

NOGS External Affairs Committee Report March 2014 by Mike Fogarty

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A hierarchical approach to architectural classification in marginal-marine systems: Bridging the gap between sedimentology and sequence stratigraphy - See more at:

<http://www.aapg.org/#sthash.xHh0sXfn.dpuf>

<http://1.usa.gov/1klYt0K>

Technology to Achieve EPA Power Plant Rule Not Ready

MAR 12, 2014

Washington, D.C. – The Subcommittees on Environment and Energy today held a joint hearing to explore the basis for the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) conclusion that carbon capture and storage (CCS) systems are adequately demonstrated as a technology for controlling carbon dioxide emissions in full-scale commercial power plants under EPA’s New Source Performance Standards (NSPS).

Environment Subcommittee Chairman David Schweikert (R-Ariz.): “My colleagues and I received testimony from a variety of professionals in the energy field on the EPA’s NSPS proposal, which revealed an immature mandate request for utility companies, based on flimsy scientific data, and oversight without legitimate, existing infrastructure for our energy production. These requirements of CCS storage for power plants are so expensive and unavailable, witness David Hawkins, the Director of Climate Programs for the Natural Resources Defense Council admitted they would not be adopted without regulation. Until these technologies are proven to be commercially available for our utilities companies without risks of harm to the storage location of carbon dioxide, our cities’ power suppliers will be left with very little options for compliance and freedom to grow their businesses.”

The Clean Air Act (CAA) established a unique technology-based mechanism for controlling emissions from stationary sources. EPA has the authority to reduce emissions through the CAA only if reductions are achievable through demonstrated technology —after considering non-air environmental impacts and economic costs. In order for new power plants to achieve reductions under EPA’s NSPS, they would need to use CCS technology. That means that EPA had to define CCS technology as “adequately demonstrated,” even though this technology has never been used to scale in a single existing power plant. Technical experts testified today that CCS is not ready for use in either coal or natural gas fired power plants. They also highlighted the significant challenges associated with long-term geologic sequestration of carbon dioxide.

Energy Subcommittee Chairman Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.): “The EPA is ignoring the consequences of their rulemaking to instead set a legal precedent for mandating unproven technologies. This is a policy of picking winners and losers through environmental regulations. New natural gas fired units, boilers and heaters and existing plant standards are next. We need to see an all-of-the-above energy policy, not one based purely on politics.”

The following witnesses testified today before the Subcommittees:

Panel 1

David Hawkins, Director of Climate Change Programs, Natural Resources Defense Council
Robert G. Hilton, Vice President, Power Technologies for Government Affairs, Alstom Power Inc.
Robert C. Trautz, Senior Technical Leader, Electric Power Research Institute
Scott Miller, General Manager and CEO, City Utilities of Springfield Missouri, American Public Power Association

Panel 2

Janet McCabe, Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

For additional information on the hearing, including witness testimony, please visit the Science, Space, and Technology Committee [website](#).

[tp://bit.ly/1g8FSjE](http://bit.ly/1g8FSjE).

Registration discounts still available, book today APPEX Global 2014, London

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After 13 successful years APPEX, the Prospect and Property Expo, has brought together principals, senior managers, business developers and new venture managers for an unmatched opportunity to network and do business with NOCs, governments, and global E&P deal-makers and decision-makers.

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[APPEX 2012 Video](#)

You may have seen a camera crew running around during the 2012 APPEX at the Business Design Centre in London. AAPG Europe are excited to show you the finished video showcasing this year's highlights.

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SPE News

[Nominees Announced for 2015 SPE Board](#)

Nathan Meehan, senior executive advisor to Baker Hughes, is the nominee for 2016 SPE president. He and nine others make up the slate of Board nominees recommended for positions open on the SPE Board of Directors.

[Nominations Open for the Distinguished Lecturer Program](#)

Do you know someone who is an authority in their field and an experienced public speaker? If so, nominate them for the SPE Distinguished Lecturer Program. The nominations deadline is 15 March.

[SPE Honors Professors for Teaching, Recruiting](#)

SPE has honored several university professors for their excellence in teaching as well as their efforts to recruit faculty and students to petroleum engineering schools.

In Search of a Simple Fracability Rating

For those in shale exploration, “fracability” is real word, a critical property, and a point of contention. Fracability has entered the vocabulary of exploration because it is critical for exploration to know if rocks will produce when hydraulic force is applied. It can be a divisive concept, in part because there are a lot of ways to determine fracability, with dueling test methods and multiple equations offered by experts in petrophysics and geomechanics.

A University of Oklahoma team is trying to bridge that gap using widely available information on the makeup of rocks and their properties to generate a fracability rating. It is a difficult challenge because they need to consider a lot in one number, from petrophysical properties, such as the presence of brittle minerals, to geomechanical ones, such as the toughness of the rock.

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Call for Papers Deadline Approaching Submit your abstract for presentation consideration by 4 April.

EVENTS

MAR

14 8th SEG Sooner Challenge Bowl



GSH and SEG honor Hilterman

The GSH and SEG honor Dr. Fred Hilterman at the 2014 GSH-SEG Spring Symposium, *Rock Physics, Well Log Properties, and Seismic Amplitudes*, on 11-12 March. [Read more...](#)

APR

21 CPS/SEG 2014 Conference: Advancing Geophysical Innovation...



MAY

12 SEG Continuing Education Courses

2014 DISC to visit over 25 locations worldwide

This one-day short course on *Microseismic Imaging of Hydraulic Fracturing: Improved Engineering of Unconventional Shale Reservoirs* will be presented by Shawn Maxwell. [Read more...](#)

18 SEG/ExxonMobil Student Education Program

JUN

29 SEG D&P Forum: Reservoir Characterization and Monitoring...

[Events Calendar](#)



Attend the 2nd annual AGSC in Kumasi, Ghana on 18-20 May 2014

Have you undertaken research in geosciences lately? Send in your abstract for an oral or poster presentation during this conference! Travel grants are also available for qualifying students! [Read more...](#)

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