



COAL BED METHANE

Objective

The U.S. Department of Energy is actively engaged in addressing issues of coal bed methane development. As a regional arm of the U.S.

Department of Energy's Fossil Energy program, the Rocky Mountain Oilfield Testing Center (RMOTC) provides a test site for technical and environmental solutions for coal bed methane challenges. RMOTC coordinates and communicates program results with industry, government, and other stakeholders.

Background

Tremendous effort is being expended to develop coal bed methane at a pace and on a scale that is unprecedented in the arid regions of the western United States where over 60 percent of this resource is found.

Experience

RMOTC's coal bed methane program includes the following field tests and research initiatives:

Field Tests

- Resource development and environmental implications issues
- Exploration of technology to determine methane content at the coal face
- Improved pump technology
- Controls on occurrence and recoverability of coal bed methane
- Innovative geologic, geochemical, and engineering technologies
- Partners have included Well Dog, PSI, and GeoTech Environmental Equipment Inc.

Research Initiatives

- Coal bed methane drilling and production innovations
- Water production, treatment, and disposal
- Air quality and dust mitigation solutions.

Future Needs

RMOTC is looking at the following coal bed methane related issues:

- Influence of soils and topography on land applications of coal bed methane water
- Effects of coal bed methane produced water on species diversity of riparian vegetation
- Groundwater injection as a treatment option
- Improvements in gas compression technology
- Wildlife habitat fragmentation from coal bed methane development
- Conversion of coal bed methane from a nonrenewable to a renewable resource.

Contact

For more information about this opportunity or to discuss your testing needs contact RMOTC toll free at 888.599.2200, or visit our website at www.rmotc.com.



Coal beds within the Western United States.

