Cost of characterization to prepare for permitting

Susan Hovorka UTCCS-5 Meeting, January, 2020 Austin, Texas



Statement of problem

- As source industries consider storage, they need reliable information on cost & risk of developing suitable storage resource
- Cost and risk are not fixed; vary depending on geology, project characteristics & regulatory conditions
- Uncertain cost = deterrent to project development,
 - Especially early stages when total project risk is high
 - Site characterization = sunk cost whether or not project proceeds



Project Goal



Project stages

- Feasibility
- Site nomination
- Downslection
- Characterization for initial model
- fluid flow modeling and Risk assessment
- Monitoring design
- Detailed project costing
- Site-specific data collection



- Develop geologic characterization:
 - **1.** constrained cost curve
 - 2. Cost-predictive matrix

Total Cost Variables



Site geologic complexity

- Top costs variables
 - 1. site geologic complexity
 - 2. data availability
- Other factors
 - **1.** risk tolerance
 - 2. permitting demands
 - 3. existing wells



Spending per Project Stage



Representative sites A-G



Site-specific data collection, Permit preparation, Permit negotiation

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Project Status

- Just a plan!
- But we have conducted about a dozen studies (onshore and offshore)
- Can be mined for input data -
- Use other sites characterized by others
- Compile input data
- Compile cost data



Taylor Barnhart



Data Types

- Comprehensive list of data needs (e.g. reservoir thickness and porosity)
- Types of input
 - core, thin sections, SCAL, logs, log calibration
- Risk based driver
 - thickness and porosity limit project?
 - need large investment?
- Data availability at sites
- Order-of-magnitude cost for acquiring data
 - analyze existing vs. collect new core





