

**US Department of Energy  
National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL)**

**Project Number DE-FE0024431**

**A Nonconventional CO<sub>2</sub>-EOR Target in the Illinois Basin: Oil Reservoirs of  
the Thick Cypress Sandstone**

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Signature of Submitting Official:

Nathan D. Webb: 

## 2. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

*What was done? What was learned?*

Major accomplishments include:

- Ambient-condition core flood experiments using surrogate fluids to determine the irreducible water saturation ( $S_{wirr}$ ) and residual saturation ( $S_{or}$ ) of Cypress Sandstone and analogous Pennsylvanian core plugs have been completed. Results from experiments show a mean  $S_{or}$  value of 32% and mean  $S_{wirr}$  value of 21% for all samples (porosity range of 12 to 25%).

*What are the major goals of the project and what was accomplished under these goals?*

The major goals of the project include identifying and quantifying nonconventional carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) storage and enhanced oil recovery (EOR) opportunities in the thick Cypress Sandstone in the Illinois Basin through geologic reservoir characterization, three-dimensional geocellular modeling, fluid properties and interaction modeling, and reservoir simulation. A study of the economics of potential storage and EOR programs in the thick Cypress will be made with considerations for production of net carbon negative oil. Field development strategies will be recommended with emphasis on near-term deployment. Accomplishments towards these goals are listed below by task as outlined in the SOPO.

Task 1.0–Project Management and Planning (on schedule)

- Progress on completion of tasks, subtasks, deliverables, and milestones is tracked using Microsoft Project to ensure timely completion. Overall, this project is on schedule.
- Principal investigator (PI) Nathan Webb and co-PI Scott Frailey, along with Nathan Grigsby, met weekly to discuss project management.
- There were regular meetings with the PI and subtask leaders for active subtasks.

Task 2.0–Geology and Reservoir Characterization (on schedule)

*Subtask 2.1–Literature Review and Oilfield Selection*

- Subtask concluded on 6/30/2015.

*Subtask 2.2–Petrophysical Analysis*

- Subtask concluded 10/31/2017.

- Nathan Grigsby and Scott Frailey continued work on a publication titled “Methodology for using well logs to identify residual oil zones: An example from Noble Field, Illinois.” This method provides a screening tool to assess ROZ potential using existing well logs.

*Subtask 2.3–Geologic Model Development*

- Subtask concluded on 2/28/2018.
- Kalin Howell, Nathan Webb, and collaborators from the University of Illinois Geology department continued work on a manuscript titled “The Sedimentology of a Large Fine-Grained Carboniferous River: Facies, Palaeohydraulics, and Implications for Reservoir Heterogeneity”

Task 3.0–Geocellular and Reservoir Modeling (on schedule)

*Subtask 3.1–Historical Production and Injection Data Analysis*

- Subtask concluded 3/31/2016.

*Subtask 3.2–Illinois Basin Crude Oil/Brine-CO<sub>2</sub> Fluid Property Characterization*

- Dmytro Lukhtai concluded ambient-condition core flood experiments which use surrogate fluids to determine the irreducible water saturation ( $S_{wirr}$ ) and residual saturation ( $S_{or}$ ) of Cypress Sandstone and analogous Pennsylvanian core plugs. These experiments validate well log techniques (Archie equation) of saturation determination.
  - Results from experiments (Table 1) show a mean  $S_{or}$  value of 32% and mean  $S_{wirr}$  value of 21% for all samples (porosity range of 12 to 25%). It is assumed that a natural Cypress ROZ would exhibit similar  $S_{or}$  values. In general, the data will help resolve the disagreement between core flood and well log analysis-derived values of  $S_{or}$ .
  - Samples have been selected for capillary pressure analysis to compliment this dataset.

*Subtask 3.3–Geocellular Modeling of Interwell Reservoir Characteristics*

- Subtask concluded on 3/1/2018.

*Subtask 3.4–Reservoir Modeling*

- Subtask concluded on 4/3/2018.

Task 4.0–CO<sub>2</sub> EOR and Storage Development Strategies (on schedule)

*Subtask 4.1–Field Development Strategies*

- Roland Okwen is making final adjustments to complete the history matching of the Noble Field model.

*Subtask 4.2–CO<sub>2</sub> EOR and Storage Resource Assessment*

- Nathan Webb and Nathan Grigsby are analyzing additional data to provide higher confidence of ROZ prospect dimensions and saturations in order to revise the CO<sub>2</sub>-EOR and storage estimates for the final version of the CO<sub>2</sub> Storage and EOR Resource Assessment of the Cypress Sandstone Residual Oil Zone Play in the Illinois Basin.

*Subtask 4.3–Economic Analysis*

- Scott Frailey selected development scenarios from the results of the pattern model simulations to use in the revised Noble static model simulations. These scenarios will be used to for the economic analyses to identify economically feasible CO<sub>2</sub>-EOR and storage strategies for the Cypress ROZ in the ILB.

Table 1. Results of core flood experiments showing typical values for the

		$S_{wirr}$	$S_{or}$
Cypress	Mean	22%	28%
	Median	22%	32%
Penn	Mean	21%	37%
	Median	21%	41%
All	Mean	21%	32%
	Median	21%	33%

*What opportunities for training and professional development has the project provided?*

Three undergraduate students and one recent MS graduate have been involved in research on the project during the quarter. Under advisement of project staff and University of Illinois

professors, each student is developing skills in a particular discipline, such as routine and advanced core analysis, thin section petrography, and stratigraphy and sedimentology. The students are learning various techniques for their respective disciplines, and they are meeting and sharing findings with each other to better understand their roles in the larger framework of the project and to gain experience in presenting their research.

*How have the results been disseminated to communities of interest?*

- The project website (<http://isgs.illinois.edu/research/ERD/NCO2EOR>) hosts a project summary, staff bios, and downloadable reports and presentations to disseminate project information and findings to the public and other interested parties.
- Draft manuscripts include:
  - Giannetta, L.G., N.D. Webb, S.K. Butler, and N.P. Grigsby, *in review*, Using clay microporosity to improve formation evaluation in potential residual oil zones: Cypress Sandstone, Illinois Basin.
  - Grigsby, N.P., and S.M Frailey, Methodology for using well logs to identify residual oil zones: An example from Noble Field, Illinois.
  - Grigsby, N.P., and N.D. Webb, A method for developing the production history of Illinois Basin geologic formations.
  - Grigsby, N.P., and N.D. Webb, *in press*, Assessing the Cypress Sandstone for CO<sub>2</sub>-Enhanced Oil Recovery and Carbon Storage: Part II - Leveraging geologic characterization to develop a representative geocellular model for Noble Oil Field, Western Richland County, Illinois.
  - Henderson, S.K., and Asquith, G.B., Methods for Identifying Fluid Contacts and Characterizing an ROZ using Conventional Well Logs, Mississippian Thick Cypress Sandstone, Illinois Basin
  - Howell, K.J., Sedimentology of multistory fluvial sandstones of the Mississippian Cypress Formation, Illinois, USA: MS Thesis.
  - Howell, K.J., N.D. Webb, J.L. Best, and E.W. Prokocki, The Sedimentology of a Large Carboniferous Fine-Grained River: Facies, Paleohydraulics, and Implications for Reservoir Heterogeneity

- Webb, N.D., and N.P. Grigsby, *in press*, Assessing the Cypress Sandstone for CO<sub>2</sub>-Enhanced Oil Recovery and Carbon Storage: Part I - Reservoir Characterization of Noble Oil Field, Western Richland County, Illinois.
- Webb, N.D., N.P. Grigsby, and S.M. Frailey, CO<sub>2</sub> Storage and EOR Resource Assessment of the Cypress Sandstone Residual Oil Zone Play in the Illinois Basin
- Yang, F., R.T. Okwen, N.D. Webb, N.P. Grigsby, and S.M. Frailey, CO<sub>2</sub>-EOR Development Guidelines for Brown Field Residual Oil Zones in A Fluvial Sandstone.

*What do you plan to do during the next reporting period to accomplish the goals?*

Task 1.0–Project Management and Planning (on schedule)

- Progress on completion of tasks, subtasks, deliverables, and milestones will continue to be tracked using Microsoft Project to ensure timely completion.
- The PI and co-PIs will continue to meet weekly to discuss project management.
- Regular meetings with the PI and subtask leaders will continue for active subtasks.
- Work will conclude with the availability of core visualization portfolios on the ILOIL website.

Task 2.0–Geology and Reservoir Characterization (on schedule)

*Subtask 2.1–Literature Review and Oilfield Selection*

- Subtask concluded on 6/30/2015.

*Subtask 2.2–Petrophysical Analysis*

- Subtask concluded 10/31/2017.
- Nathan Grigsby and Scott Frailey will continue to work on a paper tentatively titled “Methodology for using well logs to identify residual oil zones: An example from Noble Field, Illinois.”

*Subtask 2.3–Geologic Model Development*

- Subtask concluded 2/28/2018.
- Kalin Howell, Nathan Webb, and collaborators from the University of Illinois Geology department will continue work on a manuscript that discusses the geologic model of the Cypress Sandstone an implications for reservoir properties titled “The Sedimentology of

a Large Fine-Grained Carboniferous River: Facies, Palaeohydraulics, and Implications for Reservoir Heterogeneity”

Task 3.0–Geocellular and Reservoir Modeling (on schedule)

*Subtask 3.1–Historical Production and Injection Data Analysis*

- Subtask concluded on 3/31/2016.

*Subtask 3.2–Illinois Basin Crude Oil/Brine-CO<sub>2</sub> Fluid Property Characterization*

- SOR core-flood experiments using analog fluids will continue to provide important calibration data for well log analyses.

*Subtask 3.3–Geocellular Modeling of Interwell Reservoir Characteristics*

- Subtask concluded on 3/1/2018.

*Subtask 3.4–Reservoir Modeling*

- Subtask concluded on 4/3/2018.

Task 4.0–CO<sub>2</sub> EOR and Storage Development Strategies (on schedule)

*Subtask 4.1–Field Development Strategies*

- Roland Okwen will complete final simulations of the history-matched Noble Field model to optimize field development strategies based on the results of pattern modeling simulations.

*Subtask 4.2–CO<sub>2</sub> EOR and Storage Resource Assessment*

- Nathan Webb, Nathan Grigsby, Scott Frailey, and Chris Korose will finalize the regional play analyses of the Cypress ROZ.

*Subtask 4.3–Economic Analysis*

- Scott Frailey will conclude the final economic analysis once the final results of the simulated CO<sub>2</sub>-EOR scenarios are available.

### Project Milestone Log

Task	Calendar Year	Milestone Title/Description	Planned Completion Date	Actual Completion Date	Verification Method	Comments
1.0	1	Project Management Plan	12/31/2014	12/15/2014	PMP File	100% Complete
1.0	1	Kickoff Meeting	12/31/2014	12/4/2014	Presentation File	100% Complete
2.0	2	Final selection of oilfields for study	3/31/2015	3/20/2015	Agreement between ISGS and DOE project manager to proceed with specific areas of study	100% Complete
2.0	2	Oilfield data synthesis and analysis	10/31/2015	10/21/2015	Wells/leases grouped into classes representing relative degree of productivity	100% Complete
2.0	3	Analogous Lower Pennsylvanian study areas selected	4/30/2016	4/29/2016	Agreement between ISGS and DOE project manager to proceed with specific areas of study	100% Complete
2.0, 3.0	3	Complete petrophysical analysis, geologic and geocellular modeling of the thick Cypress	10/31/2016	10/31/2016	Completion of draft topical report on geology of the thick Cypress in the ILB	100% Complete
2.0	4	Complete new coring near outcrop belt	9/30/2017	9/21/2017	Send DOE confirmation that core has been obtained and is in ISGS warehouse	100% Complete
4.0	3	Complete guidelines to develop thin oil zones and store CO <sub>2</sub> in the thick Cypress	12/31/2017	1/31/2018	Completion of draft topical report on guidelines to develop thin oil zones in the thick Cypress	100% Complete
4.0	4	Complete estimates of CO <sub>2</sub> -EOR and storage potential and economic analysis of implementing program	8/31/2018	8/31/2018	Completion of draft topical report on CO <sub>2</sub> -EOR, storage, and economics of the thick Cypress in the ILB	100% Complete
All	4	Document project results	4/30/2019		Complete final report	In progress



### **3. PRODUCTS**

*What has the project produced?*

**a. Publications, conference papers, and presentations**

Presentations and manuscripts listed on pages 5-6.

**b. Website(s) or other Internet site(s)**

The project website is located at <http://www.isgs.illinois.edu/research/erd/nco2eor>.

### **4. PARTICIPANTS & OTHER COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS**

Nothing to report.

### **5. IMPACT**

Nothing to report.

### **6. CHANGES/PROBLEMS**

*Changes in approach and reasons for change*

There have been no changes in approach on this project.

*Actual or anticipated problems or delays and actions or plans to resolve them*

There are currently no anticipated problems or delays in the project.

*Changes that have a significant impact on expenditures*

As no changes have been made or are anticipated, none are expected to impact expenditures.

*Significant changes in use or care of human subjects, vertebrate animals, and/or Biohazards*

Not applicable.

*Change of primary performance site location from that originally proposed*

Not applicable.

### **7. Special Reporting Requirements**

Nothing to report.

## 8. Budgetary Information

### Financial Reporting Table

Baseline Reporting	Budget Period 1													Budget Period 2						Total	
	11/01/14 - 10/31/17													11/01/17 - 4/30/19							
	FY15 Q1	FY15 Q2	FY15 Q3	FY15 Q4	FY16 Q1	FY16 Q2	FY16 Q3	FY16 Q4	FY17 Q1	FY17 Q2	FY17 Q3	FY17 Q4	FY18 Q1	FY18 Q1	FY18 Q2	FY18 Q3	FY18 Q4	FY19 Q1	FY19-Q2		FY19-Q3
Baseline Federal Share	192,267	192,267	192,265	193,061	205,360	205,360	205,360	205,359	121,852	121,852	121,853	121,852	58,543	117,085	175,628	175,628	117,085	58,544			2,781,221
Baseline non-Federal Share	30,889	46,334	46,334	46,334	44,028	44,028	44,028	44,028	44,028	44,028	44,028	44,028	15,444	29,253	43,880	43,880	43,880	14,627			713,079
Total Baseline Cumulative Cost	223,156	238,601	238,599	239,395	249,388	249,388	249,388	249,387	165,880	165,880	165,881	165,880	73,987	146,338	219,508	219,508	160,965	73,171			3,494,300
Actual Federal Share	9,661	82,633	112,827	147,250	124,049	114,637	164,036	164,146	158,143	177,806	251,648	147,697	78,072	143,560	165,525	173,034	142,424	147,159			2,504,307
Actual non-Federal Share	29,328	48,918	47,155	43,688	43,603	48,447	44,874	45,329	45,391	45,680	37,277	34,701	11,711	23,423	34,419	38,146	39,916	44,187			706,191
Total Actual Cumulative Cost	38,989	131,551	159,982	190,937	167,652	163,083	208,909	209,475	203,534	223,486	288,925	182,398	89,784	166,983	199,943	211,180	182,340	191,346			3,210,498
Variance Federal Share	182,606	109,634	79,438	45,811	81,311	90,723	41,324	41,213	(36,291)	(55,954)	(129,795)	(25,845)	(19,529)	(26,475)	10,103	2,594	(25,339)	(88,615)			276,914
Variance non-Federal Share	1,561	(2,584)	(821)	2,646	425	(4,419)	(846)	(1,301)	(1,363)	(1,652)	6,751	9,327	3,733	5,830	9,461	5,734	3,964	(29,560)			6,888
Total Variance Cumulative Cost	184,167	107,050	78,617	48,458	81,734	86,305	40,478	39,912	(37,654)	(57,606)	(123,044)	(16,518)	(15,797)	(20,645)	19,564	8,328	(21,375)	(118,175)			283,802