



For Immediate Release:
Wednesday, March 10, 2010

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Governor, Shanahan Announce Advanced Energy Award for Carbon Dioxide Sequestration Project to be Conducted by Battelle

Columbus, OH – Battelle Memorial Institute of Columbus will develop an improved computer model to refine current estimates of carbon dioxide storage capacity in western Ohio thanks to an award of a \$500,000 Ohio Coal Development Office (OCDO) grant that was announced today by Ohio Governor Ted Strickland and Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) Executive Director Mark R. Shanahan, also the governor’s energy advisor.

The award to Battelle was approved from the \$150 million Ohio Advanced Energy Job Stimulus Plan. The project will use available data from existing waste injection wells, oil and gas exploration wells and geologic core analyses, focusing on the “Arches Province” geologic formation that underlies parts of Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky and Michigan. In Ohio, the project’s work will encompass the area from Columbus to the Indiana border and from Cincinnati to Toledo.

“While our knowledge of how to capture carbon dioxide at coal-based power plants is growing, we need to develop ways to be able to store that carbon dioxide in a responsible and efficient way,” Strickland said. “Underground sequestration is a step in that direction, and this project will significantly advance our knowledge of Ohio’s geology and carbon dioxide storage capacity.”

A key focus area for the project is to determine “sweet spots” for CO₂ sequestration in the targeted area. Project results will help determine a framework for future CO₂ sequestration, thereby promoting the continued use of Ohio coal. The Ohio Geological Survey of the Department of Natural Resources is coordinating the geologic mapping with its counterpart agencies in the three neighboring states. The project is expected to create two to five new full-time jobs.

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“With 87 percent of our state’s electricity generated by coal combustion, we must continue efforts to use this abundant resource as wisely and cleanly as possible. And that includes disposing of the unwanted byproducts that result from combustion. This project will build on the nearly 20 years of pioneering work that Battelle has put into the challenges and opportunities involved in geologic sequestration of CO₂,” Shanahan said.

Ohio’s Advanced Energy Job Stimulus Program includes \$84 million for non-coal related technology projects and \$66 million for clean coal projects. The program is part of the Ohio Bipartisan Stimulus Plan signed into law by Strickland in June 2008. Currently, 115 proposed projects are in some stage of the application process.

The Ohio Air Quality Development Authority is a non-regulatory government agency created to help Ohio businesses comply with clean air regulations. Through its OCDO program, it oversees the State of Ohio’s coal research, development and technology deployment efforts.