Making Fossil Energy Technologies Easier on the Environment: Around the World and Around the Corner

John Ruether Office of Systems and Policy Support National Energy Technology Laboratory

Presented to PENNTAP May 4, 2001





Need to Solve Environmental Issues Associated with Fossil Fuels

- Fossil energy use will expand over next several decades
- Alternative low-carbon energy sources not adequate to supply world energy needs
- CO₂ is principal environmental problem to be solved





Technology Policy Analysis

- Vision: To become respected voice on issues in energy and environmental policy
- Focus: Fossil fuels as a key source of energy in the United States Analyze barrier issues
- Focus: Global climate change Cannot be resolved without involvement of developing economies that rely on fossil fuels
- Focus: International technology transfer and capacity building - Focus on introduction of advanced technologies



NETL Global Climate Change Activities

- Potential contributions from Fossil Energy Research & Development
- Assessment of Issues Impacting Trading -Data Analysis and Modeling - "Additionality"
- International Project Development
- Assessment of Climate Change Mitigation Strategies



Sector Expertise and Research Responsibilities

• Power Generation

- -Utility and industrial
- -District heating
- -Retrofits, fuel switching, and emissions analysis

Energy Production

- -Oil, gas, and coal
- Transportation
- Alternative Fuels
- Carbon Sequestration
- Coal-bed Methane Recovery
- Building Efficiency



Technology Assistance

- Strong Developing Country Interest in Climate-friendly Fossil Technologies
- International Contacts
- Private Industry Involvement
- Potential to Support US negotiators via advice on Efficient Technology Transfer Structures



Western Hemisphere

Guatemala: USAID-GCAP Landfill Gas Power Project

- Guatemala City's El Trebol landfill
 - located in central Guatemala City
 - in use since Mayan civilization
- Conducted economic feasibility study
 - landfill design options to maximize gas production; evaluate RE, GT, & FC options against electricity market prices
 - assisted Municipality w/developing
 Program Opportunity Notice
 - feasibility study showed 9.2-MW_e gas turbine facility is competitive with market rates for electricity



 Municipality to present project at TDA's Power & Energy in the Americas Conference (Oct. 23-25, 2000/Houston, TX) to attract investors





Near East/South Asia USAID India - GEP Project/ECC





NTPC's 1000-MW Rihand Power Plant

Power Plant Efficiency Improvement Task

- replicated Dadri demonstration results at 7 plants totaling 9100 $\ensuremath{\text{MW}_{\text{e}}}$
- can be replicated at >130 similar 200-210 $\ensuremath{\text{MW}_{\text{e}}}$ coal-fired units in India
- potential CO₂ reduction >10 million tons/yr
- other yet-to-be implemented efficiency improvements point to total CO₂ reduction potential >25 million tons/yr
- -Technical Assistance & Technology Transfer Activities
 - technical assistance

technology transfer



Local Outreach

Pleasant Hills Sewage Treatment Plant

- Possible use of digester gas (methane) as fuel for on-site power generation.
- NETL engineers perform feasibility study for use of fuel cells or microturbine.
- Determine microturbine is preferred as it requires no gas pretreating and less maintenance.
- Township Authority moving forward to secure funding for a project.



Local Outreach

USDA/USDOE Dairy Farm Project

- Joint project to investigate use of digester gas from manure treatment as fuel for electricity generation on farm in Beltsville, MD.
- NETL team to set up instrumentation and video-cam to collect process data for energy audit and economic study.
- Microturbine likely technology choice.



Rails To Trails in McKeesport

- 800 feet of "The Last Mile" to be surfaced with four different blends of Coal Combustion Byproducts, CCBs.
- Fly ash, bottom ash and sulfur scrubber solids from local coal-fired power plants.
- Mixed with small amount of cement, yields surface harder and smoother than crushed limestone, but half the cost of concrete or asphalt.
- May find wide use for local/national trails.

