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4th ANNUAL TXCCSA CONFERENCE EXPLORES FUTURE OF CARBON POLICY IN TEXAS

EPA rules on CO₂, new projects, and business opportunities focus of Feb. 8 event

AUSTIN, Texas (February 4, 2011) – Changing attitudes about CO_2 and new opportunities for Texas will likely shape the discussion at this year's annual conference, sponsored by the Texas Carbon Capture and Storage Association (TxCCSA). This year's event, "The Future of Texas CCS—2011 and Beyond," marks the fourth year TxCCSA has hosted the program in conjunction with the University of Texas at Austin's Continuing Legal Education program (UTCLE).

"Texas is poised to become the leader in the worldwide deployment of carbon capture and storage technology," said General Counsel Darrick Eugene. "The developments we have witnessed in the past three months alone have pushed us into the global spotlight."

Carbon capture and storage technology (CCS) is the process by which carbon dioxide can be permanently stored underground. CO_2 is a valuable commodity in Texas through its use in enhanced oil recovery (EOR) operations. EOR currently accounts for more than 15 percent of the state's present oil production and could yield billions of additional barrels from stranded oil reserves.

Last month, TxCCSA member Denbury Resources announced it will begin CO_2 -EOR operations on the historic Hastings field south of Houston, thanks to the near-completion of Denbury's interstate Green Pipeline Project. In December, TxCCSA member Tenaska received air permits from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to proceed on its commercial-scale Trailblazer Energy Center near Sweetwater. The Trailblazer facility would capture 85-90 percent of its carbon emissions and provide that CO_2 for EOR operations in the Permian Basin.

Tuesday's conference will begin with a keynote address by Railroad Commissioner Michael L. Williams, one of the most vocal CCS proponents in Texas.

EPA Region 6 coordinator Patrick Kelly will discuss new federal regulations regarding CO₂.

TxCCSA is also pleased to host a distinguished legislative panel, composed of State Reps. Warren Chisum, Myra Crownover, and Mark Strama.

A complete lineup is available at: <u>http://www.utcle.org/conference_overview.php?conferenceid=977</u>

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The Texas Carbon Capture and Storage Association (TxCCSA) is a privately-funded 501(c)(6) organization committed to promoting energy security and environmental benefits through the advancement of carbon capture and storage in Texas.