Can the Paris Agreement Facilitate CCS/CCUS Projects?: Lessons Learned from the Kyoto Protocol and COP24

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Can the Paris Agreement, which takes effect in 2020, play any role in the advancement of carbon capture & storage (CCS) and carbon capture utilization & storage (CCUS) projects?
Both the Kyoto Protocol, which is poised to sunset, and the outcome of the Paris Agreement's COP24 meetings in Katowice, Poland in December 2018, offer some insights.
Going forward and from a high-level perspective, international climate policy is expected to provide a continued impetus for low-carbon projects for the fossil energy industry. The Paris Agreement keeps the pressure on to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions generally, although country commitments to date are falling short of what climatologists and others say are needed in terms of reduced emissions. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's recent 1.5°C report suggests that technologies such as CCS and CCUS will have to play a significant if not even greater role in climate mitigation under the Paris Agreement.
It also is heartening that governments, including the United States which currently is in the midst of withdrawing from the Paris Agreement, continue to support CCS-related policies and projects. The University of Wyoming, for example, is currently funded by the U.S. Department of Energy to conduct a CCS feasibility study in the heart of coal country in Wyoming's Power River Basin. Congress also recently amended a popular tax incentive with the goal of attracting additional private sector financial support for projects.
International climate and energy policy also offers other reasons for hope. The International Organization for Standardization continues to advance separate standards for CCS and CCUS projects that, when finalized, should foster the responsible development of such projects worldwide. Additionally, one of the Kyoto Protocol's market mechanisms – the Clean Development Mechanism, or CDM -- had approved methodologies for CCS, CCUS and projects utilizing the incidental storage of carbon dioxide (CO2) via enhanced oil recovery (CO2-EOR). No such projects were ever approved by the CDM governing authorities, so there is scant evidence of the role that monetizing GHG emission reductions could play in project finance for these types of projects.
The Kyoto Protocol's market mechanisms themselves came under – and remain under – scrutiny from some quarters of the climate community. Indeed, the international climate negotiators at COP24 failed to achieve consensus on the comparable market mechanisms under Article 6 of the

Paris Agreement. COP24 struggled with market mechanisms for several reasons of particular relevance for CCS, CCUS and incidental CO2 storage via CO2-EOR including, but not limited to, carbon accounting and project transparency. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice – one of the two permanent subsidiary bodies to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change -- is working hard to resolve these issues now, with the hope of resolving them prior to the upcoming COP25 meetings in Chile in November 2019.

This talk will explore these and related issues of critical importance to CCS and CCUS project developers and researchers on the eve of the Paris Agreement's 2020 effective date.