



Clean Energy for a Secure Future

December 20, 2011

**For Immediate Release**

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***FutureGen 2.0 Geologic Characterization Well  
Successfully and Safely Completed***  
*Initial Findings Confirm Mt. Simon Formation Is Suitable for CO<sub>2</sub> Storage*

Jacksonville, Ill. — The FutureGen Alliance announced today it has successfully completed drilling the characterization well at the FutureGen 2.0 carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) storage site in Morgan County, and that preliminary data indicates that the local Illinois geology is suitable for CO<sub>2</sub> storage.

The Alliance said the drilling team reached the final depth of 4,812 feet below the ground surface. In drilling the well, the geologists recorded a 460-foot thick Eau Claire formation that will form the caprock overlaying a 500-foot thick portion of the Mt. Simon sandstone that forms the potential CO<sub>2</sub> storage reservoir. Over the next few weeks, data collected from the well—including caprock and reservoir rock core samples that were collected during the drilling process—will undergo further geologic testing to confirm the geology for CO<sub>2</sub> storage, but initial findings are extremely positive.

“We are very pleased that the team has successfully and safely completed drilling the characterization well. This is an important milestone in the FutureGen 2.0 program and was completed ahead of schedule. The drilling team reached the final depth on time and collected critical data and subsurface samples,” said Ken Humphreys, chief executive officer of the FutureGen Alliance. “Preliminary sample testing indicates that the geology is suitable to store CO<sub>2</sub> from the Meredosia power plant. This data from the characterization well will not only benefit FutureGen 2.0, but will also add to the understanding of the Illinois geology.”

With the drilling complete, the drill rig will be removed from the characterization well site and a smaller service rig will be installed over the well head in January 2012 in order to conduct hydrologic testing. During hydrologic testing, the Mt. Simon sandstone will be tested by removing and then reinjecting the saline water from the sandstone while monitoring the formation’s response. Results from this type of testing will provide important parameters that will be used in designing the CO<sub>2</sub> storage site. Once the hydrologic testing is complete, the well will be configured as a monitoring well that will be used in future phases of the project. The Alliance will restore to productive farm land all but a 175-square foot area around the well head by removing equipment and berms and replacing top soil. At the request of local landowners, the service road that the Alliance built connecting Beilschmidt Road to the well pad site will remain in place.

FutureGen 2.0 would be a first-of-its-kind near-zero emissions power plant. The program involves upgrading the Meredosia Energy Center’s Unit 4 with oxy-combustion technology to capture approximately 90 percent of the plant’s carbon emissions. Using safe, proven pipeline technology, the CO<sub>2</sub> would be transported and permanently stored underground at a nearby storage site. The FutureGen

2.0 technologies have the potential to repower the world's fleet of coal-fueled power plants in a manner that achieves near-zero emissions of all regulated pollutants, spurs job creation and substantially advances clean energy technology around the globe.

The FutureGen Alliance is a non-profit membership organization created to further the development and demonstration of near-zero emissions coal technology.

The FutureGen 2.0 program is supported by a \$1 billion commitment in federal funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. For more information on FutureGen 2.0, please visit [www.futuregenalliance.org](http://www.futuregenalliance.org).

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