The Power of Collaboration: BHP Billiton & SaskPower +++

The International CCS Knowledge Centre

BHP Billiton and SaskPower have established the International CCS Knowledge Centre (Regina, Saskatchewan) to help advance CCS as a means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Knowledge Centre will enhance global access to the data, information and lessons learned from SaskPower’s unique Boundary Dam facility – the first power plant to successfully integrate CCS. In broadly sharing the outcomes of this unique project, BHP and SaskPower hope to assist project developers to reduce both the capital and operating costs of subsequent projects. The Knowledge Centre will also advocate for policies that support the development of CCS with the aim of accelerating global deployment of CCS.

Since the announcement of its formation in late 2015, the Knowledge Centre has welcomed the collaborative participation of a Japanese consortium in undertaking a study to jointly assess the feasibility of the potential application of Japanese technologies in future CCUS projects in Saskatchewan. The study, sponsored by Japan’s New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) is being undertaken by the Knowledge Centre, Japan Coal Energy Center (JCOAL), Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. (MHI) and Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems Ltd. (MHPS). It is intended to show how Japanese technologies could improve carbon capture and storage (CCS) and air quality control system (AQCS) applications for carbon capture utilization and storage (CCUS) projects in Saskatchewan, as well as to identify potential global applications of these technologies.

The Knowledge Centre is also being used to facilitate collaborative efforts between the Province of Saskatchewan and the Province of Quebec. In June 2016, Premiers of both Provinces agreed to expand their collaborative relationship to further develop the potential of CCS, contributing to the development of knowledge and best practices to reduce GHG emissions through CCS while improving the economic return on projects by reusing the captured CO₂ for other purposes. The Provinces agreed to accelerate the development and deployment of CCS technologies exchange update and information on CCS projects and technologies, and work together to explore opportunities for further collaborations.