The Petroleum Recovery Research Center is a state-supported center that conducts research on improving methods of recovering crude oil and natural gas and that transfers petroleum technology to domestic oil producers. Funding for the PRRC comes from three sources: the state of New Mexico, the federal government (Department of Energy), and private industry.

PRRC Review

Now Online: Pit Rules GIS, Beta Version

The GIS (Geographical Information System) portion of PRRC research project, “Reducing Impacts of New Pit Rules on Small Producers,” is now in full beta version, including all maps, for siting criteria for the C-144 form, sections 10 and 17. A User’s Guide has also been developed.

The New Mexico Pit Rule Mapping Portal generates maps of potential site regulatory issues that can reduce time needed for evaluation and preparation of C-144 forms and attachments and allow better determination of optimal and allowed locations of pits and tanks with respect to current siting criteria. It can be accessed at (http://ford.nmt.edu).

Screen shot of the Pit Rules GIS showing site radii, political boundaries, water wells and oil wells, at a site in Lea County. Concentric circles indicate distances away from the selected site. Try it out at http://ford.nmt.edu.
Phase III Kickoff Meeting Held in Salt Lake City

The kickoff meeting for the Phase III Carbon Sequestration project was held by the Southwest Regional Partnership in Salt Lake City on April 7–8, 2009. The PRRC/NMT is the lead organization of the Partnership. In addition to discussions of the Project objectives, the initial model, survey/subsurface facilities and permitting the meeting featured presentations, discussions, case studies, and a successful Project Risk Analysis Task. Panels were featured on how to use expert panels to identify and prioritize all risk and then develop a pathway to project success. Interest Work Groups for the SWP were then formed to refine risk: Regional Characterization, MVA/Leaks, Surface Facilities (includes weldheads and pipelines), Drilling, Completion and Productivity, Public Awareness/Outreach, Finances, and Characterization, Modeling, and integration. The objective of Phase III is to build on the information generated in Phase I (Characterization) and Phase II (Validation). Phase III entails the injection of 1 million tons or more of CO2 by each Partnership into geologic formations at or near the surface. This is anticipated to be awarded under FY 2009 solicitation. The Small Producer solicitation for FY 2009 will continue to focus on the theme of advancing technology for mature fields. Reducing risk is seen as key to reducing costs and improving field management, best practices, and lower cost tools (including software) are all within the scope of this effort.

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Buckley, J. “Asphaltene Capillary Deposition Tests - GRI Software automatically displayed a basemap (usually a top map) for an area around the selected Dr. Robert Balch) with the Independent Petroleum Association of America (RPSEA, the Pit Rules and Guidelines for Disposal of Produced Water Purification: Viability and Economic Analysis,” Paper SPE 115962 presented at the 2009 SPE West- ern Regional Meeting, Socorro, NM, 24-26 March.


The goal of the Small Producer Program Element is to address the needs of small producers by focusing on a variety of areas addressing the need for developing and proving the application of technologies that will increase the value of mature fields. Reducing reentry time as key to reducing costs and improving margins. Improved field management, best practices, and lower cost tools (including software) are all within the scope of this effort.


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