

Carbon Sequestration leadership forum

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TECHNICAL GROUP

Status Report from Risk Assessment Task Force

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STATUS REPORT FROM RISK ASSESSMENT TASK FORCE

Note by the Secretariat

Background

The CSLF Risk Assessment Task Force was formed at the November 2006 Technical Group meeting in London, United Kingdom. Since then it has completed its Phase I activities and Phase II activities are underway. This document is a status report from the Risk Assessment Task Force, which will present a summary of its activities and accomplishments at the October 2010 Technical Group meeting in Warsaw, Poland.

Action Requested

The Technical Group is requested to review the status report from the Risk Assessment Task Force.

Status Report from Risk Assessment Task Force

The CSLF Technical Group's Risk Assessment Task Force (RATF) has now completed its Phase I activities, which centered on examination of risk-assessment standards, procedures, and research activities relevant to unique risks associated with the injection and long-term storage of CO₂. Risks associated with CO₂ near-term injection processes include predicting the stress state of the reservoir, while risks associated with long-term processes related to impacts of CO₂ storage include health, safety, and environmental risks, potential impact on natural resources (such as groundwater, mineral resources, etc.), and return of CO₂ to the atmosphere. The RATF's Phase I Report is online at the CSLF website.

One of the RATF's recommendations from its Phase I work was that risk assessment should be considered in the context of stakeholder outreach and communication. To that end, the CSLF Policy Group's Communications Task Force has set up a working group focused on risk assessment, and that working group has prepared a set of five "InFocus Carbon Capture and Storage" outreach documents, intended for posting at the CSLF website, that provide information about the safety of CCS to a non-technical audience. These five documents were reviewed and approved by the RATF prior to their publication. The RATF also suggested that the Communications Task Force consider preparing an additional "InFocus" document to clarify the distinction between geologic storage and natural CO₂ leakage scenarios, including Lake Nyos in Cameroon; in response, the Communications Task Force has indicated it will develop this document at a later date, if needed.

RATF Phase II activities, authorized by the Technical Group at the London Ministerial meeting, will include a gap assessment to identify CCS-specific tools and methodologies that will be needed to support risk assessment, and a feasibility assessment of developing general technical guidelines for risk assessment that could be adapted to specific sites and local needs. The RATF intends to leverage its activities with those of the IEA GHG Risk Assessment Network to facilitate the completion of these two assessments.