

### **CCS Institutional Issues:**

**What Happens If Something Goes Wrong?** 

#### Sarah Wade

Partner AJW Inc swade@ajwgroup.com

Scottsdale, AZ September 15–17, 2009



#### **Overview**

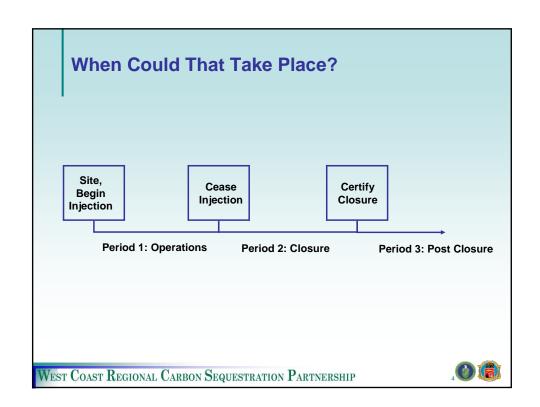
- What is meant by "what could go wrong"?
- Tools for Risk Management
  - Insurance
  - Federal Liability Provisions
  - State Proposals
- Challenges, Questions, Next Steps



# What Could Go Wrong?

- Conventional Concerns
  - Worker HSE / OSHA
  - Industrial accidents
  - Above ground leakage of CO2
  - Equipment delays, breakage, failure
- Less Conventional / Newish Concerns
  - Subsurface leakage of injected CO2
  - Property damage / trespass
  - Human health and environmental impacts
  - Climate change liability





# **Traditional O/O Responsibilities**

- Compliance with regulatory requirements, potentially including regulatory changes over time
- Corrective action, remediation, ongoing maintenance of equipment, wells, impacted area (if any)
- Potential liability for damages, torts





# Where You Stand Depends On Where You Sit

- Oil And Gas Operators
  - More comfortable with risk; prefer less government intervention; self insurance attractive; LT climate liability a concern
- Power Generation Companies
  - More risk averse; prefer great certainty; risk diversification attractive; putting large amounts of capital at risk a concern
- "The" Public
  - Want to know who is accountable; do not want to have to use lawsuits to seek compensation; perceived risk significant
- Those Deeply Involved In The Climate Change Policy Debate
  - Question why, if risk is so great, why it is being pursued instead of nuclear and renewables; no more federal bailouts; what about moral hazard?

West Coast Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership



# **Insurance – Navigating The System**

- Delivery Vehicles:
  - Commercial and specialty insurers Zurich, AIG, ACE, XL, Chubb, Lloyds
  - Industry mutual companies AEGIS, EIM, OIL
  - Specialty structures: self-insurance, risk retention groups
  - Brokers McGriff, AON
- Review Process:
  - Teams of analysts review geology, geochemistry, operating and maintenance plans, and closure/post-closure plans
  - Consider maximum and expected costs and risk assessment



#### **Insurance Products**

- 2 CCS Products; Offered by Zurich
- CCS Liability Insurance
  - Pollution event liability
  - Business interruption
  - Control of well
  - Transmission liability
  - Geomechanical liability
- Geologic Sequestration Financial Assurance
  - Specified closure and post closure activities
- Other Projects Insured Through Specialty Policies Or Endorsements On Existing Policies

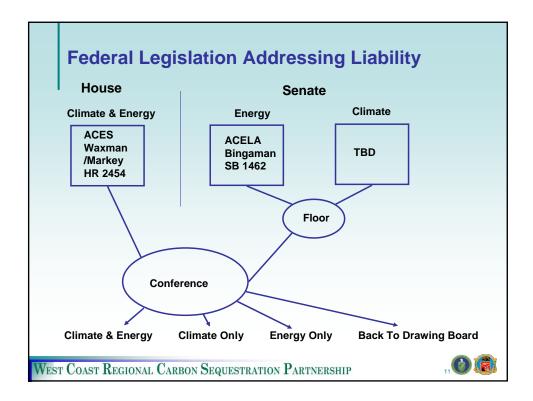
West Coast Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership



### **Additional Recommendations From Zurich**

- Establish CCS Safety Board
- Establish A Trust Fund For Long Term Stewardship Only
- Do Not Establish a Liability Framework In Which Government Provides First Dollar Liability





# **American Clean Energy Security Act**

- Sets Caps On Sources >25,000 TPY; Trading; Offsets
- Allocations For CCS (~\$160-280B / 72 GW)
- Performance Standards For New Coal Plants
- Regulates GS For Climate Through EPA
- Incentives For Early Demonstration
- Incentives For Broad Deployment Through Carbon Storage Research Corp Funded Through Wires Charge @ \$1B/Year
- Calls For Studies of Implementation Issues Including Liability



# **American Clean Energy Leadership Act**

- Creates Large-Scale Carbon Storage Program (>1MTPY) For Up To 10 Qualified Projects; Administered BY DOE
- Qualified Projects Must Comply With All Technical And Financial Assurance Requirements AND Conduct At Least 10 Years Post-Injection Monitoring After Plume Stabilization
- At Certificate Of Closure, Qualified Projects Will Be Indemnified From Damages\* In Excess Of The Amount Already Required AND Federal Government Will Take On Responsibility For Long Term Stewardship Using a Per Ton Charge Collected During Operational Life

West Coast Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership



# **Shaping Up For Messy Floor Debate**

- SB 1502 "Casey Bill" CS Stewardship Trust Fund Act
  - Creates LTS Trust Fund, administered by DOE
  - Requires private liability insurance
  - Establishes limits on post-closure liability
- Senate Environment
  - Appears to be focused on funding, allocation, trading mechanisms – but open to change
- Senator Baucus
  - More moderate provisions to ensure technologies available for coal utilities (timing of caps, funding/allocation; liability and other institutional issues)
- Senator Reid
  - Something along the lines of the T. Boone Pickens plan?



<sup>\*</sup>Except Gross Negligence, Fraud, etc.

# **States As Laboratory**

- North Dakota Financial Assurance
- Wyoming Pore Space, Unitization, Liability
- Michigan Liability, Stewardship
- Texas Offshore Subseabed



