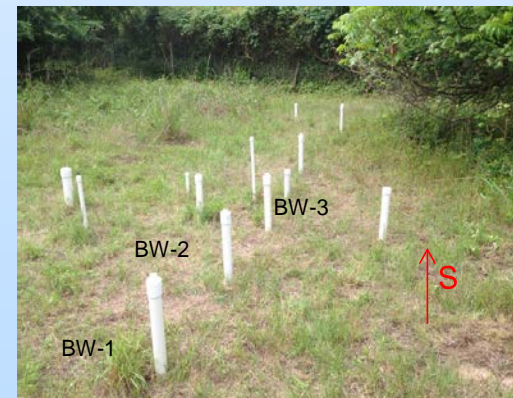
# Direct Field CO<sub>2</sub> Measurements:

## Upcoming Field Validation

Long-term monitoring of dissolved CO<sub>2</sub> as part of NSF karst groundwater hydrology study in central PA using NDIR sensors (w/Temple University and Bucknell University)



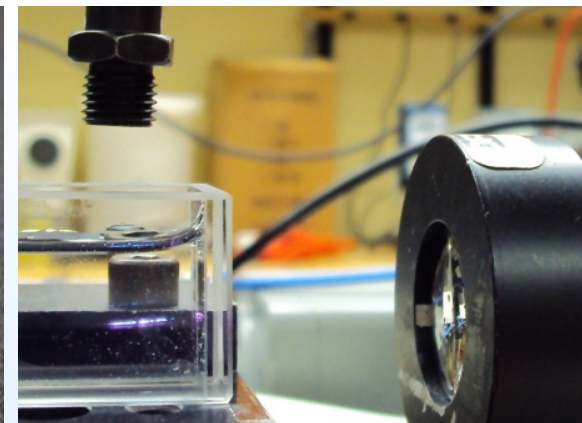
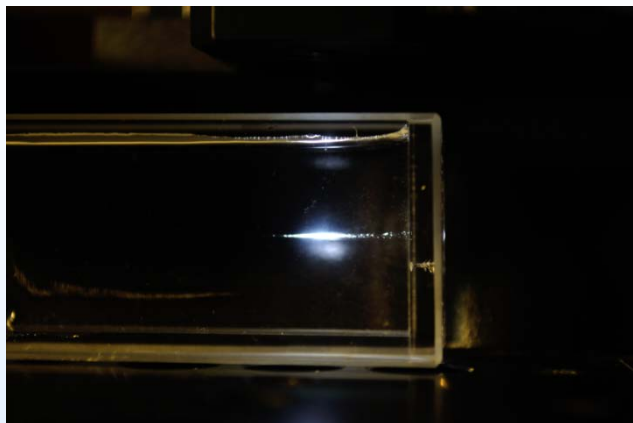
Side-by-side testing of CarboQC method, NDIR and fiber optic sensors during CO<sub>2</sub> pulse release tests in shallow groundwater wells at Brackenridge Field Laboratory, Austin, TX (w/UT)



*See more tomorrow at 12:30 pm – Edenborn*

# Groundwater Monitoring: LIBS

Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy



- **How** - Miniaturized laser technology produces sparks underwater, resulting atomic emission from sparks can be used to measure concentrations (ICP-MS). Probe can be placed down-hole for *in-situ measurements* of groundwater chemistry.
- **What** - Qualitative and Quantitative analysis of brine (Na, Li, Mg, Ca, K, Sr). Concentrations measured from the ppb and ppm range to the % range using synthetic brines in the lab. Measurements performed at elevated pressure (up to 4000psi) in carbonated brine
- **When** - Mark 1 prototype development underway. Atomic interferences and enhancements currently being studied. Anticipated time frame for initial field testing – end FY 2017



# LIBS Sensor:

## Miniaturization Update

### *Towards enabling downhole deployment of measurement optics*

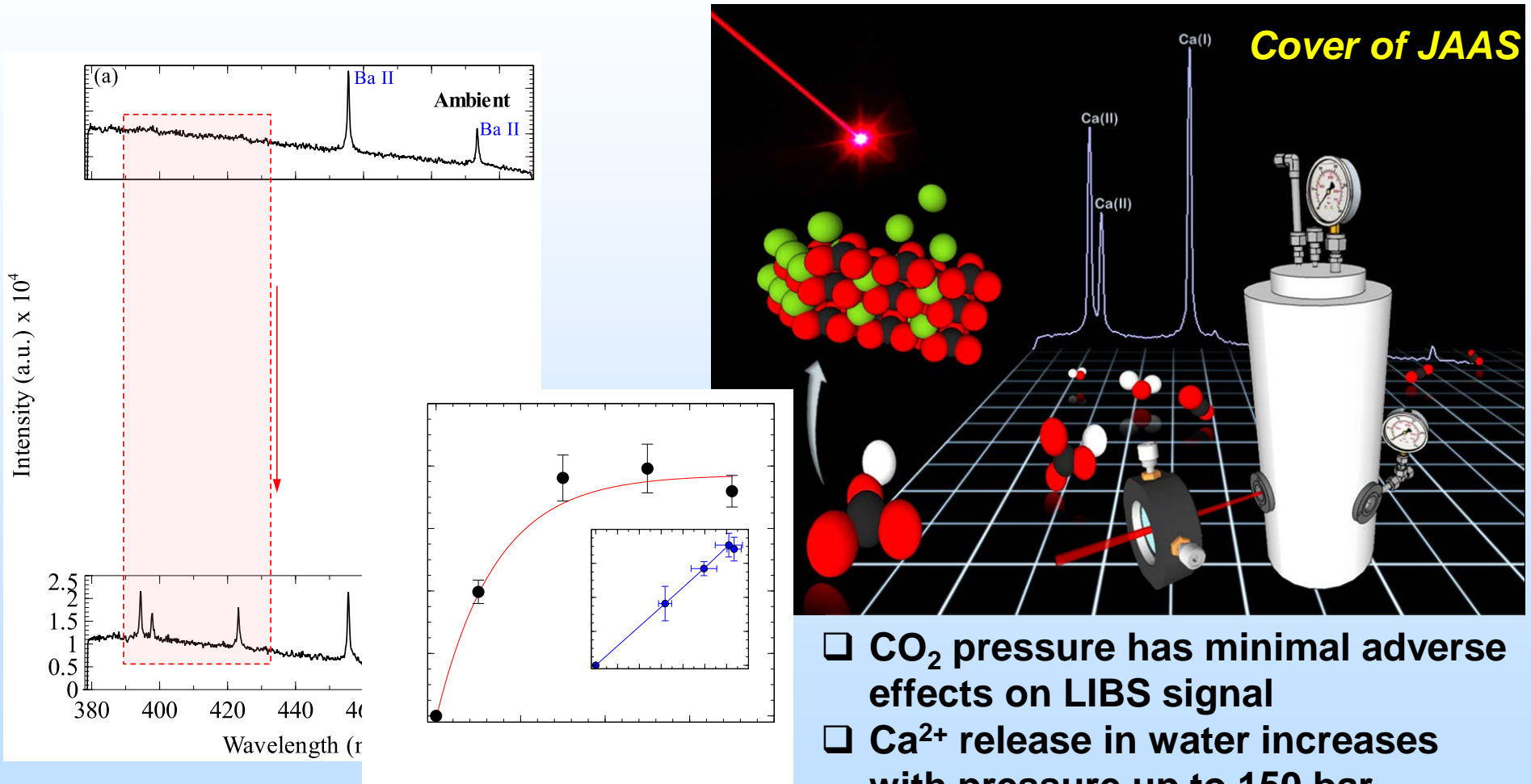
- Awarded DOE TCF (Technology Commercialization Fund)
- **Applied Spectra** as commercialization partner
- Supports further development toward the market
- Complete laboratory prototype construction and testing





# LIBS Sensor:

## Lab Testing – In-situ Dissolution Experiment



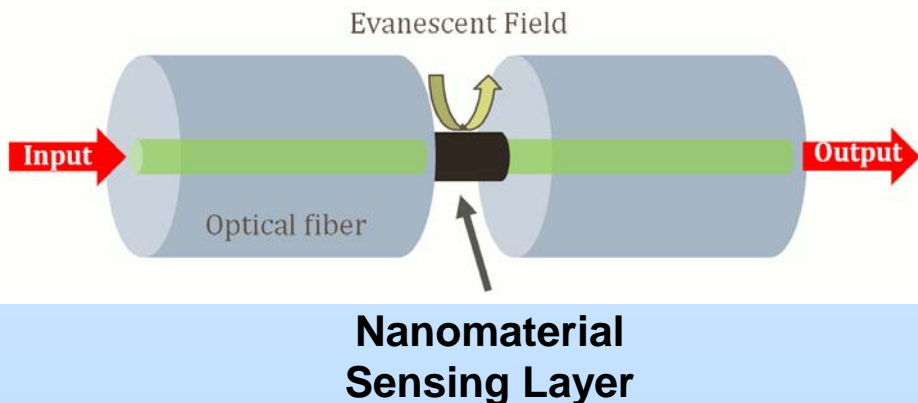
- CO<sub>2</sub> pressure has minimal adverse effects on LIBS signal
- Ca<sup>2+</sup> release in water increases with pressure up to 150 bar (measured in-situ)

# Groundwater Monitoring: Nanomaterial Enabled Fiber Optic Chemical Sensors

NETL RIC Optical Fiber Sensor Efforts are Targeted at Distributed Chemical Sensing for Environmental Monitoring

Leverage In-House Capabilities in *Functional Materials* and *Optical Sensing*

## Nanomaterial Enabled Chemical Sensing Devices



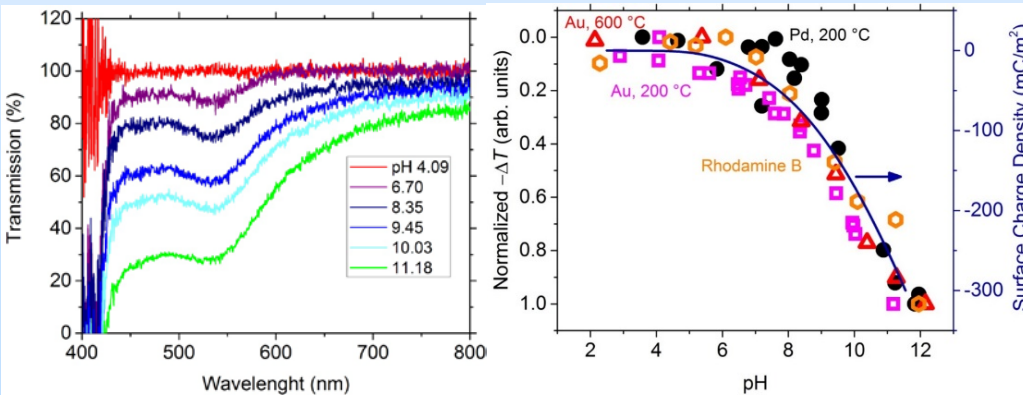
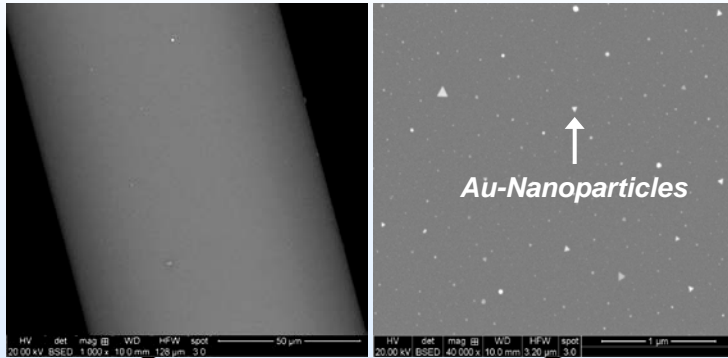
- Engineered Nanomaterials for Chemical Sensing Parameters of Interest
- Versatile and Can Be Applied to Any Environmental Parameters of Interest
- Examples: pH, CO<sub>2</sub>, and CH<sub>4</sub>

2 patents pending

# Groundwater Monitoring:

## Plasmonic Noble Metal Incorporated Silica Sensors for pH Monitoring in Harsh Environment Applications

### Nanoparticle Incorporated Sensing Layers for pH Sensing in Solution



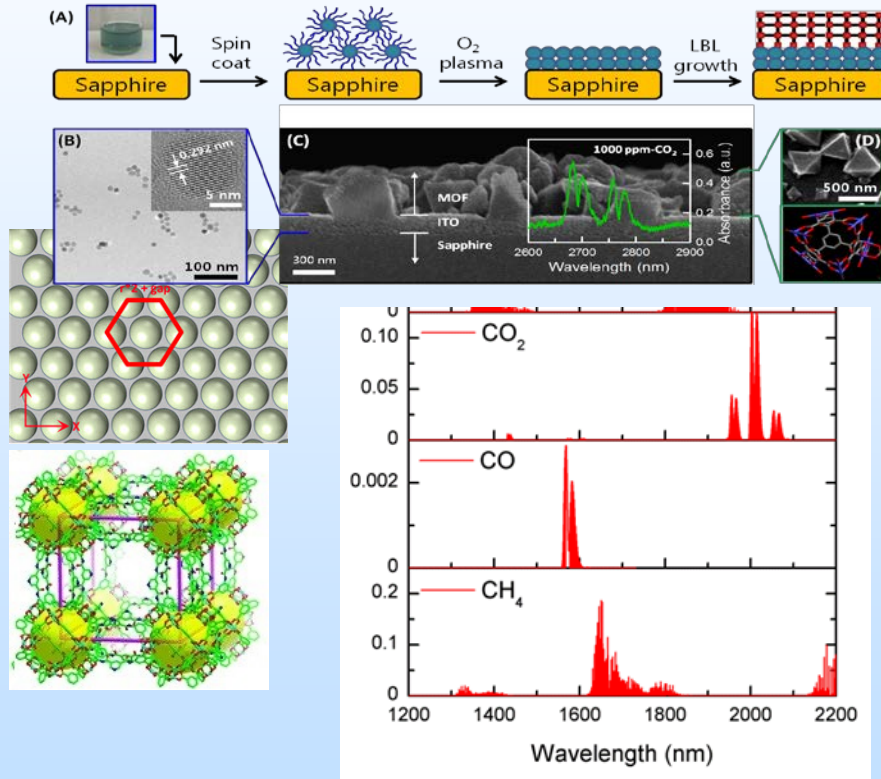
### Optical pH Response Associated with the Silica Surface Charging Behavior

### Metal Nanoparticle Based Optical Fiber Sensors:

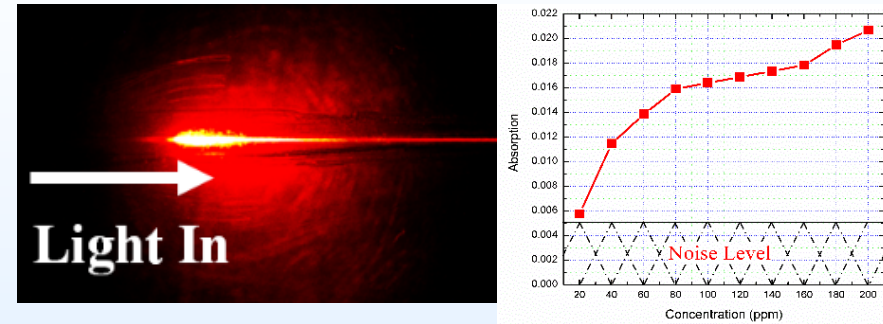
- Exploiting pH dependent surface charging of silica surfaces for refractive index changes
- Amplified or attenuated optical absorption by metallic nanoparticles
- Tunable pH response range and high temperature stability**

# Groundwater Monitoring: Plasmonics-Enhanced Metal-Organic Framework (MOF) Nanomaterials for Ultra-Sensitive CO<sub>2</sub> Detection

## Metal-organic framework (MOF) thin films integrated with optical fiber platform



Plasmonic nanoparticle integration with MOFs for enhanced near-IR gas detection.



## Plasmonics-Enhanced MOF materials:

- Designed and synthesized indium-tin-oxide (ITO) plasmonic nano-crystals embedded in MOF nanomaterials
- Ultra-sensitive CO<sub>2</sub> sensing at 2.8 μm wavelength with 1,000ppm sensitivity**

## MOF-based Optical Fiber Sensors:

- Developed NIR fiber-optic gas sensor based on MOF-coated fibers for CO<sub>2</sub> sensing**
- Detection limit 20 ppm to date**
- Ultra-short response time around ~10sec, and MOF enhancement factor > 500x
- Reversible response, and long term stability



# Key Accomplishments (FY2016)

---

- Team developed a methodology for high through-put Boron isotope measurements in complex sample matrices using novel sample prep techniques and the MC-ICPMS. (Complementing arsenal of Sr, Li, and U isotope methods)
- Team has used novel in-situ CO<sub>2</sub> field measurement techniques at surface conditions and has built flow-through cell allowing for little-to-no atmospheric contact to test waters directly from a well.
- Team has identified and eliminated interference (H<sub>2</sub>S) with measurements of CO<sub>2</sub> at EOR sites via volumetric techniques (CarboQC).

# Key Accomplishments (FY2016)

---

- In-situ LIBS lab measurements of Ca concentrations during controlled high P&T laboratory experiments of calcite dissolution (ppm levels)
- Lab investigations of interferences and enhancements in ground water LIBS sensing
- FOS lab measurements successfully show CO<sub>2</sub> detection in harsh environments
- Several classes of MOF based materials have been developed for sensitive CO<sub>2</sub> sensing in CO<sub>2</sub> storage applications through integration with the optical fiber sensor platform (with an invention disclosure pending).
- Publication of various journal papers, conference papers, and Patents

# Synergy Opportunities

---

- Compile data and results from different field sites throughout the country
  - Look for data trends between types of reservoir, storage conditions, etc.
- Deploy sensing tools and collection methods at different sites – collaboration & tool validation
  - IGS – Decatur, IL site
  - FY2017 – UT Austin
- Use real world experiences to help inform “best practices” for monitoring

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  - Doug Kauffman - Catalytic Conversion of CO<sub>2</sub> to Ind. Chem. And eval. Of CO<sub>2</sub> Use and Re-Use
  - Liwel Zhang - Numerical simulation of pressure and CO<sub>2</sub> saturation above an imperfect seal as a result of CO<sub>2</sub> injection: implications for CO<sub>2</sub> migration detection

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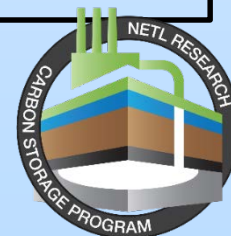
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<https://edx.netl.doe.gov/carbonstorage/>  
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<https://edx.netl.doe.gov/ucr/>





# Appendix

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# Organization Chart

|       |   |  |                                  |
|-------|---|--|----------------------------------|
| 8.1.1 | <b>Natural Geochemical Tracers in Groundwater (FY16)</b>  | Develop and demonstrate a protocol for the use of a combination of natural geochemical tracers (e.g., isotopic, trace elements, etc.) to monitor groundwater systems.  | Hakala, Phan, Stewart (Pitt)     |
| 8.1.2 | <b>Continuous CO<sub>2</sub> Monitoring Devices (FY16)</b>  | Understand the response and limitations of CO <sub>2</sub> monitoring devices (volumetric expansion and NDIR) relative to CO <sub>2</sub> detection, including in the context of potential interference by other constituents (e.g., H <sub>2</sub> S) | Edenborn, Vesper (WVU) , Jain    |
| 8.1.3 | <b>Development and Assessment of LIBS for Measurement of CO<sub>2</sub> Impacts in Groundwater (FY16)</b> | Develop and demonstrate LIBS as a tool to monitor chemical signals to groundwater that reflect potential impacts to groundwater resulting from the introduction of CO <sub>2</sub> and/or brine.   | McIntyre, Jain, Carson, Goueguel |
| 8.1.4 | <b>Fiber-Optic Technology for Downhole Measurement of Potential Groundwater Impacts (FY16)</b>            | Develop novel materials for and demonstrate FO-based tool(s) to monitor the introduction of CO <sub>2</sub> and/or brine into groundwater systems either by direct measurement of CO <sub>2</sub> or by other geochemical indicators such as pH        | Ohodnicki, Kim, Zhang, Chong     |

# Organization Chart (cont'd)

|                     |   |   |                             |
|---------------------|---|---|-----------------------------|
| <p><b>8.3.1</b></p> | <p><b>CO<sub>2</sub>-Water-Rock impacts on Groundwater Signals (FY16)</b></p> | <p>This activity is focused on experimental studies on samples from a variety of aquifer classes to identify expected behavior of geochemical signals in response to the introduction of CO<sub>2</sub> and/or brine, focusing on how the responses change based on aquifer class and what aquifer characteristics control the aquifer response. Indicators that will be investigated include inorganic and organic signals, mineralogy changes, and isotopic signatures.</p>   | <p>Lopano, Thomas, Phan</p> |
| <p><b>8.3.2</b></p> | <p><b>Microbiological Impacts and Responses (FY16)</b></p>                    | <p>Characterize the taxonomic and functional change of microbial community in CO<sub>2</sub> exposed environments. This activity will focus on obtaining relevant groundwater samples with either in situ or ex situ CO<sub>2</sub> exposure, and analyzing the metagenomics profile. Metagenomic analysis will focus on microbial stress response, as well as microbial processes that may affect reservoir behavior and water quality, such as metal and sulfur metabolism, acid production, and biofilm production..</p> | <p>Gulliver, Lipis</p>      |

# Gantt Chart

|  | Project Dates for each Task/Subtask |                   | FY16 |           |    |           |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------|------|-----------|----|-----------|
|  | Start                               | Finish            | Q1   | Q2        | Q3 | Q4        |
| <b>8. Methods for Monitoring Migration of CO2/Brine Plumes and Groundwater Impacts</b>                             | <b>10/01/2015</b>                   | <b>09/30/2019</b> |      | M1.16.8.A |    | M1.16.8.B |
| 8.1 Geochemical Monitoring Tools and Protocols for Groundwater Systems   | 10/01/2015                          | 09/30/2019        |      |           |    |           |
| 8.1.1 Natural geochemical tracers in groundwater   | 10/01/2015                          | 09/30/2016        | ←    | →         |    |           |
| 8.1.2 Continuous CO2 Monitoring Devices  | 10/01/2015                          | 09/30/2016        | ←    | →         |    |           |
| 8.1.3 Development and Assessment of LIBS for Measurement of CO2 Impacts in Groundwater                             | 10/01/2015                          | 09/30/2016        | ←    | →         |    |           |
| 8.1.4 Fiber-Optic Technology for Downhole Measurement of Potential Groundwater Impacts                             | 10/01/2015                          | 09/30/2016        | ←    | →         |    |           |
| 8.2 Forward Modeling of Remote Sensing/Geophysical Monitoring Tools  | 10/01/2015                          | 09/30/2018        |      |           |    |           |
| 8.2.1 Evaluation of Non-wellbore Based Methods to Determine the CO2: Brine Interface Location in Storage Reservoir | 10/01/2015                          | 09/30/2016        | ←    | →         |    |           |
| 8.2.2 Routine Surveillance to Detect CO2 or Brine Incursions into USDW   | 10/01/2015                          | 09/30/2016        | ←    | →         |    |           |
| 8.3 Fundamental Controls on Groundwater Composition  | 10/01/2015                          | 09/30/2018        |      |           |    |           |
| 8.3.1 CO2-Water-Rock impacts on groundwater signals  | 10/01/2015                          | 09/30/2016        | ←    | →         |    |           |
| 8.3.2 Microbiological impacts and responses  | 10/01/2015                          | 09/30/2016        | ←    | →         |    |           |
| <b>9. MVA Field Activities</b>   | <b>10/01/2015</b>                   | <b>09/30/2020</b> |      | M1.16.9.A |    | M1.16.9.B |
| 9.1 Groundwater monitoring - Field Testing and Signal Validation   | 10/01/2015                          | 09/30/2019        |      |           |    |           |
| 9.1.1 Field work planning and coordination   | 10/01/2015                          | 09/30/2016        | ←    | →         |    |           |
| 9.1.2 Comprehensive groundwater field testing  | 10/01/2015                          | 09/30/2016        | ←    | →         |    |           |
| 9.1.3 Field validation of direct CO2 sensors   | 10/01/2015                          | 09/30/2016        | ←    | →         |    |           |
| 9.1.4 Statistical Evaluation of Baseline Field Data  | 10/01/2015                          | 09/30/2016        | ←    | →         |    |           |
| 9.1.5 Forward modeling of geochemical leakage signals  | 10/01/2015                          | 09/30/2016        | ←    | →         |    |           |
| 9.2 Analytical Support for the SW Partnership Farnsworth Field Project   | 10/01/2015                          | 09/30/2018        |      |           |    |           |
| 9.2.1 PFT Analysis   | 10/01/2015                          | 09/30/2016        | ←    | →         |    |           |

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## Presentations

- Jain, J., Bol’shakov, A., Sanghapi, H., Lopano, C., McIntyre, D., Russo, R., “Determination of elemental composition of shale rocks by laser induced breakdown spectroscopy (LIBS),” SciX 2015, Providence, RI, Sept 27-Oct 2, 2015.
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- McIntyre, D., “Compact laser spectroscopy for downhole sensing applications,” TechConnect Innovation Conference, National Harbor, MD May 2016.
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- Edenborn, H.M., D.J. Vesper, J. Jain, A. Iranmanesh, B.T. Wimmer, and R.A. Locke. Comparison of CO<sub>2</sub> detection methods tested in shallow groundwater monitoring wells at a geological sequestration site. **2016 Midwest Carbon Sequestration Science Conference**, Champaign, IL, May 16-17, 2016.
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## Awards

- TechConnect Innovation Award "Compact Laser Spectroscopy for downhole sensing applications"