

Geoscience-Energy Consortium holds briefing on carbon capture and storage

July 18, 2014

The Geoscience-Energy Consortium, which includes the American Geosciences Institute (AGI), hosted a briefing on July 18 titled “Geologic Carbon Storage: Feasibility, Technology, and Challenges.” The briefing was the last in the current Energy from the Earth briefing series.

Carbon capture and storage (CCS), which serves as a method of managing atmospheric carbon dioxide levels, involves the injection of carbon dioxide from emission sources, such as fossil fuel power plants, into underground geologic formations. This method has gained particular attention as an effective way to reduce carbon emissions since the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued its Clean Power Plan, requiring states to lower their emissions levels.

Speakers at the briefing examined the requirements for CCS, the results of a USGS assessment of carbon dioxide storage sources, and potential monitoring plans. They also explored various current applications of this technology, including enhanced oil recovery. Presenters spoke about potential risk factors associated with CCS, including induced seismicity, drinking water impacts, and leakage into the atmosphere.

The Energy from the Earth briefing series focuses on geoscience topics and critical information intended to assist policy makers dealing with energy issues.

Updated 8/8/14
