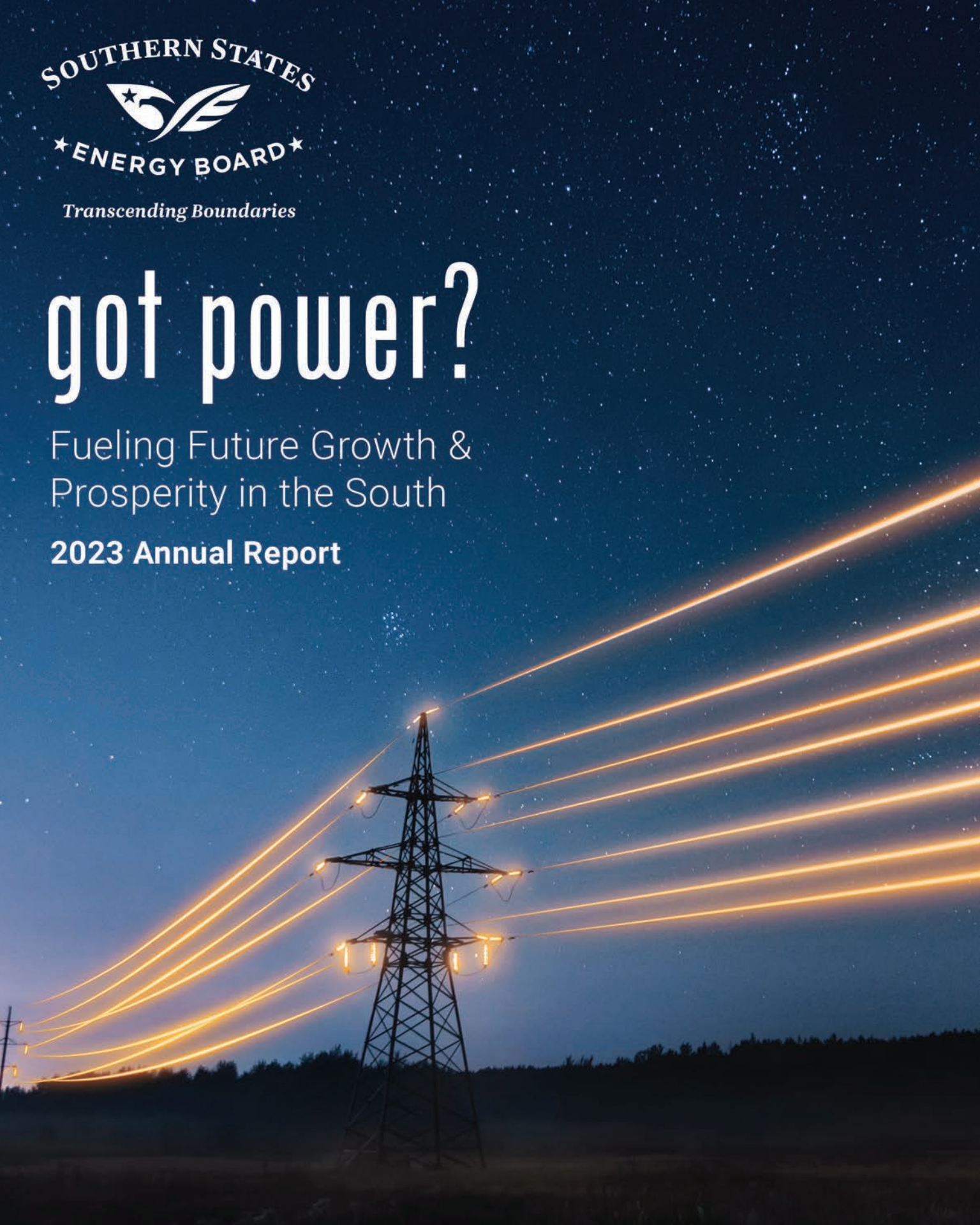
SOUTHERN STATES ENERGY BOARD

Transcending Boundaries

got power?

Fueling Future Growth & Prosperity in the South

2023 Annual Report



MISSION STATEMENT

Through innovations in energy and environmental policies, programs, and technologies, the **Southern States Energy Board** enhances economic development and the quality of life in the South.

CONTENTS

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Gov. Henry McMaster
South Carolina

Serving as Chairman of the Southern States Energy Board for two years has been a distinct honor, and I am happy to report that we are making great progress.

The Southern region's energy and environmental landscape has evolved significantly during this time and undoubtedly will continue to do so. Our states are experiencing tremendous growth at a transformational time in commerce. To maintain this prosperity and fuel future economic development and job growth, it is imperative that we remain focused on enhancing and diversifying existing electric power production capacity—safe, secure, efficient, affordable, reliable, resilient, and sustainable electric power.

Our commitment to regional collaboration, communication, and cooperation transcends our individual states' borders. The Board's proven success in driving clean-energy investments, supporting emerging technologies and sustainable environmental solutions, and opening employment opportunities gives us enormous momentum.

Affordable, reliable energy is a critical component of the South's economy. This year's Annual Meeting, themed "*got power? Fueling Future Growth and Prosperity in the South*," is intended to facilitate, focus, and advance ongoing discussions regarding the development and refinement of a robust regional energy policy. This policy must integrate renewable-energy sources, maintain electricity reliability, enhance energy efficiency, and incentivize innovation. We must prioritize sustainable infrastructure development, promote clean-energy investments, and advance grid modernization, including electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure. In short, we have much work to do, as our region appears to be outpacing the others.

Our diverse fuel and energy resources support low-cost and dependable electricity. Natural gas is the South's leading source of electricity generation, followed by nuclear, then coal. In 2020, nuclear surpassed coal as our region's second-largest source of net energy generation. Natural gas generation has increased from 22 percent in 2010 to 49 percent in 2020. Electricity generated from renewable energy resources grew by nearly 14 percent from 2019 to 2020. Solar power was the fastest-growing renewable technology, generating 32 terawatt-hours in 2020, up nearly 50 percent from 2019 levels. Despite solar energy's significant growth, wind

remained the largest renewable energy source in the region, responsible for 7 percent of generation.

In South Carolina, our “Clean Energy Menu” showcases common sense commitment to progress. Our seven operational nuclear units are true powerhouses, generating an impressive 54-million-megawatt hours, collectively accounting for nearly 66 percent of South Carolina’s total power output. Natural gas also contributes significantly, at over 27 percent of our power output. Our solar capacity added a staggering 1,400 megawatts in 2022, encompassing over 35,000 installations. Notably, utilities in South Carolina recently secured approval for two new 100-megawatt solar facilities in Georgetown County.

To prepare for additional likely increasing needs, I issued Executive Order No. 2022-31, which formalized our State’s coordination of EV infrastructure deployment, prioritized economic development by training our workforce for EV jobs and establishing a “one-stop-shop” at the South Carolina Department of Commerce for EV businesses and prospects. The Order also created an Interagency Working Group to collaborate with stakeholders and local governments on a comprehensive plan for strategic EV charging station deployment across the State. As that market grows, we will be ready.

Further, through Executive Order No. 2023-18, I established “PowerSC,” a comprehensive effort which includes our EV initiative. The PowerSC Energy Resources and Economic Development Interagency Working Group steers our overall energy strategy. Its goal: to determine the questions and find their answers to ensure that South Carolina’s energy capacity aligns with our booming economic development and population growth. I know that you are doing the same.

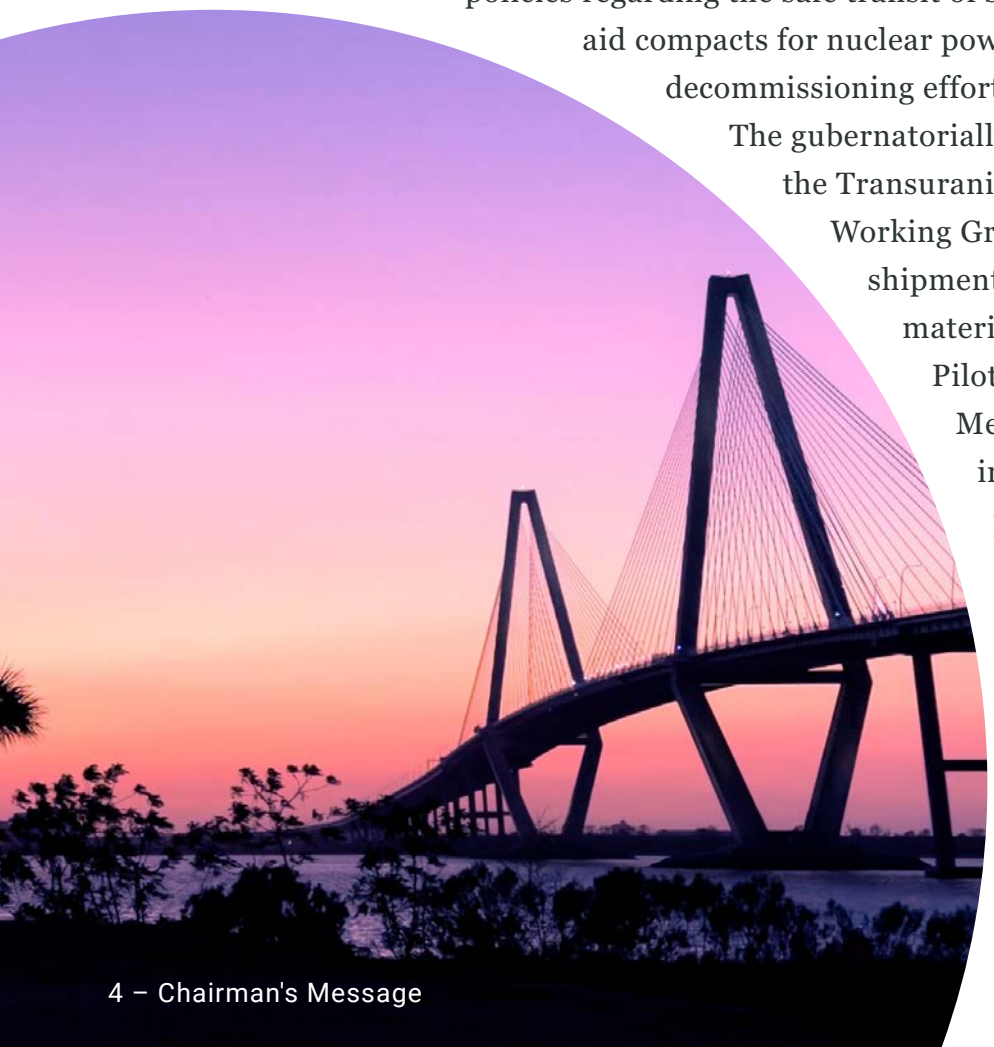
Through these initiatives, we are all investing in education,

jobs, and a sustainable future. Across our region, elected officials at all levels have been addressing similar topics. During the 2023 legislative session, member states and territories enacted more than 600 laws related to energy and the environment.

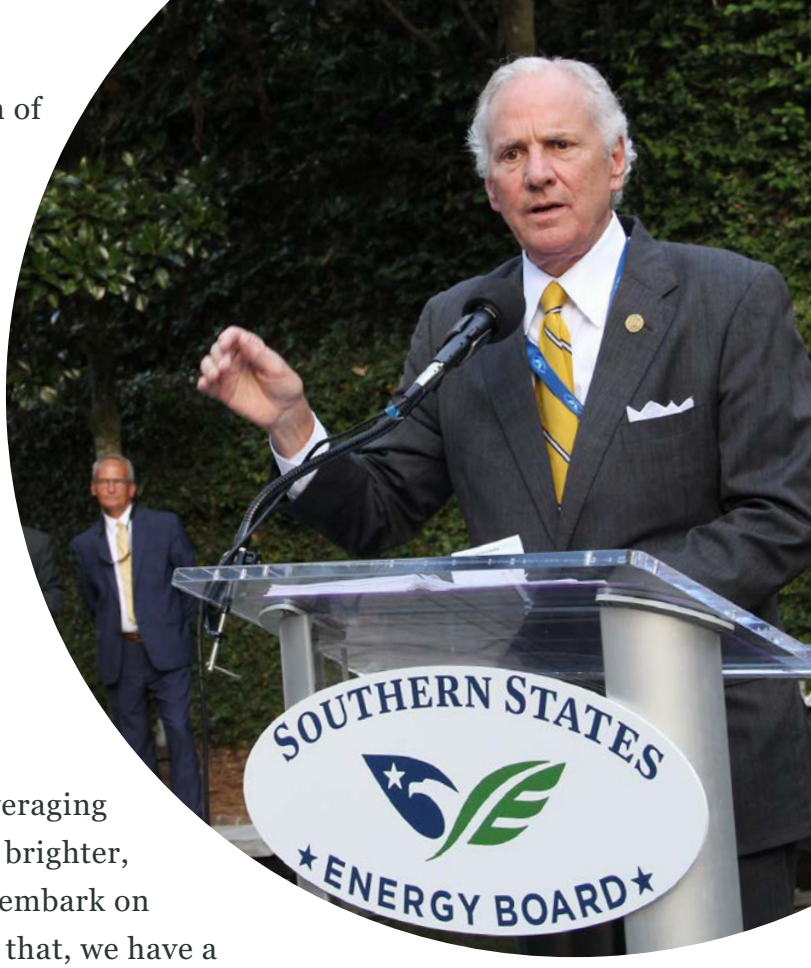
On the production front, initiatives focused on a variety of issues, including hydrogen, nuclear, and offshore wind. Among the environmental legislative trends tracked by the Board's Energy and Environment Legislative Digest were a host of measures related to flooding and wastewater management, solid waste issues, and emergency planning and response.

One unique element of our Board's progress is the Associate Members program. Established in 1981, this program has grown both in terms of numbers and variety of new questions over the past two years and now includes a record 59 active member entities. These members serve in an advisory capacity to the Board, providing critical insights on the impacts of federal and state policies and regulations, and they are quite active.

The Board's radioactive materials transportation projects continue to initiate and develop policies regarding the safe transit of spent nuclear fuel, mutual aid compacts for nuclear power plants in the region, and decommissioning efforts at national laboratories. The gubernatorially appointed members of the Transuranic Waste Transportation Working Group coordinate interstate shipments of Cold War era legacy materials to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in Carlsbad, New Mexico. It is currently engaged in its fourth year of a five-year project, which has enabled our Board to provide direct funding to corridor States for personnel to monitor these shipments and engage in emergency response planning and first responder training. Our Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee



is helping foster the continuance and growth of the nuclear energy industry by assisting the U.S. Department of Energy with consent-based siting for spent nuclear fuel from commercial nuclear power plants.



The Southern States Energy Board's work is responsible for nearly a half billion in taxpayer funds having been returned to our region through current programs—continuing an upward trend—by maintaining the commitment to providing an experienced technical staff of innovators and experts who are constantly at work for member States and territories. By nurturing partnerships, embracing innovation, and leveraging our strengths, we are fueling the South for a brighter, cleaner, and more prosperous future. As we embark on the next leg of this journey, let us remember that, we have a remarkable opportunity to shape our energy future.

I am confident that the best is yet to come.

His Excellency Henry McMaster
Governor of South Carolina
Chairman

PROGRAMS

DIRECT AIR CAPTURE RECOVERY OF ENERGY FOR CCUS PARTNERSHIP

In early 2021, SSEB launched a project known as the Direct Air Capture Recovery of Energy for CCUS Partnership (DAC $RECO_2$ UP). The project employs a team approach and supports the Department of Energy's Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management's goal to decrease the cost of carbon capture through the testing of existing direct air capture (DAC) materials in integrated field units that produce a concentrated carbon dioxide (CO_2) stream of at least 95 percent purity. Solid-amine CO_2 adsorption-desorption contactor technology, proven in the laboratory, will undergo high-fidelity design/validation.

In addition, many commercial facilities have low-concentration CO_2 vents that are uneconomical to treat alone but could provide more efficient mass and thermal transport to DAC systems with integrated energy recovery and flexible CO_2 treatment capabilities.

Technology scale up will leverage past research and occur in a commercially-relevant environment at the National Carbon Capture Center (NCCC). Pre-screening techno-economic analysis, risk assessments, and life cycle analysis will be performed by experienced team members. Results of the project will address critical technical barriers that, when solved, will improve the capital and operating costs of DAC while validating commercial relevance of cost and product quality/need.

Team members for the project include:

- Aircapture;
- Global Thermostat;
- Synapse Product Development;
- Crescent Resource Innovation;
- National Carbon Capture Center; and
- Southern Company.

The project is currently in its Integrated Systems Testing Phase. In February 2023, the DAC, heat skid and other supporting equipment were shipped to NCCC. During March and April, the operations and commissioning team completed installation of the DAC at the NCCC site. In May the DAC began capturing CO_2. From May to June the DAC system at NCCC accumulated over 105 hours of operations with the longest run time of continuous operation being 43 hours. The Testing Phase is set to conclude in December of 2023.

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL CARBON STORAGE PARTNERSHIP: OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO

The State and Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) may provide a unique opportunity to permanently store the CO_2 emissions from the 540-plus CO_2-emitting point sources within 50 miles of the Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi coast. SSEB is facilitating offshore geologic storage of CO_2 in the GOM through the creation of government-industry partnerships focused on assembling the technical knowledge required for developing secure, long-term, large-scale CO_2 storage. The following organizations contribute their expertise to the project: Advanced Resources International, Battelle Memorial Institute, Crescent Resource Innovation, Geological Survey of Alabama, Louisiana State University, Oklahoma State University, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, the Energy Institute of Alabama, the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission, the Mississippi Energy Institute, and SAS.

Building on previous activities, the project team has continued to evaluate storage opportunities in the offshore environment, elucidate reservoir properties that influence CO_2, and examine the legal and regulatory requirements for offshore commercial CO_2 storage operations. Although CO_2 storage capacity estimates continue to evolve as information becomes available, recent calculations suggest that the study area is capable of storing hundreds of years of annual U.S. CO_2 emissions. Moreover, the Project Team has determined that some existing oil and natural gas infrastructure within the U.S. Gulf of Mexico may be suitable for reuse, reducing capital costs for project developers. While the legal and regulatory framework required for storing CO_2 in federal waters is being developed by the U.S. Department of Interior, several states have begun the process of developing the requisite rules to support this burgeoning industry. In particular, Louisiana and Texas have established

leasing and fee structures for their state waters and are expected to continue their leadership in this area.

Beginning on April 5, 2023, the Project Team participated in the Annual SECARB: Offshore – GoMCarb Joint Partnership meeting in Austin, Texas. The meeting is designed to share knowledge and lessons learned between the SSEB-led SECARB: Offshore program and the University of Texas at Austin-led GoMCarb program. The meeting was attended by the respective project teams as well as regulators from the Alabama Oil and Gas Board, Mississippi Oil and Gas Board, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement. The Project Team continued its efforts to engage with regulators by participating in numerous meetings with state officials from the Southeast. Importantly, the work of the SECARB: Offshore program has provided industry partners with the confidence to move forward with commercial-scale projects and has given regulators a reference case for evaluation when developing rules and regulations for the offshore environment.

Moving forward, the project team will continue evaluating the necessary information for conducting commercial CCUS operations in offshore settings. This involves ongoing scrutiny of prospects for CO_2 storage, risk analysis for commercial ventures, and an examination of pertinent legal and regulatory factors.

ESTABLISHING AN EARLY CO_2 STORAGE COMPLEX IN KEMPER COUNTY, MS

The "Establishing an Early CO_2 Storage Complex in Kemper County, Mississippi: Project ECO_2S" Phase III project builds on the Phase II results that successfully demonstrated that the subsurface adjacent to the Kemper County Energy Facility has the potential to store commercial volumes of CO_2 safely, permanently, and economically within a regionally significant saline reservoir system. The Phase III program has the primary goal of completing the site characterization in support of a Class VI Underground Injection Control (UIC) permit to construct. To meet this goal, the Partners have completed regional characterization and detailed injection site characterization necessary to support the UIC permit, including:

1. The drilling of characterization/monitoring wells;

2. The acquisition of seismic data for reservoir and structural characterization purposes; and

3. The assessment/baseline monitoring of underground sources of drinking water (USDWs).

In parallel, pre-feasibility studies for CO_2 capture from a variety of CO_2 sources are nearing completion to identify capture technologies as well as potential CO_2 capture volumes, achievable CO_2 purity, and delivery pressures. Tying it all together and feeding back into the UIC Class VI Permit application, injection simulation studies are carried out to define the project's potential Area of Review (AoR) for the development scenario.

Accomplishments to date:

- Drilled three characterization wells during Phase II and an additional three during Phase III;
- Identification and characterization of three storage reservoirs (Massive Sand/Dantzler, Washita-Fredericksburg, and Paluxy);
- 92-mile 2D seismic survey completed July 25, 2021;
- USDW characterization well completed July 26, 2021;
- NEPA Environmental Information Volume submitted to NETL on July 13, 2021;
- Initial Phase III Risk Registry prepared within 45 days of award prior to the commencement of the well drilling activities and a second assessment in the summer of 2022;
- Preliminary modeling of potential transport options; and
- CO_2 capture assessments were completed at Plant Miller (coal) and Plant Ratcliffe (natural gas).
- Class VI UIC permit applications were submitted in August 2022
- In 2022 NETL announced additional requirements for Phase III to Phase IV readiness. SSEB and NETL negotiated the terms of the additional requirements and cost. Work began on these requirements in 2023. The requested deliverables are as follows:

1. Pipeline FEED Study

2. Storage Development Plan

3. Community Benefits Plan

By completing these additional requirements, SSEB will be in a position to successfully apply for a CarbonSAFE IV project.

- In 2022, the team received a NEPA finding that required the completion of an Environmental Assessment. This work has been ongoing throughout 2023.

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL CO_2 UTILIZATION AND STORAGE ACCELERATION PARTNERSHIP

SECARB-USA

The Southern States Energy Board is leading a coalition of technical experts to identify and address regional onshore storage and transportation challenges facing commercial deployment of carbon dioxide (CO_2) capture, utilization, and storage technologies (CCUS). The project team includes experts from Advanced Resources International, Auburn University, The University of Texas at Austin's Bureau of Economic Geology, Crescent Resource Innovation, Environmental Defense Fund, Geological Survey of Alabama, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Oklahoma State University, SAS, and The Virginia Center for Coal and Energy Research. Industry participants include The Clean Air Task Force, Denbury Resources, Inc., Marathon Petroleum Corporation, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries of America, Inc., SAS Institute, Inc., Southern Company, and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

The project is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and encompasses the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and portions of Kentucky, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, and West Virginia.

As part of a regional study, the project team has evaluated the infrastructure necessary to support the development of a CO_2 capture, transportation, and storage economy in the Southeast. The Project Team has continued its efforts to further define CO_2 storage opportunities throughout the region by utilizing legacy data and, where appropriate, acquiring new data. Indeed, SSEB partnered with Southern Company, its subsidiaries, Advanced Resources International, the Geological Survey of Alabama, and Oklahoma State University to acquire new seismic data near Alabama Power Company's Plant Gaston. This effort is critical to developing an understanding of CO_2 storage opportunities in north-central Alabama, an area with limited existing data available for subsurface

feasibility assessments. In Virginia, SSEB and Virginia Tech are partnering with SSEB Associate Member, Titan America, to drill a test well in Southwest Virginia to understand CO_2 storage opportunities near Titan America's Roanoke Cement facility. This is a critical step in understanding opportunities to decarbonize the cement industry, which accounts for nearly 8 percent of global CO_2 emissions.

Beyond the work described above, the Project Team continued its efforts to engage with industry and a wide variety of stakeholders interested in carbon capture opportunities. In total, the Project Team participated in over 370 separate instances of knowledge sharing. For example, on March 2, 2023, SSEB and members of the Project Team hosted an engagement event at the Mobile Chamber of Commerce in Mobile, Alabama to discuss legacy carbon capture, transportation, and storage work completed in the region and the opportunities created for the county and regional economies moving forward. The meeting was attended by industry personnel, local elected officials, and state legislative leaders. On May 9, 2023, SSEB's Dr. Ben Wernette participated in the 2023 Global CCS Institute's DC Forum, which is focused on discussing timely matters as they relate to carbon management. As part of this, Dr. Wernette participated in the CCUS Policy in the Americas panel with representatives from the U.S. Department of Energy, the International CCS Knowledge Center, and Clean Prosperity. Finally, in support of broad commercial deployment, SSEB and SECARB-USA personnel participated in numerous project development calls with industry partners which have led to the initial development of at least 15 separate projects in the Southeast. Importantly, these projects will support the continued operation of numerous industrial facilities and the retention of the numerous jobs that accompany them.

In the upcoming year, the Project Team will continue analyzing regional data and exploring avenues for gathering fresh information to guide future initiatives. Additionally, the team will finalize an engaging dashboard that presents data interactively, designed as an informational and educational hub for individuals interested

in CCUS. Lastly, a consistent effort will be maintained by the project team to foster active communication with industry stakeholders, thus facilitating the widespread implementation of CCUS technologies.

SUSTAINING A REGIONAL EFFORT TO SUPPORT CARBON MANAGEMENT POLICIES AND TECHNOLOGIES

This project supports and enhances the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) mission of helping the United States meet its growing need for secure, reasonably priced, and environmentally sound energy supplies. The Southern States Energy Board manages this effort that fosters and sustains an innovative environment for the development of fossil energy and carbon management policies and technologies for domestic and international economic development opportunities. Broadly, project objectives include (1) foster and facilitate communications, education, and outreach, (2) support regional outreach efforts focused on briefing state policymakers and regulators on the historical and current technical aspects of clean energy demonstration programs, and (3) promote the adoption of U.S. technologies abroad.

In collaboration with the University of Houston's Center for Carbon Management in Energy, SSEB has launched the CCUS Commercialization Consortium. Comprising more than 65 companies and organizations, this distinctive partnership between the public and private sectors aims to expedite and bring about significant changes in the adoption of CCUS technologies. To achieve this objective, SSEB and the University of Houston collaborated closely with the Consortium Membership to execute a CCUS Commercialization Roadmap. The roadmap was meticulously designed to outline the most critical challenges hindering the widespread commercialization of these technologies. This endeavor was realized through a combination of surveys conducted among the Consortium Membership and a series of meetings orchestrated to deliberate on the obstacles encountered by the industry. Broadly speaking, it was established that the foremost challenges faced by the industry could be categorized into three main groups:

1. Stakeholder engagement and environmental justice;
2. Legal and regulatory considerations; and
3. Facilitators for commercialization – including risk mitigation and engagement with financial markets.

Upon the creation of the Roadmap, the Consortium took the initiative to establish dedicated working groups. These groups are tasked with delving deeper into the challenges identified within each of the three categories. For Stakeholder engagement and environmental justice, topics focused on establishing a network of trusted academic partners that may serve as credible messengers and assist in navigating community concerns. For legal and regulatory considerations, Members of the Consortium held meetings with state and federal regulators and participated in numerous events with state legislative leaders, such as the 2023 SSEB Briefing to Southern Legislative Leaders. For commercialization facilitators, the Consortium worked with Marsh, a global insurance broker, to understand the insurance implications of commercial CCUS projects. This collaboration with Marsh culminated in a webinar that was held at the University of Houston in December 2022. Consortium partners are listed below:

Future work will include an expanded webinar series highlighting the different aspects of commercial CCUS projects. These webinars will be provided by and tailored to various stakeholders within the Consortium, relevant academic communities, and the public at large. Topics will include, but are not limited to, challenges and opportunities for financing CCS retrofits and methods for permanent sequestration, carbon capture technologies, methods for improving disadvantaged communities near CCS projects, and carbon utilization technologies.

FOREIGN RESEARCH REACTOR SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL SHIPMENTS

SSEB has partnered with the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration's Office of Material Management and Minimization (M3) for nearly three decades to prevent state and non-state actors from developing nuclear weapons or acquiring weapons-usable radiological materials. The global nuclear non-proliferation program to convert, remove and dispose is steadily approaching conclusion. SSEB, through its committee structure, has successfully assisted M3 with planning and conducting shipping campaigns (1996-to present) under which the U.S. has eliminated over 7,225 kilograms of weapons-usable nuclear materials from 48 countries. During the life of the program, most of the shipments have entered the U.S. via the southern region (Naval Support Activity Charleston) before being transported by rail to the Savannah River Site in Aiken, South Carolina or cross-country by truck to the Idaho National Laboratory.

Currently, the foreign program has sparse shipments due to the aforementioned successful collaboration; however, SSEB has used the experience from the campaign to continue preparing member states for similar transportation endeavors. Savannah River Site is not only the destination for foreign research

reactors spent nuclear fuel but also for domestic research reactors who generate the same waste stream. One such facility is the University of Missouri Research Reactor or MURR. The 10MW reactor located in Columbia, Missouri is the most powerful among universities in the United States. The research at MURR is integral to radiopharmaceuticals (supplies radioisotopes for 1.6 million patients per year), archaeological aging as well as material sciences. After the spent fuel has been utilized for these important purposes, it is prepared for shipment to the Savannah River Site where it will be housed until the U.S. constructs a permanent repository.

During the May 2023 Annual Meeting of the National Transportation Stakeholders Forum, SSEB organized a breakout session to provide a platform for MURR officials to describe the merits of their project and also inform other states of the processes undertaken for shipping the fuel. The Missouri contingent talked about regulations, packaging, training, routing and communication. The breakout session was one of the most well received at the conference and displayed how an active spent nuclear fuel transportation campaign is being conducted safely.

SOUTHERN EMERGENCY RESPONSE COUNCIL (SERC)

The Southern Emergency Response Council (SERC) is responsible for the administration of a mutual aid agreement, formalized in 1972, amongst southern states to support one another in the event of a radiological incident involving a nuclear power plant. SERC's authority is documented in the Southern Mutual Radiation Assistance Plan (SMRAP) which illustrates how protocols would be implemented in the case of such an emergency. Created as a blueprint for coordinating radiological emergency assistance capabilities among participating states in the southern region, SERC representatives review, revise, and administer SMRAP on an annual basis to reflect changes in state emergency response capabilities and equipment. The 14 signatory states which currently comprise SERC are as follows: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

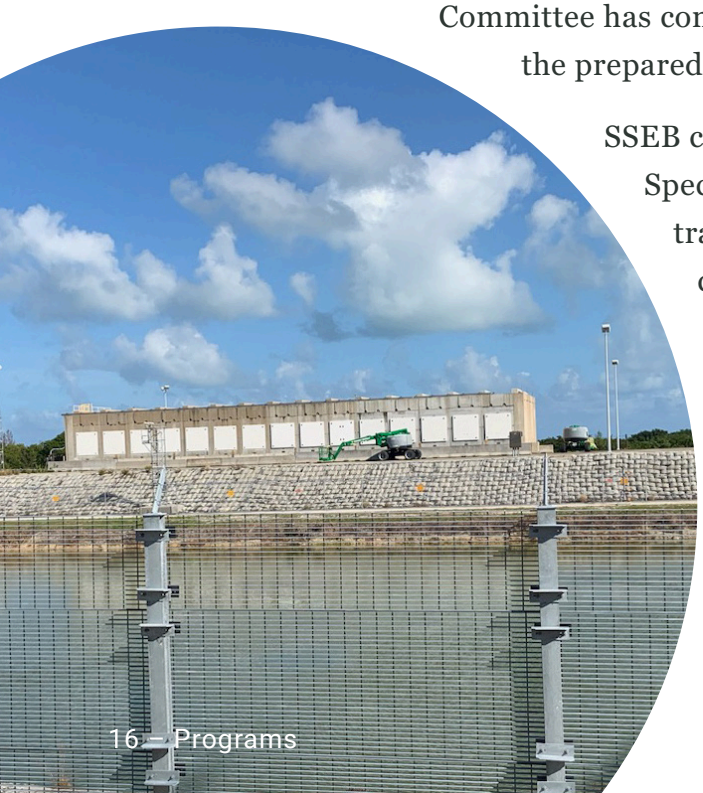
To maintain preparedness for SERC members, the Southern States Energy Board acts as regional coordinator to

simulate the activation of the SMRAP during state nuclear power plant exercises. Since the later part of 2022 until the present time, three states (Alabama, North Carolina, and Texas) have incorporated SSEB into their Federal Emergency Management Agency evaluated drills and have made contact to request personnel, equipment, vehicles, and subject matter expertise from their border states. The drills adhere to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's established emergency classifications. The emergency classifications increase in severity from Notification of Unusual Event; Alert; Site Area Emergency; and General Emergency.

A SERC meeting is held once per year in conjunction with the Organization of Agreement States meeting. This gathering allows members the opportunity to discuss matters related to SMRAP. The most recent meeting of the group was held in August 2023, in Seattle, Washington, to ratify the latest version of SMRAP. During the recent meeting, state participants discussed schedules for their upcoming nuclear power plant graded exercises and how joint collaboration could aid in the evaluation process.

RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION

SSEB's Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee continues to support the implementation of a unified waste management system to transport, store and dispose of the nation's spent nuclear fuel (SNF) and high-level radioactive waste. Through its cooperative agreement with DOE-NE's Office of Integrated Waste Management, the Committee has conducted activities throughout the year to further the preparedness of the region for the task at hand.



SSEB closed calendar year 2022, by hosting a Radiation Specialist Course in Nashville, Tennessee. This training is key to enhancing emergency response capabilities along major shipping corridors. By partnering with DOE's Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program (DOE-TEPP), the Board has been able to offer the course at least once every fiscal year. Completion of this training program provides the attendees with a radioactive material specialty and the necessary knowledge and skill base to safely perform assigned duties

to remediate a radiological incident. Ideally, SSEB would prefer that every responder within their jurisdiction receive this training; meanwhile, to provide another form of assistance, the Committee has made known the availability of a resource known as the Radiological Operations Support Specialist (ROSS). During the May 2023 National Transportation Stakeholders Forum (NTSF), SSEB's Kentucky Committee Member (Matt McKinley) led a breakout session to explain the virtues of the program. In essence, the ROSS is a state and local subject matter expert with the ability to bridge the gap between response and radiological knowledge in order to minimize the impact of a potential or actual incident involving the release of radiological or nuclear materials. ROSS are on-call personnel who will work with local authorities in their preparedness efforts by supporting radiological disaster planning and exercises. Community leaders are able to use the ROSS's technical expertise and knowledge to improve communications and decision-making capabilities.

Ultimately, the main priority of the Committee is the safe transport of radioactive materials from commercial nuclear power plants. However, there cannot be transportation or the expansion of nuclear power if there is no place to receive the waste. In this vein, DOE-NE has progressed with its efforts involving consent-based siting. The Department issued funding to a consortium consisting of 13 geographically and institutionally diverse awardees. The recipients will engage with communities interested in learning more about consent-based siting, management of spent nuclear fuel, and interim storage facility siting considerations. SSEB looks forward to working with the consortium to bring resolution to this vital matter.

TRANSURANIC WASTE TRANSPORTATION

The Transuranic (TRU) Waste Transportation Working Group is the mechanism by which SSEB establishes policy and implements protocols to safely transport shipments of TRU waste from the southern region origin sites (Savannah River Site and Oak Ridge National Laboratory) to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in Carlsbad, New Mexico. The TRU Working Group in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Energy's Carlsbad Field Office (DOE-CBFO) develops individual programs within each corridor state to dispose of the waste stream, which is generated from the production of nuclear weapons, mainly consisting of solid items such as protective clothing and gloves, rags, lab instruments and equipment, as well as other items that have become contaminated by transuranic isotopes.

Preparation for this undertaking is a complex process during which SSEB negotiates with DOE-CBFO, on behalf of the impacted member states, to acquire funding for planning and other preparedness activities in accordance with the objectives of the national program. The

funding, which annually exceeds $2 million, is administered via a cooperative agreement to the WIPP corridor state subgrantees. Based upon an action that began during the Covid pandemic, SSEB hosts a series of virtual meetings with the subgrantees at the beginning of each year to discuss the financial and technical aspects of each state's work plan and budget.

In June 2023, SSEB Director of Nuclear Programs (Christopher Wells) was invited to present at the National TRU Program (NTP) User Group Meeting in Carlsbad, New Mexico. The NTP was established by the DOE Office of Environmental Management to oversee the process of preparing TRU waste from DOE waste generator sites to meet WIPP requirements and provides guidance and specifications for receiving the waste at WIPP. This process involves the characterization and packaging of the waste at the generator sites ensuring that all TRU waste meets Waste Acceptance Criteria before the waste is transported to WIPP for disposal. Mr. Wells participated in a panel discussion along with a tribal counterpart to discuss how SSEB engages with stakeholders. He highlighted the importance of establishing relationships with SSEB corridor states, other regions, tribes and federal agencies so each entity knows the responsibilities of the others. Participation in the meeting was a furtherance of this point as new contacts were established between those who handle waste preparation and those who deal with transportation.

July was marked by more preparedness training for first responders. Hospital personnel, fire fighters, law enforcement and state and local emergency management gathered in Pecos, Texas to conduct a tabletop exercise in preparation for full-scale WIPPTREX in October. Participants walked through an accident scenario with each organization explaining their response role.

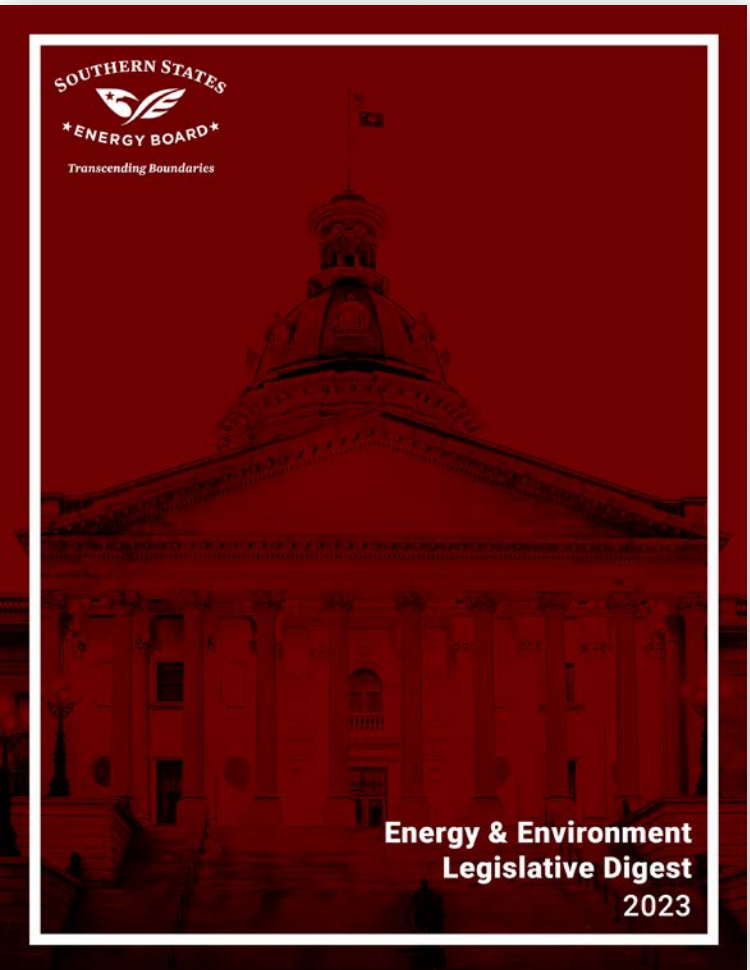
Since opening in 1999, the WIPP facility has processed over 13,500 shipments. Southern sites have eclipsed 2,000 of those shipments (ORNL – 275 / SRS – 1,730) and represent almost three million miles of highway transport.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATIVE MONITORING

The Southern States Energy Board's Energy and Environment (E&E) Legislative Digest, a longstanding publication spanning over four decades, stands as a comprehensive reflection of legislative trends in its member states. It serves as a vital resource for legislators, policymakers, industry stakeholders, and the general public by providing valuable insights into the ever-evolving realm of energy-related legislation, regulations, and resolutions.

This year, the Digest contains more than 600 bills in the E&E domain. It offers a consolidated view of the region's energy priorities and environmental strategies. For those who prefer a digital experience, the bills can be explored through interactive categories and maps on the SSEB website.

Within the Digest, energy measures are subdivided into ten categories, including Carbon Capture & Storage, Critical Minerals & Rare Earth Elements, Cybersecurity & Digital Technology, Efficiency & Weatherization, Emergency Management & Homeland Security, Fossil Energy, Nuclear Energy, Renewable Energy, Reorganization & Coordination, and Utilities. In 2023, 271 energy-related bills were enacted across member states and territories. Environmental measures are similarly categorized into nine sections, such as Coastal Zone Management, Emergency Management & Homeland Security, Emissions & Pollution, Environmental Health & Justice, Hazardous Waste, Inland Water Quality & Management, Land Management, Reorganization & Coordination, and Solid Waste, totaling 340 legislative pieces.



The 2023 Digest highlights notable legislative trends across the membership.

Scan the code above to view the interactive Digest.

Scan the code above to view the static Digest.

In the energy sector, hydrogen, nuclear, and offshore wind measures received considerable attention. Additionally, electric vehicle oversight, taxation, and infrastructure funding were prominent issues addressed by legislatures in multiple states. States across the region competed for clean hydrogen hub funding under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, with various legislatures enacting laws to study, regulate, or promote hydrogen use. Environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) legislation, as well as corporate climate disclosure and restrictions on certain fuels, continued to gain traction in various states. Efforts to safeguard critical infrastructure from threats, both domestic and foreign, resulted in the passage of critical infrastructure protection bills across multiple states. Legislatures also focused on solar and wind energy development and deployment, with numerous states enacting measures to encourage their growth. Lastly, acts pertaining to potable water quality and floodwater management were enacted in several of our member states.

At its core, the Digest offers a comprehensive overview of legislative approaches, innovative solutions, and challenges faced by member states. It fosters collaboration and information exchange to promote a coordinated and effective approach to common energy-related issues, including energy security, affordability, and sustainability. Whether you are a legislator involved in the legislative process or simply interested in the energy and environmental landscape of the Southeast, the Energy and Environment Legislative Digest provides a valuable resource for your exploration and understanding.

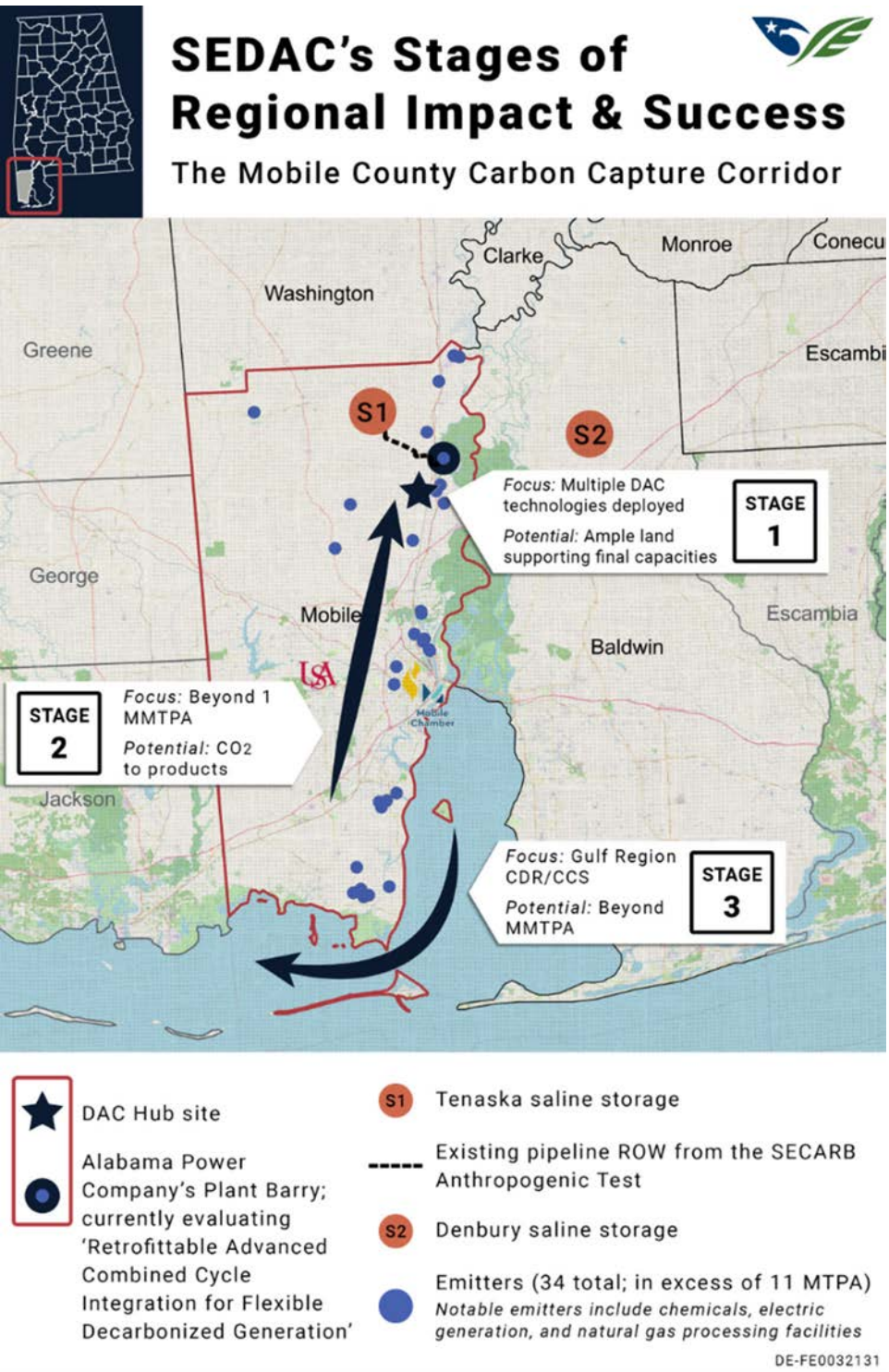
The latest version of the printed Digest is current as of September 1, 2023. The interactive Digest receives continuous updates as bills are adopted within our membership region.

NEW PROJECTS

SOUTHEAST DAC (SEDAC) HUB

The Southeast DAC (SEDAC) Hub project supports the deployment of CO_2 Direct Air Capture (DAC) technology in Mobile County, Alabama. The county is home to many industrial facilities (34 reporting to EPA GHGRP; over 11,000,000 tonnes of CO_2 per annum), has large areas of available land, and is home to a skilled workforce making it an ideal location for a DAC Hub. Because of these attributes, the SEDAC Hub will not only abate local emissions but also lead to the development of a carbon reduction ecosystem in

the area and the Gulf South more broadly. The SEDAC Hub project is being coordinated by the Southern States Energy Board in coordination with site host Alabama Power Company. The Project Team includes personnel from various organizations, including 8 Rivers, Aircapture, Crescent Resource Innovation, ENTECH Strategies, Georgia Tech, Mitternight, RTI International, Southern Company Services, the University of Alabama, and the University of South Alabama. The Team has established a robust community outreach and two-way engagement program that includes a Community Advisory Board (CAB) comprised of diverse local stakeholders, industry partners interested in decarbonization, as well as local colleges, universities, and trade schools. The CAB will provide input to achieve community-supported DAC growth and will continue to guide the development of the SEDAC Community Benefits Plan.



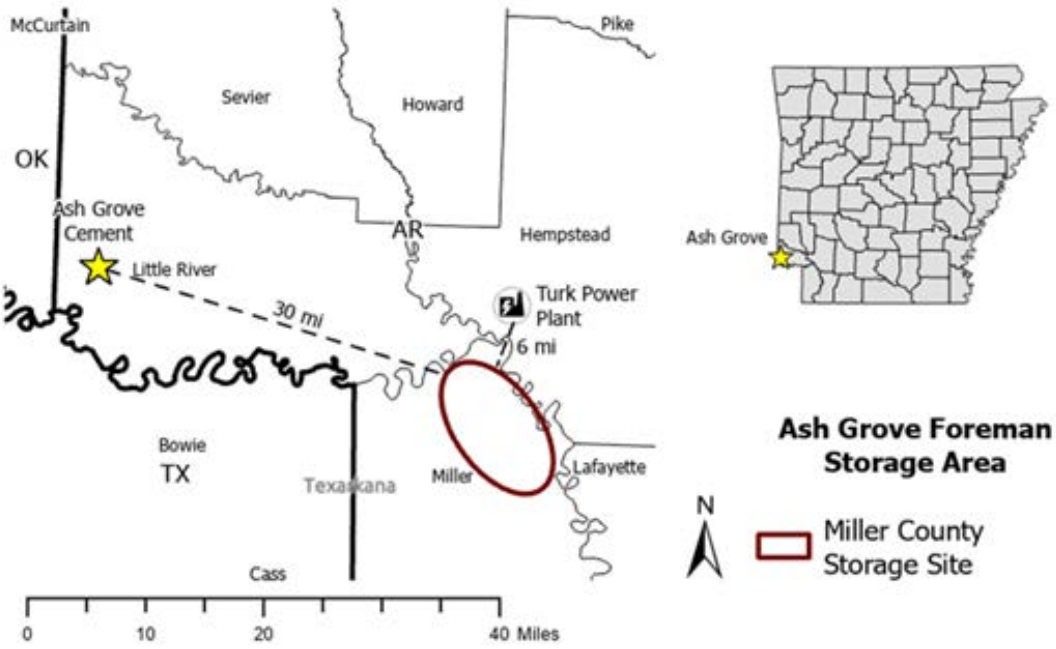
The anchoring technologies for the SEDAC Hub were developed or optimized by 8 Rivers and Aircapture. 8 Rivers' technology, called Calcite, is a calcium-based DAC technology that captures CO_2 by reacting calcium hydroxide with ambient air to form limestone. Aircapture's DAC technology employs a polymeric amine sorbent on a commercially available contactor substrate to capture CO_2 from ambient air. The technology is currently deployed and

undergoing operational testing at the National Carbon Capture Center, with several additional commercial deployments currently under construction in various markets.

The SEDAC Hub project will complete front-end engineering design studies required to support the construction and operation of the two DAC technologies with an initial capture capacity of 50,000 net tonnes of CO_2 annually for each (100,000 net tonnes of CO_2 annually). The project team will complete a balance of plant FEED study for infrastructure that will be shared between the two DAC technologies. The team will assess the feasibility of low-carbon intensity energy sources and evaluate the availability and suitability of existing infrastructure for reuse. They will also work closely with regional storage field developers to identify a CO_2 storage solution and submit a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Information Volume (EIV) based on the integrated DAC Hub. The project includes a refined Life Cycle Analysis informed by the DAC FEED assessment, the BOP FEED, and other studies.

FOREMAN CEMENT PLANT CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE FEED

The Foreman Cement Plant Carbon Capture and Storage FEED (Foreman FEED) seeks to develop a carbon capture and storage (CCS) integrated solution to support reduction of carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions associated with cement manufacturing and improve the sustainability of the Ash Grove Foreman Cement Plant in Foreman, Arkansas. This is particularly important as the Foreman Cement Plant is a major employer in the region, employing more than 150 individuals with an annual payroll of more than $12 million. To accomplish this, the Project Team will execute and complete front-end engineering and design (FEED) studies for an integrated CCS system. The Project Team will utilize Air Liquide's Cryocap™



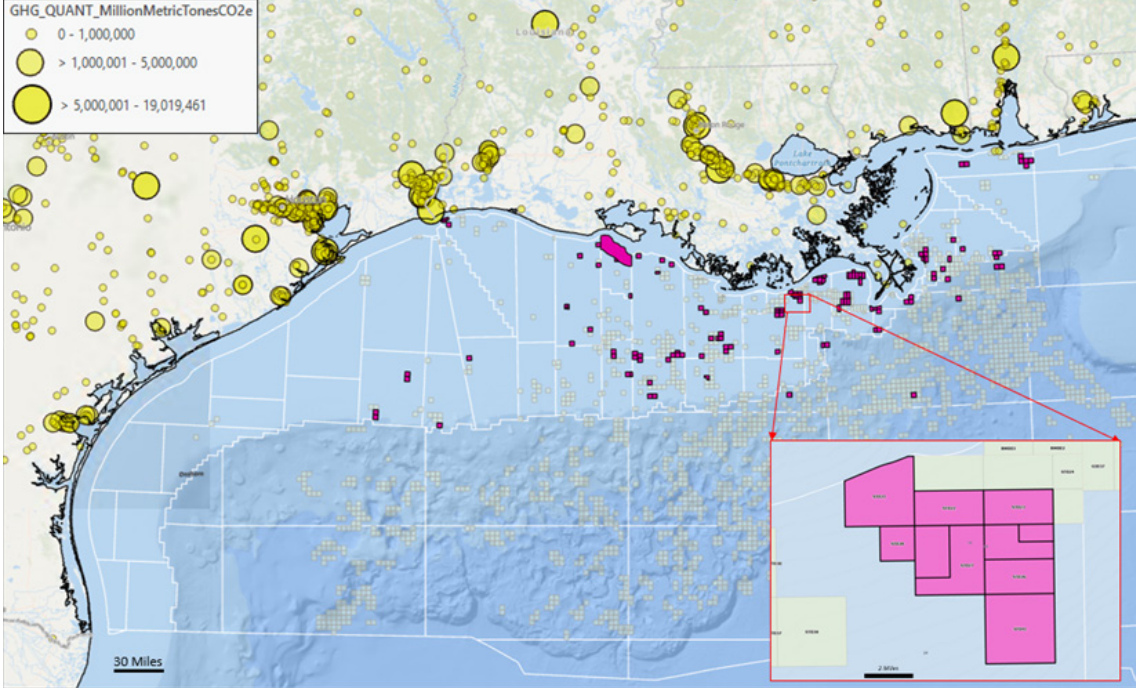
technology as the basis for post-combustion CO_2 capture and processing system. Cryocap™ is environmentally sustainable as it only requires electricity without significant heat requirements; does not use any chemicals or flammables; and can manage impurities such as NOx, SOx, mercury, and particulate matter.

In parallel, the Project Team will execute a stratigraphic test well targeting the Jurassic Smackover Formation to support the development and submission of its U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Underground Injection Control (UIC) Class VI Permit for the permanent storage of CO_2. This builds on prior work funded by the State of Arkansas and the U.S. Department of Energy and completed by Advanced Resources International and Southern States Energy Board. The Project will include the development of a refined life cycle analysis informed by the CCS FEED assessment, the pipeline FEED assessment, the storage field development plan, and the submission of a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental information volume based on the integrated CCS system. A robust community benefits plan will be developed and deployed in anticipation of subsequent project phases to ensure community engagement and access to clean energy careers.

The Foreman FEED study is expected to occur over a 24-month period and is led by the Southern States Energy Board. The Project Team consists of Advanced Resources International, Ash Grove Cement (site host), and Crescent Resource Innovation. Air Liquide, Environmental Resource Management, and an engineering, procurement and construction contractor will participate in the Project as vendors while Talos will participate as an industry stakeholder.

LOUISIANA OFFSHORE CO_2 HUB REPURPOSING INFRASTRUCTURE TO DECREASE GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS (PROJECT LOCHRIDGE)

Louisiana Offshore CO_2 Hub Repurposing Infrastructure to Decrease Greenhouse Gas Emissions, or Project Lochridge, is a new project in support of the U.S. Department of Energy's CarbonSAFE Phase II Program goals of reducing project risks and costs for future carbon dioxide (CO_2) capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) projects, bringing more storage resources into commercial classifications that support business and financial decisions, and encouraging more rapid growth of a vibrant, geographically widespread industry for geologic carbon storage. Project Lochridge will achieve five key objectives to establish an offshore Storage Complex, including: 1) demonstrate that the subsurface saline formations at the Storage Complex can store at least 50 million metric tons of captured CO_2 safely and



permanently over a 30-year period; 2) conduct meaningful engagement and two-way communications with communities and stakeholders to inform project planning and design, address potential societal concerns and impacts, and seek opportunities for economic revitalization and job creation; 3) identify commercial project risks and develop a comprehensive mitigation strategy; 4) complete a technical and economic feasibility assessment; and 5) develop a plan for subsequent detailed site characterization to support the U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSSE) Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) permit readiness.

The Project Team will utilize existing public and proprietary data to further characterize approximately 5,000 acres in the federal waters of U.S. Gulf of Mexico's South Timbalier (ST) Lease Area currently operated by Carbon-Zero. Static capacity estimates and preliminary seismic interpretations suggest that the ST Lease Area is capable of storing commercial volumes of CO_2 safely and permanently. Therefore, Project Lochridge has a high likelihood of being able to transition into a commercial OCS Storage Complex to support the decarbonization of the Louisiana industrial corridor, situated along the Mississippi River, which emits more than 90 million metric tons of CO_2 per annum.

The Project Team is led by the Southern States Energy Board (SSEB), and includes Carbon-Zero, Crescent Resource Innovation, Louisiana State University, Repsol E&P USA LLC, and Southern University at Shreveport with technical performance from the Southern University and A&M College campuses.

PROJECT LONGLEAF

Project Longleaf seeks to significantly reduce the carbon emissions of South Alabama through the development of a stacked storage hub in near proximity to Bucks, Alabama. To do so, the Project will complete relevant permitting, site characterization, and NEPA environmental impact efforts across a project period of 36 months. Over this time, parallel efforts will include the development of a robust Community Benefits Plan, a Pipeline FEED Study, and a CO_2 Source Feasibility Study.

Economically, it is anticipated that the Longleaf Storage Hub will benefit the region over time. CCS projects such as this are expected to prolong the operating life of emitting facilities in the region, many of which are key employers and taxpayers. To date, the Project Team has secured commitments from four separate emitters in the region representing a variety of industries (e.g., electric generation and steel manufacturing). In aggregate, these commitments sum to 2.6 million metric tons of annual CO_2 emissions, or 78 million metric tons of CO_2 over 30 years. Preliminary estimates suggest the three target storage reservoirs have a storage capacity of between 188 and 781 million metric tons of CO_2 at the P10 and P90 confidence level, respectively. The Project builds on the successful DOE/NETL/SECARB Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership's (RCSP) CO_2 injection demonstration at the Anthropogenic Test Site, conducted at nearby Citronelle, Alabama. The project's land position will include approximately 22,000 acres in a sparsely populated rural and forested region of the county.

The Project Team will establish a Community Engagement Team, consisting of subject matter experts within the Project Team and industry volunteers, who will be tasked with ensuring that local communities are involved in project decisions. Further, the Community Engagement Team will establish a network of participating minority serving institutions while developing a robust educational and employment program aimed at increasing access to good-paying energy careers through presentations and job fairs.

Project Longleaf is led by the Southern States Energy Board. The Project Team includes subject matter experts from Advanced Resources International, Crescent Resource Innovation, ENTECH Strategies, the Geological Survey of Alabama, Tenaska Sequestration Services, the University of South Alabama, and Williams. Baker Hughes Oil Field Services and Environmental Resource Management will participate as vendors while Southern Company Services will participate as the Project Industry Network lead. The Longleaf Storage Hub is being developed by Tenaska, a private, independent energy company headquartered in Omaha, Nebraska, and its partners.

OPTIMIZING ALABAMA'S CO_2 STORAGE IN SHELBY COUNTY (PROJECT OASIS)

Optimizing Alabama's CO_2 Storage in Shelby County (Project OASIS) is a new project to support the U.S. Department of Energy's CarbonSAFE Phase II Program goals of reducing project risks and costs for future carbon dioxide (CO_2) capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) projects, bringing more storage resources into commercial classifications that support business and financial decisions, and encouraging more rapid growth of a vibrant, geographically widespread industry for geologic carbon storage. The goal is to establish the foundation for a commercial-scale geologic storage complex for CO_2 captured from Plant Gaston, a major 1.88 GW (capacity) natural gas and coal-fueled power plant and the site of the DOE's National Carbon Capture Center (NCCC), and surrounding industrial sources of CO_2 located in Shelby County, Alabama.

The storage complex could additionally serve as a central CO_2 storage hub for multiple large industrial plants that are located within the project area by enabling 1.7 million metric tons per year of CO_2 from Alabama Power's Plant Gaston to be captured and stored, with the potential for an additional 5 million metric tons per year from the cement and pulp and paper plants in the region. Establishing a safe and permanent CO_2 storage complex is essential for maintaining the viability of power production from Plant Gaston. Alabama Power has initiated discussions of replacing the current low-efficiency coal and natural gas fueled units at Plant Gaston with a state-of-the-art, high-efficiency natural gas-fueled combined cycle (NGCC) power plant. Establishing a storage facility nearby will provide significant support for this important initiative.

The Project Team established seven objectives to achieve its goal, including:

1) demonstrate that the subsurface saline formations at the storage complex can store commercial volumes of CO_2 safely and permanently;
2) develop a comprehensive

Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan that includes Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility, Justice 40, and Economic Revitalization and Job Creation considerations; 3) establish the infrastructure framework for a CO_2 storage hub; 4) create a rigorous risk registry and conduct a comprehensive risk assessment; 5) develop a monitoring plan; 6) execute a comprehensive site characterization plan to support an Underground Injection Control Class VI Permit in Phase III; and 7) evaluate project commerciality.

Work on this project will be led by the Southern States Energy Board. Project Team members include Advanced Resources International, Inc., Alabama A&M University, Auburn University, Crescent Resource Innovation, Oklahoma State University, Southern Company / Alabama Power Company, Westervelt, and Baker Hughes.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Southern States Energy Board has myriad collaborative efforts underway and through these robust partnerships with government, business, industry, and academia, our member states and territories benefit from the work of energy and environmental experts throughout the country.

EDUCATING AND ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS

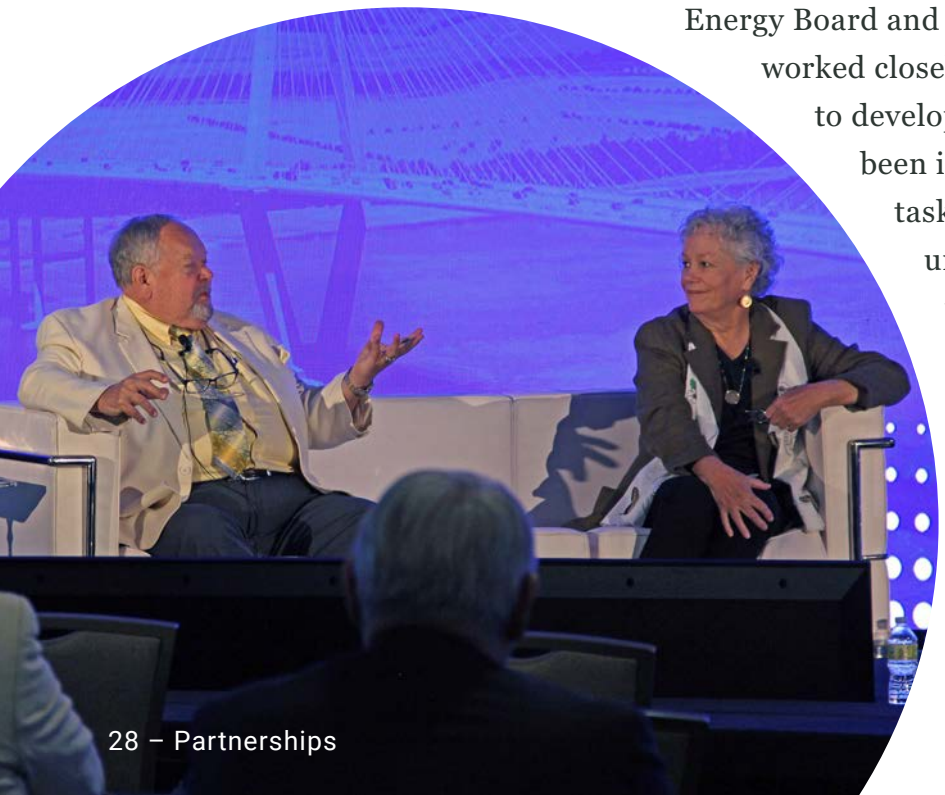
Southern States Energy Board prioritizes outreach and education through a variety of venues including keynote presentations, panel discussions, conferences and workshops, exhibits, and myriad activities meant to engage public officials and other stakeholders. SSEB strives to enhance and improve understanding and awareness of domestic energy development, energy and environmental policies, and clean energy technologies and their importance in the region.

On July 8, 2023, SSEB hosted the 2023 Joint Annual Briefing to Southern Legislative Leaders and Committee on Carbon Management Meeting. In preparation for the meeting, SSEB published its 2023 Preliminary Energy and Environment Legislative Digest, a compendium of legislation passed by the Board's 18 member states and territories. The meeting included presentations by Board Members as well as an overview of legislative trends in the region. Speakers included (in order of appearance):

- The Honorable William Sandifer, South Carolina House of Representatives and Vice Chairman, Southern States Energy Board;

- The Honorable Thomas Alexander, South Carolina Senate President and Member, Southern States Energy Board;
- Sym Singh, Director of Budget and Legislative Affairs, Office of the Governor, South Carolina, and Chairman's Alternate to the Southern States Energy Board;
- The Honorable Jim Powell, Federal Representative, Southern States Energy Board;
- Dr. Benjamin Wernette, Principal Scientist and Strategic Partnerships Lead, Southern States Energy Board;
- Frederick Eames, Chair, Policy, Legal, and Regulatory Committee, SSEB's CCUS Consortium, and Partner, Hunton Andrews Kurth;
- Joe Giove, Director of Business Operations, Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management, U.S. Department of Energy;
- The Honorable Charles McConnell, University of Houston Center for Carbon Management in Energy;
- Andrew J. Paterson, Principal, The Environmental Business Journal; and
- Kenneth Nemeth, Secretary and Executive Director, Southern States Energy Board.

In coordination with the University of Houston's Center for Carbon Management in Energy, Southern States Energy Board is leading a Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS) Commercialization Consortium. Consisting of over 65 companies and organizations, this unique public-private partnership promotes the rapid and transformative deployment of CCUS technologies. To this end, Southern States Energy Board and the University of Houston worked closely with subject matter experts to develop a CCUS roadmap that has been initiated to achieve actionable tasks that will reduce risks and uncertainties across the CCUS value chain and incentivize and encourage industry investment. As part of this, the CCUS Commercialization Consortium has held webinars designed to educate stakeholders on a variety of topics important to commercial CCUS projects



such as stakeholder engagement, project financing, and project insurability. On June 15, 2023, Southern States Energy Board and University of Houston personnel met with the Assistant Secretary of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management for the U.S. Department of Energy, Brad Crabtree, to discuss past and ongoing efforts as well as the need for sustained industry engagement to support long-term growth of the CCUS industry.

Examples of Significant Engagements

The following represents a mix of in-person and virtual events that establish our communications and outreach efforts as robust and wide-ranging:

SSEB Briefings to Board Members | Host and Presenters

SSEB Annual Energy Briefing to Southern Legislative Leaders | Host and Presenters

SSEB Associate Member Meetings | Host and Presenter

Southern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting | Participant

State Energy Offices, Briefings on SSEB Programs and Activities | Presenters

SECARB Offshore GOM Partnership (Joint Meeting with The University of Texas at Austin, Bureau of Economic Geology) Stakeholder Briefing | Co-host and Presenters

Direct Air Capture Recovery of Energy for CCUS Partnership Annual Review Meeting and Peer Review | Presenters

SECARB-USA Project Meetings and Annual Review Meeting | Host and Presenters

Project ECO2S Phase III Team Meetings and Annual Review Meeting | Host and Presenters

National Energy Technology Laboratory's 2023 Integrated Project Review Meeting | Presenters and Participants

CCUS Commercialization Accelerator Consortium Leadership Team Meetings | Host and Presenters

Midland CO_2 Conference | Presenter

Global CCS Institute | Presenter

Western Interstate Energy Board High-Level Radioactive Waste Committee and WIPP Technical Advisory Group Meeting | Presenter

Council of State Governments Northeast High-Level Radioactive Waste Transportation Task Force | Presenter

Council of State Governments Midwestern Office Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee Meeting | Presenter

Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program Ad Hoc Working Group | Chairman

Tribal Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee Meeting | Presenter

Spent Nuclear Fuel Rail/Routing Ad Hoc Working Group | Member

Section 180(c) Ad Hoc Working Group | Member

Communications and Outreach Ad Hoc Working Group | Member

National Transportation Stakeholder Forum | Planning Committee Member

Department of Energy Office of Nuclear Energy Transportation Core Group | Member

Southern Emergency Response Council Meeting | Host

National Transuranic Program User Group Meeting | Presenter

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PROGRAM

The SSEB Associate Members program was founded in 1981 by Kentucky Governor John Y. Brown during his chairmanship. The members represent both regional and national energy providers, resource companies, educational institutions, trade associations, and technology developers. The Associate Members act in an advisory capacity to the Board. With increasing interest from the region's prominent energy industries and organizations, SSEB gains a broad depth of knowledge and diverse perspectives on the impact of energy and environmental policies and regulations on the region's economy.

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SOURCES OF SUPPORT

The Southern States Energy Board's primary source of funding is its annual appropriations from the 18 member states and territories. Each member's share is computed by a formula written into the original compact. This formula is composed of an equal share, per capita income, and population. The Board has not requested an increase in annual appropriations since 1987. The compact authorizes the Board to accept funds from any state, federal agency, interstate agency, institution, person, firm, or corporation provided those funds are used for the Board's purposes and functions. This year, additional support was received for research projects from cooperative agreements from the United States Department of Energy and Department of Defense.

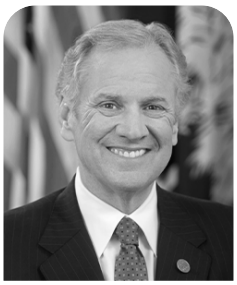
Additionally, SSEB continues to lead an Associate Members program composed of industry partners who provide an annual contribution to the Board. Membership includes organizations from the nongovernmental sector, corporations, trade associations, and public advocacy groups. The Associate Members program provides an opportunity for public officials and industry representatives to exchange ideas, define objectives, and advance energy and environmental planning to improve and enhance the South's economic and environmental well-being.

In addition, the SSEB carbon management program's industry associates and partners provide monetary sponsorships to complement the Board's CCUS projects and activities and assist with cost share needs on our federal projects. SSEB also receives corporate sponsorships, registration fees, as well as other in-kind contributions to support the expenses associated with the SSEB annual meeting and other events. SSEB state appropriations are as follows:

Alabama	$32,572	North Carolina	$37,042
Arkansas	$31,027	Oklahoma	$32,512
Florida	$47,212	Puerto Rico	$25,597
Georgia	$35,782	South Carolina	$31,372
Kentucky	$32,197	Tennessee	$34,267
Louisiana	$33,817	Texas	$55,402
Maryland	$37,192	U.S. Virgin Islands	$25,297
Mississippi	$29,077	Virginia	$38,362
Missouri	$36,247	West Virginia	$28,732

BOARD MEMBERS

2022-2023 Executive Committee



Chairman
Gov. Henry McMaster
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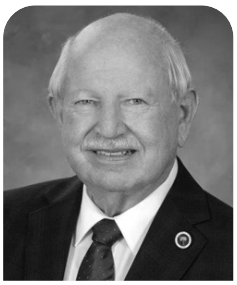
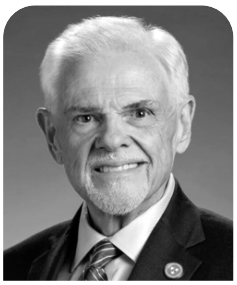


Vice Chair
Rep. Bill Sandifer
South Carolina



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Michael Nasi
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Carl Michael Smith
Special Counsel

Eddie Joe Williams
Senior Policy Advisor

PHOTOS — YEAR IN REVIEW

Have you participated in or delivered a speech at any of our gatherings over the past year? Simply scan the QR code below using your smartphone's camera app to access our website, where you can browse and download photographs captured during our numerous meetings and events over the past year.

BOARD OVERVIEW

The Southern States Energy Board (SSEB) is a non-profit interstate compact organization created in 1960 and established under Public Laws 87-563 and 92-440. The Board's mission is to enhance economic development and the quality of life in the South through innovations in energy and environmental policies, programs, and technologies. Sixteen southern states and two territories comprise the membership of SSEB, and each jurisdiction is represented by the governor and a legislator from the House and Senate. A governor serves as the chair and legislators serve as vice-chair and treasurer. Ex-officio non-voting Board members include a federal representative appointed by the President of the United States, the Southern Legislative Conference Energy and Environment Committee Chair, and SSEB's executive director, who serves as secretary.

SSEB was created by state law and consented to by Congress with a broad mandate to contribute to the economic and community well-being of the southern region. The Board exercises this mandate through the creation of programs in the fields of energy and environmental policy research, development and implementation, science and technology exploration, and related areas of concern. SSEB serves its members directly by providing timely assistance designed to develop effective energy and environmental policies and programs and represents its members before governmental agencies at all levels.

IMAGE CAPTIONS

Pg. 3: South Carolina's capitol. ***Pg. 4:*** South Carolina's Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge—the third longest cable-stayed bridge in the Western Hemisphere. ***Pg. 5:*** South Carolina's Gov. Henry McMaster speaks at our 62nd Annual Meeting. ***Pg. 7:*** Participants in the 2023 SECARB: Offshore - GoMCarb Joint Partnership Meeting held April 5-7 in Austin, Texas. ***Pg. 9:*** Engineers examine a well site during a pressure test for ECO_2S. ***Pg. 11:*** 2023 DC Forum CCS Policy in the Americas panel participants. L-R: Jeff Erikson, Global CCS Institute; Sarah Forbes, US Department of Energy; Beth (Hardy) Valiaho, International CCS Knowledge Centre; Ben Wernette, Southern States Energy Board; and Adam Sweet, Clean Prosperity. ***Pg. 14:*** NTSF attendees ascend the disposal cell at the DOE's Office of Legacy Management's Weldon Springs Site in St. Charles, Missouri. ***Pg. 15:*** Poster session at the August 2023 Southern Emergency Response Council/Organization of Agreement States Meeting. ***Pg. 16:*** Interim storage at the Turkey Point Nuclear Generating Station in Homestead, Florida. ***Pg. 18:*** Group photo from the June 2023 National Transuranic Program User Group Meeting in Carlsbad, New Mexico. ***Pg. 22:*** Location of Ash Grove Foreman Plant, the storage site in Miller County, and the potential pipeline route connecting the two. ***Pg. 24:*** Location of Carbon-Zero lease areas (pink) and major CO_2 emitters in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico. ***Pg. 26:*** Project Team members survey proposed site of stratigraphic test well as part of the characterization plan in support of Underground Injection Control Class VI permit application. ***Pg. 28:*** SSEB Members Representative Jim Gooch, Jr., of Kentucky, and Representative Lynn Smith, of Georgia, discuss state legislative policy at our 62nd Annual Meeting.

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