



**Statement from the Natural Resources Defense Council
on Carbon Capture and Sequestration Projects**

Global warming is a threat that requires decisive action. The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) believes that increasing energy efficiency and using renewable energy must be the first resources used to meet our energy needs. Further, NRDC supports phasing-out of old, inefficient fossil fuel plants as soon as possible. The scale and urgency of the carbon dioxide (CO₂) emission reductions needed to avert the worst effects of global warming, however, require that we use all safe and economic tools at our disposal. Moreover, coal makes up about fifty (50) percent of electricity production in the U.S. and plays a dominant role in the energy sector globally, and is expected to continue to do so for some time to come. As the dirtiest of fossil fuels, it is responsible for the largest part of global warming pollution in the U.S. and many nations. We must rapidly find ways to reduce CO₂ emissions from coal, as well as dealing with its numerous other environmental ills.

NRDC believes that carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) technology can play an important role in combating global warming given our heavy reliance on coal, as well as other fossil fuels. Extensive studies by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the International Energy Agency and numerous research organizations have concluded that the technology can be applied safely and effectively if projects are properly sited, operated and regulated, and that the inherent risks are similar to those of commonly practiced industrial activities such as natural gas storage and enhanced oil recovery. For these reasons, NRDC has been strongly supporting research, development, and deployment of CCS.

The siting of a specific project, however, must take into account a greater number of factors and be sensitive to local needs and concerns. **In particular, some of the issues that should be examined include whether:**

- the facility has an enforceable commitment to capture the bulk of its CO₂ emissions for geologic sequestration in a permanent and verifiable manner;
- the facility sequesters its CO₂ emissions in a suitable geologic depository that is capable of safe containment, under transparent and enforceable monitoring, verification, accounting and reporting provisions;
- the transportation of emissions to the geologic depository does not pose significant environmental impacts and risks;

- the facility will utilize best available control technology to reduce all conventional and hazardous air pollutants;
- the facility responsibly manages its solid wastes and its impacts on water resources;
- project planning and implementation respects local communities, for example, by making sure that the siting of the facility does not adversely affect disproportionately burdened communities; and
- project planning and implementation respects ecosystems by ensuring that the facility does not use coal obtained through irresponsible mining practices like mountaintop removal mining, and that the coal mining companies fully reclaim and restore mine sites.

NRDC believes that siting decisions must analyze all potentially significant environmental and safety impacts, allow for full public participation, not adversely affect disproportionately burdened communities and avoid sensitive habitats and fragile resources.

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