



SEVENTEENTH SPE IMPROVED OIL RECOVERY SYMPOSIUM



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RENAISSANCE HOTEL
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2010 Tulsa Symposium Spotlights Technology to Recover More Oil While Storing Greenhouse Gases

TULSA – What if there were a way to safely store man-made greenhouse gas emissions while at the same time reduce dependence on imported oil?

In fact, such technology exists. It's called carbon capture and sequestration with carbon dioxide (CO₂) enhanced oil recovery (EOR). The technology has been deployed in oil fields, both in pilot demonstration and commercial projects. And it's garnering more attention these days as new government constraints on emissions of CO₂—the main greenhouse gas—are widely expected in response to climate change concerns.

CO₂ EOR has been implemented in the U.S. for decades. It now accounts for about five percent of America's oil production. The oil industry's experience with CO₂ injection and monitoring is being increasingly scrutinized by scientists worldwide for a solution to permanently and safely store the greenhouse gas.

Injecting the CO₂ into an aging oil field renders bypassed oil more mobile and sweeps the oil toward producing wells, increasing the field's production and ultimate recovery of oil. For the most part, that CO₂ is naturally sourced. But in an emerging trend, emissions of CO₂ are being captured from industrial facilities and being injected into oil and natural gas fields, notably in CO₂ EOR projects.

This win-win solution has been endorsed by U.S. President Barack Obama, who as a candidate called for incentives for industrial CO₂ emitters "to send their CO₂ to old oil fields for EOR, thereby providing economic benefits while also stimulating additional domestic oil and gas production."

Advances in CO₂ EOR coupled with carbon sequestration will be among the technical topics covered in presentations and classes at the *17th Improved Oil Recovery Symposium*, the world's largest gathering of petroleum industry experts on improved oil recovery (or IOR, an umbrella term that encompasses EOR). Sponsored by the Mid-Continent Section of the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE), *IOR 2010* will be held April 24-28, 2010, at the Renaissance Hotel & Convention Center in Tulsa, Okla.

Petroleum scientists from dozens of countries will gather at *IOR 2010* to learn and share knowledge about the latest technologies and techniques for improving recovery of oil. Also expected to attend are private and state-owned oil producing companies, oil field service and supply companies, policymakers, regulators, investment analysts, faculty, and students.

The 2010 symposium's theme, "Today's Technology for Tomorrow's Energy," reflects the past accomplishments, current strides, and future directions that continue to move ideas from the research labs to the field, according to *IOR 2010* Chairman Dwight Rychel, PhD.

The symposium features a comprehensive technical program packed with a wide range of paper presentations and poster sessions that represent the frontiers of research and technology in IOR and EOR. As many as 1,000 specialists in this burgeoning field are expected to attend the conference.

The 2010 edition of the biennial symposium will underscore the critical role of technology for an increasingly important source of new oil reserves and production, said Dr. Rychel.

"As worldwide demand for oil grows and new discoveries become more challenging technically and economically, the leading-edge IOR technologies presented at this conference will be increasingly applied on a global scale," he said.

Rychel cites as evidence of the international interest in new developments the fact that delegates from 35 countries attended and presented papers at the 2008 SPE IOR Symposium.

"The global potential is enormous, and the technologies presented at this conference—many of which came to maturity in U.S. applications—will help unlock worldwide reserves as they too mature," he said.

In the U.S., all EOR processes combined account for 12% of the nation's oil production. According to the latest *Oil & Gas Journal* EOR Survey, there are more than 230 producing fields in North America undergoing various EOR techniques, Rychel noted.

"This represents a significant and growing portion of North American oil production," he added. "An additional 126 EOR projects are listed as ongoing in South America, Europe, and Asia. And in spite of today's price volatility, 32 new projects are planned worldwide. Plus, there are the widespread opportunities that everyone knows will arise as the carbon capture and sequestration movement matures."

Under the broader term of IOR, which can include special drilling and well stimulation techniques to boost reserves recovery, there is scarcely an oil field in the world untouched by IOR applications at some point.

Program details

Rychel, a veteran petroleum engineering consultant and former University of Tulsa adjunct associate professor, promises a dynamic plenary session keynoted by top industry figures. Thus far, tentatively confirmed to deliver plenary presentations are Dr. Behrooz Fattahi, 2010 SPE president, and Bob Tippee, editor of the *Oil & Gas Journal*. In addition, Dr. Scott Tinker, director of the Bureau of Economic Geology at the University of Texas, is tentatively scheduled to deliver a luncheon address at the symposium on April 26, 2010.

A strong technical program is expected to draw more than 100 papers and poster presentations. A call for papers is expected to be issued this June.

In addition, an extensive roster of short courses in IOR/EOR, taught by a group of experts renowned in the field, is on tap for the weekend preceding *IOR 2010*'s main program.

Exhibitors are expected to again flock to sign up for space at *IOR 2010* to demonstrate some of the latest cutting-edge technologies related to IOR and EOR. All 42 exhibit booth spaces were sold for the 2008 symposium.

Events

There will be ample opportunity to mingle and network with colleagues at *IOR 2010*'s social events and luncheons.

On April 25, 2010, a special luncheon will recognize the new group of "IOR Pioneers," an honor bestowed on those individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the science of IOR/EOR over their careers. Also planned that day is the "Beer & Brats" evening social event, where the regional SPE awards will be given.

Dr. Rychel urged those interested in keeping track of *IOR 2010* program offerings and activities as they take shape to regularly visit the *IOR 2010* website, now under development at <http://www.speior.org/>.

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Note to editors: Journalists interested in interviewing Dr. Rychel or obtaining more information about IOR 2010 for their publications should contact Bob Williams at robert369@cox.net or 918-845-8220.