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Contact: Chuck McDonald  
512-708-8655

**TEXAS PLANS REGIONAL APPROACH ON FUTUREGEN BID**  
*Southern States Energy Board Briefed on Benefits of Power Plant of Future*

GREENSBORO, Georgia – The Texas proposal to host FutureGen, the prototype power plant of the future, should be regional in scope, according to Michael L. Williams, chairman of the Governor Rick Perry’s Clean Coal Technology Council of Texas. Williams is a statewide elected official, serving as Commissioner of the Railroad Commission of Texas – the state agency that regulates the energy sector in Texas.

“FutureGen is a fantastic opportunity and our ideal is a regional partnership for the region. We believe the regional partnership model developed under the leadership of the Southern States Energy Board is the best approach for research collaboration on this project,” Williams said today at SSEB’s annual meeting here.

Texas has taken several steps to develop its FutureGen bid, Williams said, including:

- Legislative approval of statutes that will streamline the FutureGen permitting process.
- Retaining the Bureau of Economic Geology (BEG) to put together the state’s technical bid.
- Review of existing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) sequestration efforts in the state, specifically the successful Frio Brine Project near Houston.

The \$1 billion FutureGen project is designed to create the world’s first near zero emissions, fossil-fuel power plant.

Envisioned as both a power plant and research laboratory, FutureGen will generate electricity, produce hydrogen, and capture and store CO<sub>2</sub>. The hydrogen can be used to produce power or sold to refineries and chemical plants. The sequestered CO<sub>2</sub> can be stored in geologic formations and/or used for enhance oil recovery (EOR).

Williams pointed out the importance to the region of a Texas FutureGen location, saying the region:

- Is rich with saline formations capable of long-term, CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration;
- Has the potential for recovering an additional 8.5 billion barrels of oil with CO<sub>2</sub>-enhanced oil recovery;
- And, the refineries and chemical companies offer a ready market for FutureGen co-products.

(more)

“We intend to site FutureGen in a location that is the most advantageous to the region and the country. Texas has worked successfully with SSEB and we will continue to do so in our pursuit of FutureGen,” Williams said.

Benefits to the region include:

- Deployment of FutureGen-like facilities throughout the region.
- Ability to use affordable, abundant coal supplies to meet growing electricity demand in an environmentally responsible manner.

“The true measure of success for FutureGen will be the rapid deployment of FutureGen-like facilities throughout surrounding states,” Williams said. Extensive analysis demonstrates that the deeper reservoirs, characteristic of the region, including oil reservoirs, offer one of the most effective CO<sub>2</sub> storage and sequestration options available.

Williams said oil reservoirs are ideal for near-term CO<sub>2</sub> storage because they provide economic incentive in terms of EOR, their sealing ability is proven, applicable regulatory standards are in place, and associated infrastructure exists. Additionally, these oil reservoirs are “stacked” with saline formations with tremendous storage capacity.

For instance, the Texas and greater Gulf Coast region have the capacity to store more than 200 gigatons (200 billion tons) of CO<sub>2</sub> in brine aquifers, Williams said, adding the United States emits about 6 gigatons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually.

“We are looking to academic, energy and research expertise as we form a comprehensive FutureGen plan that highlights the EOR and geology available in the region,” Williams said.

“For example, BEG has extensive and ongoing regional partnerships in place. They have worked with every state represented in SSEB and the Southeast Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership. We will continue to work with the Southwest and Southeast regional partnerships, their member states and their research institutions in this effort as well,” he said.

BEG is actively testing and demonstrating the ability to store CO<sub>2</sub> in deep, saltwater brines near Houston, and initial results from the Frio Brine Project indicate brine storage is a viable option. Phase I has been successfully completed and Phase II begins this October.

Williams also pointed to Texas’ participation in the Gulf Coast Carbon Center as another example of a regional partnership that will make the FutureGen bid more attractive.

“The Gulf Coast Carbon Center is focusing on linking sources of captured CO<sub>2</sub> – such as those FutureGen will produce - with oil reservoirs in Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and the Florida Panhandle to provide a method to make large-scale, CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration economically viable,” Williams said.

“Texas is proud to be part of SECARB’s carbon sequestration project and we want to bring home the gold ring for this region by hosting FutureGen. But we need the help of all interested parties in this region and we welcome their participation in this historic effort,” he said.

FutureGen Texas is a collaborative effort led by Williams who chairs the Governor’s Clean Coal Technology Council and Scott W. Tinker, Director of the Bureau of Economic Geology and State Geologist.