

Southwest Regional Partnership on Carbon Sequestration

Quarterly Progress Report

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Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
List of Figures and Tables.....	3
Executive Summary	5
TASK 1 Regional Characterization	5
Subtask 1.4 Regional Characterization Atlas.....	6
Subtask 1.4 Continued Assessment	6
TASK 2 Public Outreach and Education	7
Subtask 2.1 Outreach and Education	7
Subtask 2.2 Project Website	8
TASK 6 Operational Monitoring and Modeling.....	8
Subtask 6.1 Surface and Near-Surface Monitoring	8
Subtask 6.2 Subsurface Monitoring.....	13
Subtask 6.3 Seismic Activities.....	18
Subtask 6.4 Reservoir Modeling.....	20
Subtask 6.5 Risk Assessment.....	32
TASK 8 Project Management and Oversight	55
Cost Status.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Summary of Significant Accomplishments.....	67
Anticipated Delays	67
APPENDICES.....	67

List of Figures and Tables

Figure 1. Temperature gradient map of Oklahoma.....	6
Figure 2. Apparent thickness of the Arbuckle Group.....	7
Figure 3. A map view of the CO ₂ surface flux measurements locations.....	10
Figure 4. Results from CO ₂ soil flux collars planted at the Farnsworth Unit.....	14
Figure 5. (3D VSP) NRMS map for Baseline and Monitor migrated cubes, computed over the 5000-9000 ft. depth interval, with good repeatability.....	19
Figure 6. (Crosswell) 1306-1310A monitor composite image; a good match with well logs.....	20
Figure 7. Slim tube recovery curve after regression.....	23
Figure 8. Columns from left to right are; depth, formation name, gamma and caliper measurement, aligned next to core image, followed by sedimentary features and core description.....	26
Figure 9. 1:10000 scale of Well tops and Gamma Ray (GR) log for new wells drilled after 1/1/14.....	27
Figure 10. Geothermal gradients for 1D PSM models.....	29
Figure 11. Porosities for 1D PSM models.....	29
Figure 12. 2D interpretation for Killingsworth Well.....	30
Figure 13. Velocity model from Killingsworth well checkshot data.....	30
Figure 14. Porosity vs permeability, West Farnsworth Unit.....	31
Figure 15. Simulated aqueous CO ₂ concentration after 5200 years.....	33
Figure 16. Back-scattered electron image of a silt -bearing (carbonate, organic matter) clay-rich mudstone Well 13-10a, 7543.97 ft.....	41
Figure 17. Back-scattered electron image of silt-bearing (quartz, calcite, organic matter) clay-rich mudstone. Well 13-10a, 7632.6 ft.....	42
Figure 18. Core photographs showing variable geometry of limestones in the Thirteen Finger Limestone.....	43
Figure 19. CO ₂ columns heights (i.e., sealing capacity) versus depth. Black horizontal lines indicate formation or member contacts.....	44
Figure 20. Well 13-10A Heterogeneous Rock Analysis Log showing color by rock unit and depth (by Terra Tek).....	45
Figure 21. Upper hemisphere equal area stereoplots of fracture planes (left) and strike rose diagrams (right) of all natural fracture observations in Well 32-8.....	47
Figure 22. Map view showing the faults within the Farnsworth Unit (outlined in blue) at the Morrow level.....	48
Table 1. CO ₂ Surface Flux Data.....	10
Table 2. Metric Tons of CO ₂ Stored at FWU.....	15
Table 3. Water Sample Analyses, July 2015.....	16

Table 4. Reservoir Fluid Composition for the FWU	21
Table 5. Comparison Between Calculated and Observed Values of Some Properties for Differential Vaporization Experiment (Before Regression).....	22
Table 6. Comparison Between Calculated and Observed Values of Some of the Properties	23
Table 7. Project Budget and Expenditures for the Quarter July 1–September 30, 2015	62
Table 8. Milestone Plan Status (Quarters of Federal Fiscal Year)	63

Executive Summary

Task 1–Regional Characterization: researchers completed and upgraded the Arbuckle bottomhole temperature database and compiled a detailed temperature gradient map of Oklahoma, as well as a state-wide Arbuckle thickness map.

Task 2–Public Outreach and Education: researchers continued daily monitoring of website contact email for the Partner website, to work on the MVA database for Partnership-wide access, and to refine SWP-Velo, the collaborative research software.

Task 6–Operational Monitoring and Modeling: Work progressed in several areas: in *6.1 Surface and near-surface:* Gravity measurements were taken at the Farnsworth Site and researchers maintained the gravimeter and the self-potential monitoring system; data were downloaded from five seismometers and gravity data was analyzed throughout the quarter. In *6.2 Subsurface:* CO₂ flux measurements were taken and monitors were placed adjacent to nearby wells to evaluate potential release associated with wellbores. The project team took delivery of the second combined CO₂/CH₄ eddy flux system for the FWU. The Picarro eddy flux system installed in the 13-10A data shed was shut down early in the quarter (July 2015) due to the overheating problems. Researchers continued to refine the MVA database, incorporating additional data gathered over the quarter, including the vapor-phase tracer data. Water samples were collected in July and analyzed. Work continued on sampling and analysis following the initial vapor-phase tracer injection at the FWU in the previous quarter, finding that none of the water-phase tracers injected in May had yet reached production wells. Researchers and field operator identified well 1313 for injection of vapor-phase and well 14-1 for water-phase tracers in the next round of tracer injection. Researchers conducted a study to see if Morrow sandstone is typical of sandstone formations in other southwestern basins of the US. In *6.3 Seismic:* No seismic activities were conducted in the field for the period July–September 2015. Data processing continued, with the 3D VSP processing completed at the end of the quarter. Researchers continued to study the key potential geomechanical processes in the Morrow sandstone formation and the associated effects on the CO₂ capacity and injectivity. In *6.4 Reservoir Modeling:* researchers matched laboratory PVT data for a FWU reservoir fluid sample. They also worked on core description, incorporating and aligning core measurements with log measurements and creating a master well top list for FWU wells. Substantial progress was made constructing and simulating two 1D petroleum system models (PSM) at Farnsworth and Booker field. Researchers worked on correlation between porosity and permeability through the Farnsworth unit to predict permeability and progressed on reactive transport simulations with TOUGHREACT. The project team also worked on simulations for optimal production times. In *6.5 Risk Assessment,* two reports were completed: the draft caprock analysis and the second comprehensive risk assessment exercise for the FWU. Researchers continued risk assessment efforts using the Polynomial chaos expansion (PCE) approach for CO₂ sequestration and oil recovery with the CMG-GEM simulator. They also worked on STOMP-EOR fixing bug reports and implementing strategies for improving computational efficiency. Work also progressed on post-processes of Monte Carlo simulations of CO₂-EOR in a 5-Spot pattern and analysis of FEPS.

Task 8–Project Management: The most significant event of the quarter was the retirement of Dr. Reid Grigg, NMT Co-PI for the SWP, in August. Dr. Robert Balch is replacing Dr. Grigg as Co-PI. SWP also began the process of creating an advisory board to help promote and improve SWP activities. The PIs tentatively scheduled the annual SWP Partnership Meeting for December 2–4, 2015, at the University of Utah. In mid-August, PIs successfully presented the SWP Project at the annual DOE/NETL meeting.