CES Research Note

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DOE Reports Predict "Green Oil" Benefits for State

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A recent report by the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL 2008) touts the potential of carbon dioxide-enhanced oil recovery (CO_2-EOR) for storing significant volumes of

- *Production of "green oil"*
  The oil produced with the injection of captured CO_2 emissions is 70% "carbon free," after accounting for the difference between the carbon content in the incremental oil produced by EOR and the volume of CO_2 stored in the reservoir. With the "next generation" CO_2 storage technology and a value for storing CO_2, the oil produced by EOR could be 100+% "carbon free" – a product known in the industry as "green oil";

- *Increased domestic oil production*
  The 39 to 48 billion barrels of domestic oil economically recoverable from storing CO_2 with EOR would help displace imports, supporting a path toward energy independence. It could also help build pipeline infrastructure subsequently usable for storing CO_2 in saline formations.

According to reports prepared for the Department of Energy by Advanced Resources International (ARI), there are 9.4 billion barrels of stranded oil in 128 onshore Louisiana fields and 15.7 billion barrels in Louisiana offshore waters (state and federal) amenable to CO_2-EOR

- Increased economic activity in Louisiana amounting to more than $500 million per year;