

Climate action and renewable energy package

Enabling legal framework for carbon capture and storage

Jos Delbeke Deputy Director-General Directorate-General Environment European Commission

Climate Action Energy for a Changing World

Identifying the key issues

Preparatory discussions

- ECCP Working Group III on CCS
- Internet consultation (787 responses)
- Stakeholder meetings (8 May 2007)

Key issues raised

- Purity of the CO2 stream
- Whether to make CCS mandatory
- Liability for leakage, particularly where credit is given for stored emissions under the ETS
- Need for dialogue & information sharing
- Support for a European enabling framework and demonstration programme



Main concerns addressed in the enabling legal and regulatory framework

- Environmental security of CCS
- Liability and long-term stewardship
- Removing barriers
- Providing incentives
- Enabling versus mandating



Environmental security

- Principles
 - Use existing frameworks where possible
 - Treat similarly to activities of similar risk
- Capture and transport
 - Capture regulated by the IPPC Directive
 - Transport regulated as for natural gas transport (by Environmental Impact Assessment Directive and at Member State level)
- Novel element is CO2 storage, main focus of proposed Directive

Climate Action Energy for a Changing World

Environmental security of storage sites

- Site location
 - Member States have sole right to decide which areas in their territory to make available
 - Where exploration allowed, standard non-discrimination provisions apply
- Site selection
 - Integrity of project depends crucially on the initial choice
 - Criteria are established for prior assessment of the site
 - Condition of use is that the assessment shows that under the proposed conditions of use, there is no significant risk of leakage or impacts on human health or the environment.



What modelling can achieve

Modelling of the behaviour of CO2 in the Sleipner storage site showing that trapping mechanisms are expected to make storage progressively more secure with time





Monitoring and permit review

- Monitoring plan to confirm expected behaviour of CO2 in site and detect leakage
- Monitoring plan integrated with monitoring and reporting guidelines under EU-ETS in order to quantify any leaked emissions (currently under preparation; proposal expected end 2008)
- Commission may review the permits but final decision on permitting remains with competent authority



Liability and long-term stewardship

- Liability measures in case sites do leak
 - Competent authority immediately notified and corrective measures taken
 - Environmental Liability Directive applies for any local damage
 - ETS allowances must be surrendered for any leakage
 - Financial provision for future liabilities
- Transfer of responsibility to the state under clear conditions to avoid distortion of competition
 - The site must be safely closed and sealed
 - While site represents a significant risk it remains the operator's responsibility
 - Transfers to the state when all available evidence indicates complete containment of CO2 for the indefinite future



Removal of barriers to CCS deployment

- Water Framework Directive amended to allow CO2 storage in saline aquifers
 - Same environmental conditions as for natural gas
- Waste legislation adapted to remove from scope CO2 transported and stored in accordance with this framework



Incentivisation and market measures

- Under the ETS:
 - CO2 captured, transported and safely stored considered as not emitted
 - No allocation to capture, transport and storage
 - ETS allowances must be surrendered for any leakage
 - Monitoring and reporting guidelines under preparation.
- ETS auctioning revenues major potential source of funding for CCS demonstration
- Measures to ensure a fair market in transport and storage
 - Principle is fair and open access to transport and storage
 - Embryonic market so light touch appropriate
 - Member States to determine modalities, and can limit access in certain cases

Climate Action Energy for a Changing World

Enabling versus mandating CCS

- Enabling
 - Member States determine whether and where CCS will happen
 - Companies decide whether to use CCS on the basis of conditions in the carbon market
- Capture-ready assessment required to avoid lock-in of high-emissions technology
- No mandatory CCS at this stage:
 - Let the market work: The revised ETS will ensure a robust carbon price and action on demonstration will bring CCS costs down



Contribution of CCS to climate goals

- Some impact already in 2020 but major contribution comes after that.
- In 2030:
 - A 32% reduction in 2030 would be €60bn (40%) more expensive without CCS
 - Carbon price in 2030 would be 46% higher than would otherwise be the case



Summary

- Clear enabling legal framework that can serve as an international model on risk management, liability, long-term stewardship and other management issues
- Market-driven deployment
- Impact assessment evidence shows that CCS can make a substantial contribution towards reducing the cost of major CO2 reductions.
- Substantial finance available from ETS auctioning revenues, including for CCS demonstration

