



Monday, 20 October 2008

SALA BARBARA

5° Palazzo Uffici - Eni E&P division

Via Emilia 1

SAN DONATO MILANESE

11:00

CBM PROJECTS IN ITALY

By R. Bencini – Independent Resources plc

ABSTRACT

CBM is a proven technique for producing methane directly from coal seams. Methane is found adsorbed into the coal matrix, and it is produced at low pressure by pumping away water from the coal seam and stimulating the methane flow through the coal cleats to the well bore.

Independent Resources plc is developing the first CBM project in Italy, at the 100% owned Fiume Bruna licence (Central Italy), where some 170 BCF of methane are calculated to be in place, of which 92 BCF are interpreted to be primarily recoverable. Carbosulcis is developing one other project.

The initial challenges of the project include:

- 1) characterization of the coal, including its gas content, gas composition and gas productivity, and associated formation water;
- 2) technology transfer from areas where CBM production is mastered with economic success;
- 3) procurement of suitable equipment and services in a safe and value-for-money manner;
- 4) public acceptance of novel techniques such as ECBM.

ECBM (Enhanced Coal Bed Methane) is one of the techniques to implement CO₂ geological storage, alongside injection in deep saline aquifers and injection in depleted or nearly depleted oil and gas field. It is done by injecting CO₂ in unmineable coal seams to enhance methane recovery. CBM production, which is necessary for coal shrinking and permeability enhancement, must predate ECBM.

BIOGRAPHY

Roberto Bencini, geologist, is Technical Director in Independent Resources plc (www.ir-plc.com). Since 1981, he developed a wide international multidisciplinary experience in the Petroleum and Environmental sectors, initially with Chevron-Texaco and Lasmò-ENI, with particular reference to oil and gas exploration and production (Algeria, Libya, Italy, North Sea), underground gas storage and CO₂ geological storage.

In 2000-2003 Roberto co-operated with INGV (Istituto Nazionale Geofisica e Vulcanologia - Rome, Italy) and with PTRC (Petroleum Technology Research Centre - Regina, Canada) as Technical Integrator for the US\$ 25 million "Weyburn" international CO₂ storage research project.

Roberto teaches CO₂ Sequestration at the Energy and Environment Management master course of "La Sapienza" University, Engineering Dpt., Rome, Italy. He is Fellow of the Geological Society of London (Chartered Geologist), and member of SPE, AAPG and SGI. He has been in the Editorial Board of the Italian National Geological Survey (now ISPRA).