MANAGING THE OFFSHORE ENERGY TRANSITION

Newsletter

Meetings and engagement activities

The last Programme Advisory Group (PAG) meeting was held on 5 June 2023 via Teams. Topics discussed included an update on data collection, a review of collective priorities and the public perception work being planned as part of Work Package 3.

The date for the planned face-to-face workshop for all our stakeholders is 23 November 2023 in London. Invitations have been sent to all stakeholders. The workshop will start the process of co-design of outputs through group discussion and breakout activities. We hope to attract participants from all stakeholder groups who will have the chance to engage with the wider project team in order to explore the project in greater depth.

Work Package 1 update - Optimal use of subsurface geological resources for storage of H_2 and CO_2

Porosity and permeability values of core samples from the southern North Sea measured by NOC were found to be representative of cemented Bunter Sandstone and suitable for experimental analysis. The rationale for the set-up of hydrogen and brine flow-through experiments was agreed. The experiments are now being run at different pressure values. The experimental design for the exposure of microbial populations to hydrogen in the Bunter Sandstone has been completed and laboratory time booked to run in the first quarter of 2024.

Mapping of storage strata in the southern North Sea area has continued with focus on the generation of first pass thickness maps and conversion to depth of salt formations, to inform modelling of salt storage cavern construction. The focus of the salt mapping will now address gaps in the data sets, improved conversion to depth of the salt and integration of well data. A classification of Bunter Sandstone zone boundaries previously defined by MOET research is now being applied across the formation. Regional-scale modelling and simulation of CO_2 injection and geotechnical stability of the Bunter Sandstone is investigating additional injection wells in the vicinity of the Endurance structure. End-member scenarios of zone boundaries either open or closed to subsurface flow have been simulated.

Initial planning to refine an area of investigation in Liverpool Bay for future MOET work has commenced by review of available data sets that will be discussed with MOET researchers in WP2 and WP3.

Work Package 3 update - Societal consequences of the energy transition

Work package 3 staff have been engaging in more in-depth discussions with some members of the Programme Advisory Group (e.g. the Crown Estate & BP) following a presentation to the group on 5 June. The aim of this engagement is to better understand stakeholder research priorities, as well as those of other stakeholders such as Ørsted. To address social science research gaps, work package 3 will compare different scenarios and combinations of energy technologies. Work has included looking for realistic infographics or scenarios of the energy transition that can be used to elicit perceptions. Sourcing examples ourselves has been challenging therefore we are keen for stakeholders to send us any information of any credible implementation scenarios. More focused discussion sessions are offered to any stakeholders with a particular interest in social science and public perception work.

Project management team

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Maxine Akhurst – WP1 lead (BGS)
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