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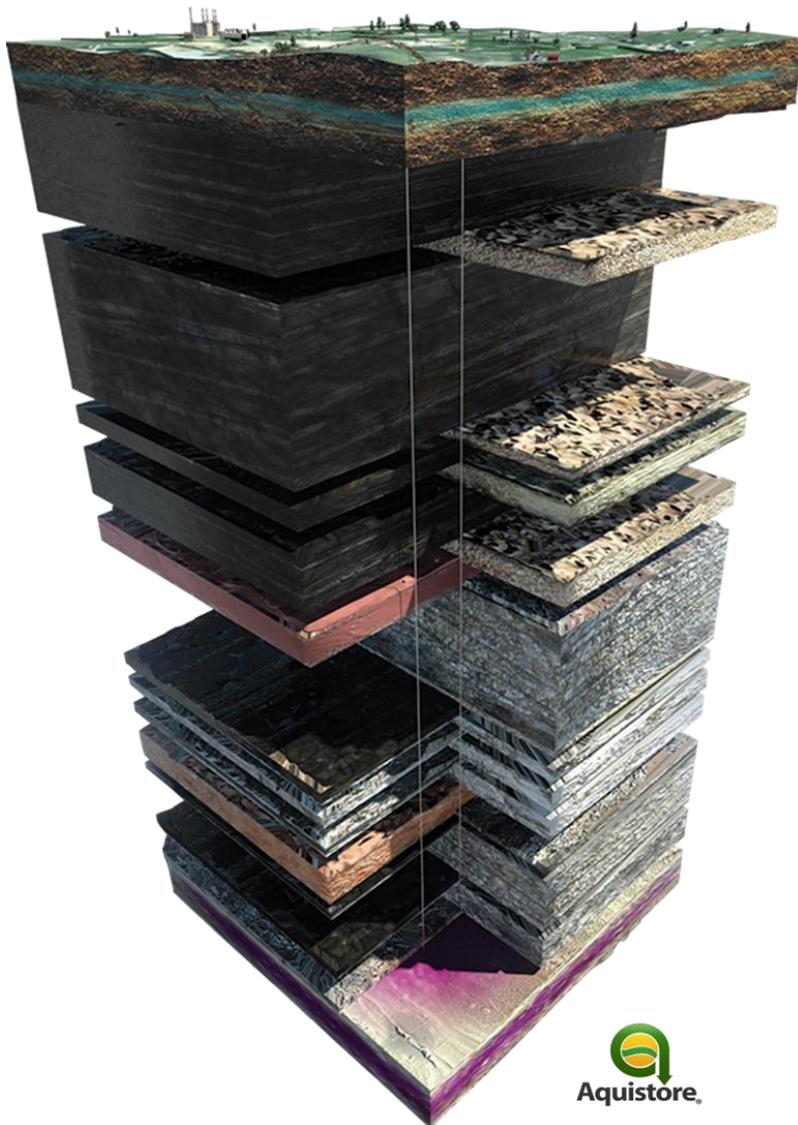
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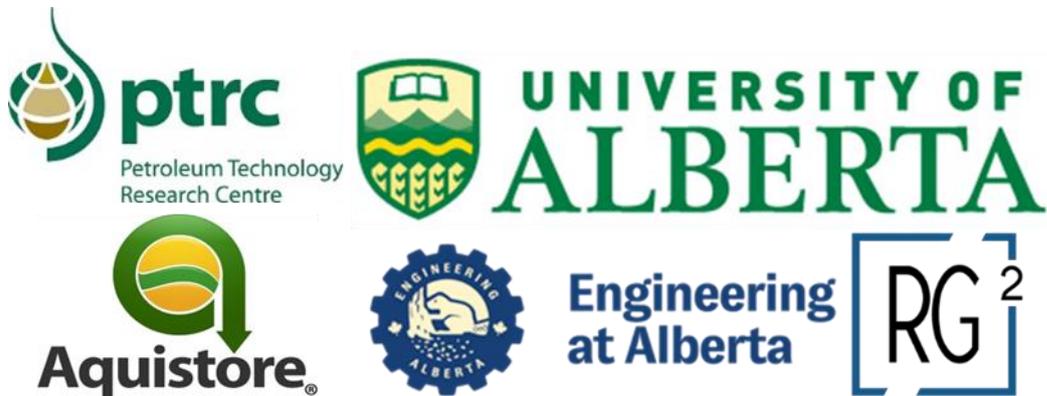
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# Feasibility Study for Proposed CO<sub>2</sub> Circulation Test at the Aquistore Injection Site, Saskatchewan

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## Zusammenfassung

In Folge des Interesses für ein mögliches CO<sub>2</sub> Plume Geothermal (CPG) Pilotprojekt am CO<sub>2</sub>-Speicherstandort Aquistore in Saskatchewan, Kanada wurde die University of Alberta beauftragt, die Machbarkeit eines CO<sub>2</sub>-Zirkulationstests als ersten Schritt zu einem CO<sub>2</sub> Plume Geothermal (CPG) Feldexperiment zu untersuchen. Bei der von Schweizer Wissenschaftlern entwickelten CPG Technologie, wird CO<sub>2</sub> als Arbeitsmedium für ein geothermisches Energiesystem eingesetzt, wobei das CO<sub>2</sub> auch in tiefen, salinen Aquiferen gespeichert wird. CPG als mögliche Technologie zur Energiebereitstellung und als Ergänzung zur Kohlenstoffabscheidung und -speicherung (CCS) hat das Potenzial, die Kosten für CCS-Operationen zu senken und könnte in geothermisch günstigen Regionen sogar zusätzliche Umsätze generieren. Noch wichtiger ist, dass das gesamte CO<sub>2</sub> während des Betriebs einer CPG Anlage in den jeweiligen unterirdischen Gesteinsformationen gespeichert wird.

Die vorliegende Machbarkeitsstudie befasst sich mit einigen Herausforderungen, wenn geologisch gespeichertes CO<sub>2</sub> unter Verwendung eines Bohrloch-Doubletten-Systems an die Oberfläche zurückgeführt wird. Diese Studie unterstützt das Forschungsinstitut PTRC/SaskPower bei der Identifizierung der Vor- und Nachteile eines CO<sub>2</sub>-Zirkulationstests (ein Schlüsselement von CPG), um die Möglichkeiten und Grenzen der CPG-Technologie aufzuzeigen und eine Bewertung der wichtigsten Lagerstättenvariablen liefern, die die Leistung eines CO<sub>2</sub>-Zirkulationstests am Aquistore-Injektionsstandort potenziell beeinflussen.

Für diese Machbarkeitsstudie wurde Literatur über geothermische Systeme und Thermosiphons konsultiert, um die Mindestanforderungen vor der Durchführung von CO<sub>2</sub>-Zirkulationstests zu bestimmen, wobei der Schwerpunkt auf den Lagerstättenbedingungen am Aquistore-Injektionsstandort lag. Ein Sektormodell wurde aus dem vollständig verfügbaren geologischen Modell des Aquistoreprojekts extrahiert und für weitere Simulationen des CO<sub>2</sub>-Zirkulationstests in ein sehr feines geozelluläres Modell erweitert.

Statische Unsicherheits-Workflows wurden entwickelt, um die wahrscheinlichsten Realisierungen der CO<sub>2</sub>-Fahnenausdehnung und -form mit Hilfe numerischer Simulationen und den neuesten verfügbaren seismischen Untersuchungen zu modellieren. Zahlreiche Realisierungen (Stratigraphie, stochastische petrophysikalische Eigenschaften, Berücksichtigung der Flexur geologischer Gesteinsschichten, und Ausdehnung der CO<sub>2</sub>-Fahne bestimmt mittels neuer seismischer Daten) durchgeführt, um sowohl die CO<sub>2</sub>-Fahne als auch die Injektionsgeschichte abzugleichen.

Die dynamische Unsicherheitsanalyse des CO<sub>2</sub>-Zirkulationstests trug dazu bei, einige der Herausforderungen zu identifizieren, nämlich in Bezug auf die Auswirkungen der Ausdehnung und Form der CO<sub>2</sub>-Fahne, der anfänglichen Wasser- und CO<sub>2</sub>-Sättigungen innerhalb der CO<sub>2</sub>-Fahne, der Heterogenität der petrophysikalischen Eigenschaften und der Betriebsvariablen sowie der Injektions- als auch der Produktionsbohrungen zu klären, neben anderen. Die Simulationen deuten darauf hin, dass die CO<sub>2</sub>-Zirkulation bei Aquistore machbar ist; sie führt nicht zu grossen Volumina an saliner Wasserproduktion aus dem Aquifer, erfordert aber vor der Durchführung des Pilotversuchs erhebliche Arbeit am Front-End-Engineering-Design.

In allen Realisierungen gab es einen anfänglichen Anstieg in der Produktion von salinem Wasser bevor sich eine kontinuierliche CO<sub>2</sub>-Produktion mit einem stabilen Wasser/Gas-Verhältnis einstellt; die anfängliche Produktion von salinem Wasser sollte nicht als Versagen des Tests angesehen werden. Stattdessen sollte eine geeignete Oberflächeneinrichtung entworfen werden, um diese anfängliche Produktion zu handhaben.

Eine Massenbilanz der CO<sub>2</sub>-Masseninjektion und -produktion während des CO<sub>2</sub>-Zirkulationstests zeigt, dass ein Teil des injizierten CO<sub>2</sub> dauerhaft im Aquifer gespeichert wird. Diese CO<sub>2</sub>-Speicherung dient dem eigentlichen Ziel von Aquistore, nämlich der dauerhaften CO<sub>2</sub>-Speicherung. Allerdings sollte bei jedem CO<sub>2</sub>-Zirkulationstest dem Injektionskreislauf CO<sub>2</sub> nachgefüllt werden.



Ebenso wichtig ist, dass die Betriebsbedingungen sowohl des Injektors als auch des Produzenten für einen erfolgreichen CO<sub>2</sub>-Zirkulationstest optimiert werden können; dazu gehören unter anderem die Stimulation des Bohrlochs, die Optimierung der Injektions-/Förderraten, die Druckbeschränkungen und das Design der Komplettierung sowohl des Injektors als auch des Produzenten.

Wir prognostizieren auch die potenziellen komplexen Strömungsregime und ihre Auswirkungen auf den Produzenten (Koproduktion von CO<sub>2</sub> und salzhaltigem Wasser) mit Hilfe von vereinfachten vertikalen Zweiphasen-Strömungsmodellen und adressieren auch die Bildung von CO<sub>2</sub>-Clathraten während des CO<sub>2</sub>-Zirkulationsbetriebs, was zu einer Verstopfung der Steigrohre, reduzierten Durchflussraten oder Salzausfällungen führen könnte.

Zukünftige Arbeiten und Wissenslücken umfassen die Auswirkungen potenzieller thermisch induzierter Frakturierung des Reservoirs und deren Ausbreitung (Kurzschluss der Bohrlöcher), die Geochemie von überkritischem CO<sub>2</sub> (Sole/CO<sub>2</sub>/Gestein), mögliche langfristige Änderungen der Reservoirporosität und -permeabilität, das Wärmeentzugsverhalten während der CO<sub>2</sub>-Zirkulation, CO<sub>2</sub>-Verluste und den Bedarf an Make-up-Flüssigkeit.

Das in dieser Studie entwickelte Modell kann verwendet werden, um in zukünftigen Studien den Standort eines neuen Produzenten oder einer zusätzlichen Injektionsbohrung für die Entsorgung des ko-produzierten Formationswasser, die Schaffung zusätzlicher Porosität und das Reservoirdruckmanagement zu bestimmen.

## Résumé

En réponse à l'intérêt manifesté pour le site de stockage Aquistore, pour un essai pilote, l'Université de l'Alberta a été chargée d'étudier la faisabilité d'un test de circulation de CO<sub>2</sub>, représentant une première étape vers la réalisation d'une expérience in situ de CO<sub>2</sub> Plume Geothermal (CPG). La technologie CPG, développée par des scientifiques suisses, utilise le CO<sub>2</sub> comme fluide de travail dans des systèmes géothermiques, tout en permettant de le séquestrer dans les aquifères salins profonds. Le concept du CPG représente une technologie émergente dans le domaine de la production d'électricité et un complément au captage et au stockage du carbone (Carbon Capture and Storage, CCS). Il peut ainsi potentiellement réduire le coût des opérations de CCS, voire même permettre de générer un revenu dans les régions propices à la géothermie. Enfin, et surtout, tout le CO<sub>2</sub> sera in fine stocké dans les formations souterraines ciblées pendant le CPG.

Cette étude de faisabilité aborde certains des problèmes qui se posent lorsque le CO<sub>2</sub> séquestré géologiquement est remis en circulation vers la surface à l'aide d'un système de doublet de puits. Elle a pour but d'aider PTRC / SaskPower à identifier les risques liés à l'exécution d'un test de circulation de CO<sub>2</sub> (un élément clé du CPG), d'apporter des éléments à l'OFEN quant aux possibilités et aux limites de la technologie CPG, et de fournir une évaluation des caractéristiques principales du réservoir qui sont susceptibles d'affecter les performances d'un test de circulation de CO<sub>2</sub> sur le site d'injection d'Aquistore.

Pour réaliser cette étude de faisabilité, nous avons fait l'état de l'art des systèmes géothermiques stimulés ainsi que de la littérature relative aux thermosiphons en focalisant l'attention sur des conditions de réservoir telles qu'on les trouve dans le site d'injection d'Aquistore. Ceci a permis de déterminer les exigences minimales qu'il convient de respecter lorsqu'on souhaite effectuer des tests de circulation de CO<sub>2</sub>. Un modèle de secteur de référence a été extrait du modèle géologique complet disponible pour Aquistore. Il a été reconstitué avec une maille géocellulaire très fine afin d'effectuer des simulations supplémentaires du test de circulation de CO<sub>2</sub>.

Nous avons développé des processus (workflows) statiques de traitement des incertitudes et avons évalué l'étendue et la forme les plus probables du panache de CO<sub>2</sub>, en nous aidant, d'une part, des



simulations numériques calibrées pour recréer les événements du passé, et d'autre part, les dernières études sismiques disponibles. Plusieurs représentations du modèle ont été réalisées (modèles à plusieurs couches, propriétés pétrophysiques stochastiques, inclusion de la flexion, restriction du panache de CO<sub>2</sub> aux relevés sismiques), afin de corroborer les données historiques relatives au panache et à l'injection de CO<sub>2</sub>.

L'analyse dynamique des incertitudes liées au test de circulation du CO<sub>2</sub> a permis de traiter certains des problèmes notamment liés à l'impact de l'étendue et de la forme du panache de CO<sub>2</sub>, des saturations initiales en eau et en CO<sub>2</sub> dans le panache, de l'hétérogénéité des propriétés pétrophysiques, et des variables opérationnelles aussi bien du puit d'injection que du puits de production. Les simulations suggèrent que la circulation du CO<sub>2</sub> semble faisable à Aquistore ; cela n'entraîne pas la production d'énormes volumes de saumure de l'aquifère, mais nécessite en revanche un travail important sur la conception technique avant d'exécuter le test pilote.

Dans toutes les représentations du modèle, il y avait d'abord un pic initial de production de saumure avant la production continue de CO<sub>2</sub> avec un rapport eau / gaz stable ; cette production initiale de saumure ne doit pas être considérée comme un échec du test. Au contraire, une installation appropriée devrait être conçue en surface pour gérer cette production initiale de saumure.

Un bilan massique du CO<sub>2</sub> entre l'injection et la production lors du test de circulation indique qu'une partie du CO<sub>2</sub> injecté reste stockée de façon permanente dans l'aquifère salin. Cette perte de CO<sub>2</sub> sert l'objectif ultime d'Aquistore, à savoir le stockage permanent du CO<sub>2</sub>. Cependant, un liquide de compensation doit être ajouté au CO<sub>2</sub> durant l'injection pour tout test de circulation de CO<sub>2</sub>.

Il est tout aussi important d'optimiser les conditions opératoires des puits d'injection et de production pour réaliser un test de circulation du CO<sub>2</sub> qui soit réussi. Ces conditions incluent, entre autres, la stimulation de puits, les débits d'injection et production, les contraintes de pression et les caractéristiques de l'achèvement des puits d'injection et de production.

Nous avons également évalué les régimes d'écoulement potentiellement complexes et leurs impacts sur le puits de production (co-production de CO<sub>2</sub> et de saumure) à l'aide de modèles d'écoulement vertical bi-phasiques simplifiés. Cela nous a permis d'étudier la formation de l'hydrate de CO<sub>2</sub> pendant la circulation du CO<sub>2</sub>. Ce clathrate pourrait entraîner des obstructions dans les conduites/tuyaux, une réduction des débits, ou encore la précipitation de sels.

Les futurs travaux et les lacunes qu'il convient encore de combler porteraient sur l'impact de potentielles fractures induites thermiquement ainsi que leur propagation (court-circuitage des puits), la géochimie du CO<sub>2</sub> supercritique (saumure / CO<sub>2</sub> / roche), les potentielles altérations à long terme de la porosité et de la perméabilité du réservoir, la dynamique d'extraction de la chaleur pendant la circulation du CO<sub>2</sub>, les pertes de CO<sub>2</sub> et le recours à un liquide de compensation.

Le modèle développé dans cette étude peut être utilisé dans de futures études pour définir l'emplacement d'un nouveau puits de production ou d'un puits supplémentaire pour l'élimination de la saumure, les mécanismes de compensation des fluides et la gestion de la pression du réservoir.

## Summary

Responding to an interest shown in the Aquistore storage site for a pilot test, the University of Alberta was tasked to study the feasibility of a CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test as a first step towards a CO<sub>2</sub> Plume Geothermal (CPG) field experiment. The CPG uses CO<sub>2</sub> as the working fluid in geothermal power systems while sequestering CO<sub>2</sub> in deep saline aquifers. The concept of CPG, as an emerging power generation technology and an add-on to carbon capture and storage (CCS), has the potential to reduce the cost of CCS operations, and might even generate revenue in geothermally favorable regions. More importantly, all the CO<sub>2</sub> will eventually be stored during CPG into the targeted subsurface formations.



This feasibility study addresses some of the issues when geologically sequestered CO<sub>2</sub> is recirculated to the surface using a well doublet system. This study aims to assist PTRC/SaskPower in identifying the upside/downside risks of running a CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test (a key element of CPG), to assist the SFOE with the possibilities and limitations of the CPG technology, and to provide an assessment of key reservoir variables that potentially affect the performance of a CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test at the Aquistore injection site.

For this feasibility study, we reviewed enhanced geothermal systems and thermosiphon literature to determine minimum requirements prior to conducting CO<sub>2</sub> circulation tests, with a focus on reservoir conditions at the Aquistore injection site. A base sector model was extracted from the available full geological model of Aquistore, and it was re-built into a very fine-scale geocellular model for further simulations of the CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test.

We developed static uncertainty workflows and appraised the most probable realizations of CO<sub>2</sub> plume extent and shape from the history-matched numerical simulations and the latest available seismic surveys. Many realizations (layer cake model, stochastic petrophysical properties, inclusion of flexure, and constraining the CO<sub>2</sub> plume to the seismic surveys) were conducted to match both CO<sub>2</sub> plume and injection history.

The dynamic uncertainty analysis of the CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test helped to address some of the issues related to the impacts of the extent and shape of CO<sub>2</sub> plume, initial water and CO<sub>2</sub> saturations within the CO<sub>2</sub> plume, heterogeneity in petrophysical properties, and operational variables of both injection and production wells, among others. Simulations suggest that CO<sub>2</sub> circulation seems feasible at Aquistore; it does not result in huge volumes of brine production from the aquifer, but it needs significant work on front end engineering design prior to executing the pilot test.

In all realizations, there was an initial brine kick prior to continuous CO<sub>2</sub> production with a stable water/gas ratio; the initial brine production should not be thought of as a failure of the test. Instead, proper surface facility should be designed to handle this initial brine production.

A mass balance of CO<sub>2</sub> mass injection and production during the CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test indicates that a portion of injected CO<sub>2</sub> will permanently be stored in the saline aquifer. This CO<sub>2</sub> loss serves the ultimate goal of Aquistore, i.e. permanent CO<sub>2</sub> storage. However, CO<sub>2</sub> make-up fluid should be added to the injection cycle during any CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test.

Equally important, the operating conditions of both the injector and the producer can be optimized for a successful CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test; these include, but are not limited to, well stimulation, injection/production rates, pressure constraints, and completion designs at both injector and producer, among others.

We also estimated the potential complex flow regimes and their impacts on the producer (co-production of CO<sub>2</sub> and brine) using simplified two-phase vertical flow models, and commented on the formation of CO<sub>2</sub> clathrate during CO<sub>2</sub> circulation operation that could result in tubing/pipes blockage, reduced flow rates, or salt precipitation.

Future work and knowledge gaps include the impact of potential thermally induced fractures and their propagation (short circuiting the wells), geochemistry of supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> (brine/CO<sub>2</sub>/rock), possible long-term changes in reservoir porosity and permeability, heat extraction behavior during CO<sub>2</sub> circulation, CO<sub>2</sub> loss, and the need for make-up fluid.

The developed model in this study can be used to determine the location of a new producer or an additional brine well for brine disposal, voidage replacement, and reservoir pressure management in future studies.



## Main findings

- Instead of treating CO<sub>2</sub> as a waste product to be disposed of, emerging technologies such as CO<sub>2</sub> Plume Geothermal (CPG) offer the possibility to utilize the disposed CO<sub>2</sub> as a geothermal (i.e. subsurface) working fluid to produce sustainable geothermal energy.
- The Aquistore CCS site, the largest experimental laboratory in the world for the measurement and monitoring of industrial-scale levels of injected CO<sub>2</sub>, provides a unique opportunity towards CPG commercialization and to improve its technology readiness level through a pilot field experiment; Aquistore satisfies the minimum requirements of a CPG system and the CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test.
- Simulations suggest that CO<sub>2</sub> circulation, a key element of a CPG system, seems feasible at Aquistore; it does not result in huge volumes of brine production from the aquifer, but it needs significant work on Front End Engineering Design prior to executing the pilot test.
- During the CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test, a portion of injected CO<sub>2</sub> will permanently be stored in the saline aquifer. This CO<sub>2</sub> loss serves the ultimate goal of Aquistore, i.e. permanent CO<sub>2</sub> storage. It is believed that at the end of its life cycle, CPG permanently sequesters 100% of the injected CO<sub>2</sub> in the geological reservoir.



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## Abbreviations

List of used abbreviations (if applicable)

CCS Carbon Capture and Storage

CCUS Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage

CH<sub>4</sub> methane

CMG Computer Modelling Group Ltd.

CO<sub>2</sub> Carbon Dioxide

CPG CO<sub>2</sub> Plume Geothermal

DEEP Deep Earth Energy Production (a Saskatchewan privately held corporation to develop geothermal resources for power generation)

DTS Distributed Temperature Sensing

EGS Engineered/Enhanced Geothermal System

EOR Enhanced Oil Recovery

FRS Fluid Recovery System

GEM Generalized Equation of state Modeling software

HDR Hot Dry Rock

InSAR Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar

MD Measured Depth

mD millidarcy (permeability unit)

NAD83 North American Datum of 1983

NNW North-Northwest

PERF Perforated Interval

PND Porosity Neutron Density log

ppm parts per million

PR EOS Peng-Robinson Equation of State

PTRC Petroleum Technology Research Centre

RG<sup>2</sup> Reservoir Geomechanics Research Group

RMS Root Mean Square

S Wellbore skin factor

SECARB South Eastern Regional Partnership for Carbon Sequestration

SFOE Swiss Federal Office of Energy

SSE South-Southeast

TDS Total Dissolved Solids

TRL Technology Readiness Level



# 1 Project Introduction and Objectives

## 1.1 Background information and current situation

### 1.1.1 Review of Relevant Experience with Enhanced Geothermal Systems

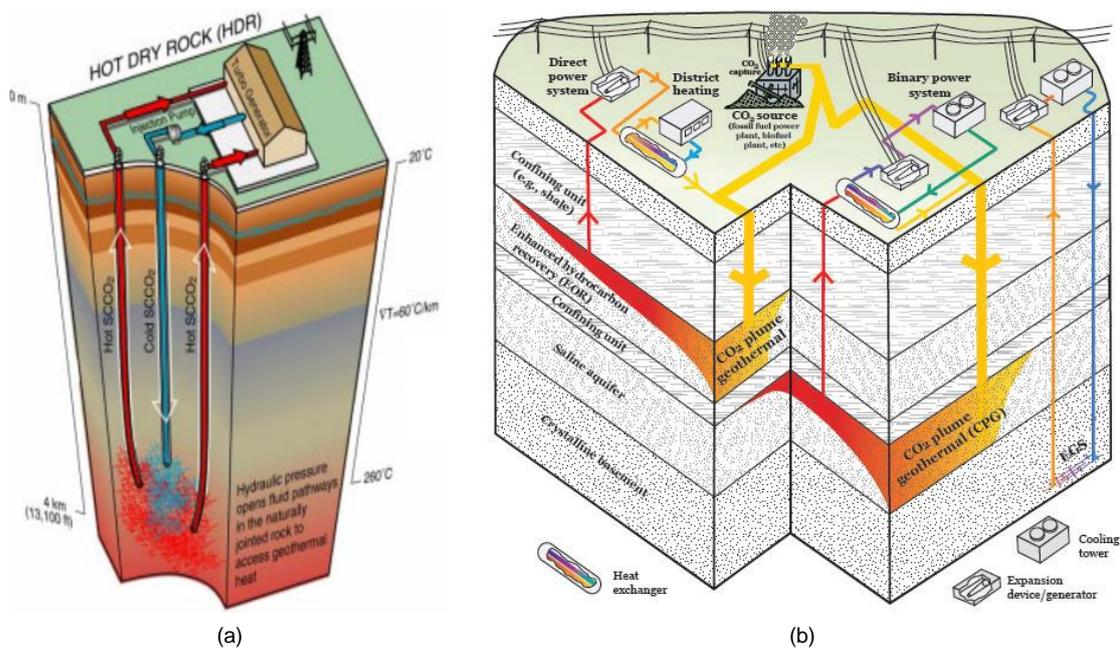
Exploitation of geothermal energy, often considered a clean renewable source used for electricity generation, involves the circulation of water into deep (>2.5 km) hot (>250 °C) subsurface formations, known as Hot Dry Rock (HDR) (Coats 1977; Brown 2000). Because most geothermal resources do not offer adequate permeability for efficient fluid circulation, geothermal systems are engineered through hydraulic fracturing and stimulation to create permeable pathways for geothermal fluid from the injectors to the producers, referred to as the Engineered/Enhanced Geothermal Systems (EGS). Water, a common geothermal fluid, is often used to mine the heat from deep subsurface formations due to its many distinct properties, including for instance its phase behaviour and high heat capacity. In addition, water has long been taken for granted for use in many industries, but today (relatively fresh) water is a valuable commodity in many countries and its loss in conventional EGS could have significant environmental and economic consequences (Preuss 2006). Given the high pressure, high temperature conditions in EGS reservoirs, water could also act as a solvent for rock minerals with unfavourable impacts on heat extraction and fluid circulation (e.g. dissolution, precipitation, permeability reduction, Xu and Pruess 2004). To answer the need of geologic storage of CO<sub>2</sub>, to advance the conventional EGS reservoirs, and as an alternative to some unfavourable drawbacks for the use of water (e.g. water loss, reactive fluid/rock transport, precipitation), CO<sub>2</sub> has been proposed as a transmission fluid in HDR systems for reservoir creation and heat extraction (Brown 2000).

Following up with the idea of CO<sub>2</sub> as a geothermal working fluid, many researchers have explored the topic of mass and heat transport in CO<sub>2</sub>-based EGS reservoirs (e.g. Brown 2000; Fouillac et al. 2004; Pruess 2006, 2008; Pruess and Azaroual, 2006; Atrens et al. 2009; Nielsen et al. 2013; Zhang et al. 2016; Sepulveda et al. 2018). Since typical EGS reservoirs operate at high temperature and high pressure conditions, CO<sub>2</sub> is expected to be at a supercritical state. Based on these studies, some features of using supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> in a closed loop, as compared to water, are summarized as follows:

- Supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> has gas-like viscosity, which allows the larger flow rates at lower pressure gradient.
- Supercritical CO<sub>2</sub>, with liquid-like density, offers a larger ratio of density to viscosity (i.e. favorable mobility).
- Supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> has lower mass heat capacity, an unfavorable condition, but is compensated for by lower CO<sub>2</sub> viscosity and greater flow capacity.
- When using supercritical CO<sub>2</sub>, less geochemical interactions with solids and fewer scaling problems (e.g. silica dissolution, precipitation) are expected compared to water (Xu et al. 2005; Ueda et al. 2005; Pruess 2008).
- Supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> has larger expansivity/compressibility than water. This results in a larger density difference, hence, stronger buoyancy forces between injector and producer, reducing the power consumption for fluid circulation. In theory, the fluid circulation might even continue without external pumping (i.e. thermosiphon effect).
- Supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> can be efficient in energy extraction from shallower subsurface formations with lower temperature/pressures, as compared to deep hot dry rock in conventional EGS. This potentially extends the application of geothermal energy to many other formations that were previously assumed unfit for conventional EGS.



- With respect to Aquistore (CO<sub>2</sub> storage in saline formations), the inevitable fluid loss during any EGS operation could be a benefit as CO<sub>2</sub> loss/trapping within the subsurface formations serves the ultimate goal of the geologic storage of CO<sub>2</sub>.
- The combination of power generated and CO<sub>2</sub> stored could provide economic benefits to compensate for pumping CO<sub>2</sub> into the formation, in addition to generating revenue (e.g. tax credits for CO<sub>2</sub> storage).



**Figure 1:** Schematic of (a) CO<sub>2</sub> geothermal from hot dry rock system (after Brown 2000), and (b) CO<sub>2</sub> plume geothermal system (after Randolph et al. 2013)

Since most underground formations are initially filled with water or hydrocarbons, a very crucial step to deploy a CO<sub>2</sub>-based EGS reservoir is to remove the water/hydrocarbons and replace them with CO<sub>2</sub> (e.g. **Figure 1**). To produce a fairly dry CO<sub>2</sub> reservoir, continuous CO<sub>2</sub> circulation is needed to remove or displace the water/hydrocarbons from the injector and producer. Several researchers have addressed this question and characteristics of such successful and practical CO<sub>2</sub>-based EGS reservoirs (Brown 2000; Pruess 2006, 2008; Atrens et al. 2009; Randolph and Saar 2011; Adams et al. 2014, 2015; Garapati et al. 2015; Hau et al. 2021). Of interest to this work, CO<sub>2</sub> Plume Geothermal offers synergistic utilization of the subsurface formation for both geologic CO<sub>2</sub> storage and geothermal power generation. A CPG system involves the CO<sub>2</sub> injection into the subsurface formation as in any typical geologic CO<sub>2</sub> storage project (both in saline aquifers and enhanced oil/gas recovery of hydrocarbon resources). The CO<sub>2</sub> displaces the brine and contribute to the formation of a CO<sub>2</sub> plume. Once the plume has sufficient saturation and thickness, the CO<sub>2</sub> can be circulated between injector(s) and producer(s) within the plume. During CO<sub>2</sub> circulation, the injected CO<sub>2</sub> is heated as it moves in the subsurface formations. The extracted heat is then delivered by CO<sub>2</sub> to the surface and used to generate electric power or provide direct heat utilization (Randolph and Saar 2011a,b; Adams et al. 2014, 2015; Garapati et al. 2015).

Since its inception, the applications, benefits and challenges of CPG have been discussed in the literature (e.g. Randolph and Saar 2011a, 2011b; Randolph et al. 2012; Adams et al. 2014, 2015; Garapati et al. 2015; Fleming et al. 2018, 2020; Levy et al. 2018; Ezekiel et al. 2020, Hau et al. 2021). This includes a great body of work focused on developing reservoir models, power cycle models, and cost models. A CPG system is believed to have the most benefits of a conventional geothermal system, but it can potentially generate 2-5 times more electricity than water-based geothermal. In CPG, there are few-to-no issues with hydrofracking, induced seismicity, and fresh water consumption (e.g. Adams et al. 2015, Saar 2019). A CPG facility is claimed to provide cost-competitive electricity from sufficiently



deep (>2 km), hot (> 100 °C) and transmissible (> 5000 mD-m) reservoirs (Saar 2019; Adams et al. 2015). Available literature suggests that CPG seems a viable geothermal energy solution for both power generation and geologic CO<sub>2</sub> storage in deep and shallow suitable reservoirs, with significantly higher heat mining rates than both CO<sub>2</sub>-based EGS and traditional water-based EGS reservoirs.

To date, no field trial has been conducted to measure the efficacy of a CPG system. A closely relevant pilot test on the potential of thermosiphon during CO<sub>2</sub> circulation between two wells was reported in the literature. The pilot test, known as the Cranfield CO<sub>2</sub> Thermosiphon Test, was conducted at the Cranfield site in a saline aquifer (Hovorka et al. 2013; Delshad et al. 2013). The field experiment was operated by the South Eastern Regional Partnership for Carbon Sequestration (SECARB). The well site consisted of one injector and two collinear observation wells about 70 m and 100 m away from injector. The saline formation was 3.2 km deep, with 32.5 MPa pressure and 129 °C temperature. The 23 m thick perforated interval was described as highly heterogeneous with permeabilities in the range of 100-300 mD. The initial modeling work predicted a sustaining thermosiphon could be established without any external pump. The water production was predicted to be insignificant. The Cranfield pilot test, however, showed that the thermosiphon decays faster than expected until it is no longer self-sustaining; it also indicated significant water production from the producer. Although the Cranfield test did not establish and sustain a thermosiphon in its partially saturated formation, it provided invaluable lessons learned in the design of subsequent pilot tests for CO<sub>2</sub> circulation. Some of the observations and lessons learned from the Cranfield pilot test include (Pan et al. 2015; Freifeld et al. 2016; Pan et al. 2018):

- the importance of understanding water mobility and irreducible water at in-situ conditions;
- challenges with reservoir heterogeneity and its impact on multi-phase flow performance (e.g. high-permeability sands might be CO<sub>2</sub>-saturated while low-permeability shales might remain water-saturated, different relative permeability and capillary pressure);
- issues with characterization of possible fast pathways (e.g. sand/shale sequences, induced fractures) between injection and production wells, and short-circuiting the flow/heat fronts within the reservoir;
- challenges with complex outflow performance in the production well, and potential need for workover (e.g. changes in multi-phase flow regimes, liquid loading, salt precipitation, CO<sub>2</sub> clathrate formation).

Of relevance to this report and significance to the application of the CPG system, Hau (2020) and Hau et al. (2021) looked into the multi-phase flow behaviour and fractional flow of CO<sub>2</sub>/brine within a well doublet at the Aquistore site. Given lack of field data, Hau et al. noted that a field experiment is essential to improve the technology readiness level (TRL) of CPG systems. Rather than demonstrating that geothermal energy could be utilised to generate power, Saar (2019) and Hau et al. (2021) emphasized the fact that such field tests should primarily show that a stable CO<sub>2</sub> circulation (not brine) between the injector and producer within the CO<sub>2</sub> plume could be achieved and maintained; what we collectively refer to as a CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test. Hau et al. (2021) used a simplified numerical model for the 2<sup>nd</sup> perforated interval of the Aquistore injection and observation wells and concluded that CO<sub>2</sub> gas predominantly enters the producer (observation well) with 85-90% CO<sub>2</sub> saturation independent of assumed absolute and relative permeabilities. This report builds on the previous work and addresses some of the issues with a CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test at Aquistore, such as the use of a history-matched model, uncertainties associated with reservoir characterisation, formation heterogeneity, design of injection/production well completions, and operational parameters, among others.

## 1.2 Purpose of the project

As the most comprehensive full-scale geological field laboratory in the world, Aquistore continues to show that geological storage of CO<sub>2</sub> in deep saline aquifers can be a safe, practical way to meet the



commitments of climate change and net-zero carbon emission policies. Treating CO<sub>2</sub> as a valuable commodity rather than waste to dispose of, emerging technologies such as CO<sub>2</sub> Plume Geothermal (CPG) offer new possibilities to utilize CO<sub>2</sub> as a geothermal working fluid in order to generate geothermal power, while permanently sequestering CO<sub>2</sub> in underground formations. As a step towards its commercialization and to improve the technology readiness level of CO<sub>2</sub> Plume Geothermal, a pilot field experiment is required (Hau et al. 2021). Such field tests should primarily show that a stable CO<sub>2</sub> circulation (not brine) between the injector and producer within the CO<sub>2</sub> plume could be achieved and maintained, rather than demonstrating that geothermal energy could be utilised to generate power (Saar 2019; Hau et al. 2021); what we collectively refer to as a CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test.

### 1.3 Objectives

Prior to performing any field experiment, The Petroleum Technology Research Centre (PTRC) and the Swiss Federal Office of Energy (SFOE) tasked the Reservoir Geomechanics Research Group (RG<sup>2</sup>) of the University of Alberta with a “Feasibility Study for a Proposed CO<sub>2</sub> Circulation Test at the Aquistore Injection Site, Saskatchewan”. The simulation work was aimed to address the following objectives:

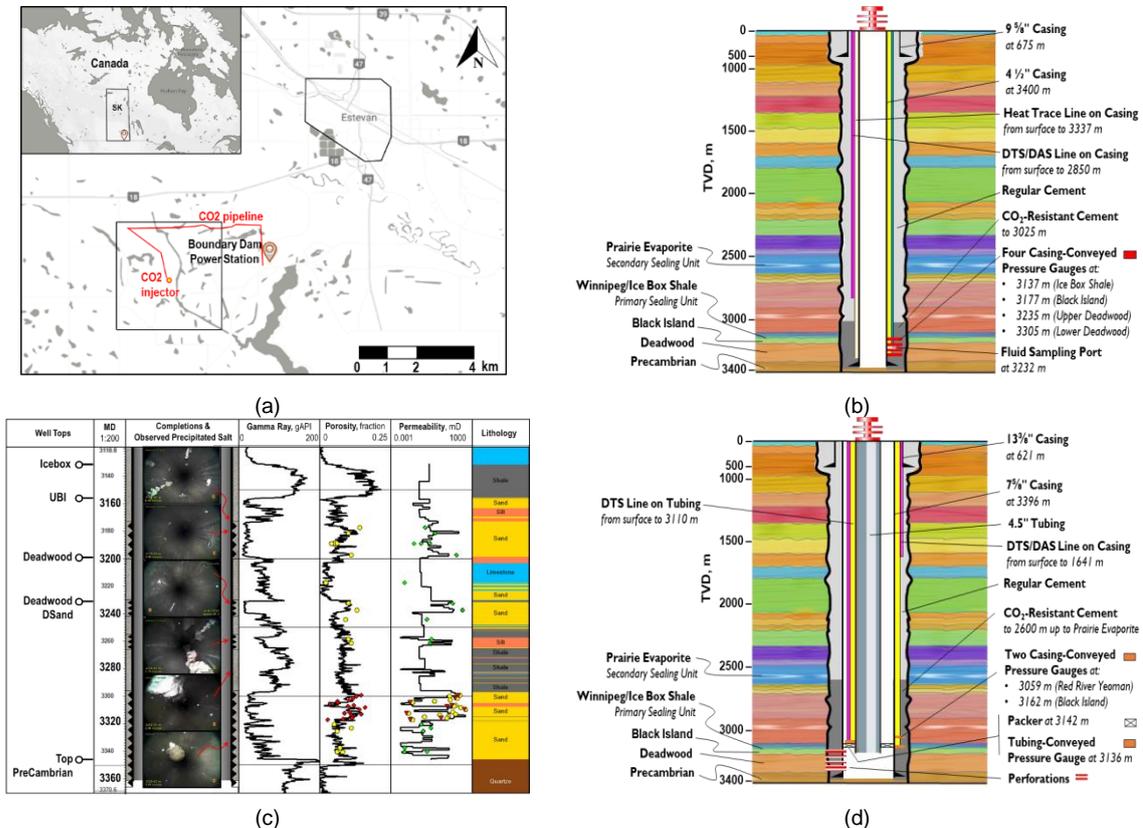
- providing primary outcomes to assist PTRC/SaskPower in identifying the upside/downside risks of running a CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test at Aquistore,
- helping the SFOE to demonstrate the possibilities and limitations of the CPG technology, using the pilot test site of Aquistore, and
- providing an assessment of key reservoir variables that potentially affect the performance of a CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test at Aquistore injection site.

CPG seems an attractive solution to carbon capture utilization and storage (CCUS) technologies, because of both power generation and geologic CO<sub>2</sub> storage. We believe the preliminary findings of this report answer some key questions related to CPG development and operation, and ultimately its pilot test at a geologic CO<sub>2</sub> storage site such as Aquistore.

## 2 Description of facility

### 2.1 Overview of Aquistore CO<sub>2</sub> Storage Site and Injection History

Aquistore is the geological storage component of the Boundary Dam Integrated Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) demonstration project, owned by SaskPower and operated by Petroleum Technology Research Centre in Saskatchewan, Canada (**Figure 2**). The required CO<sub>2</sub> is captured from the flue gas of a coal-fired power generation station. If CO<sub>2</sub> is not required for Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) projects, it is transported through an underground pipeline to the Aquistore injection well (~3.4 km deep). A cumulative injected mass of over 350 ktonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> had been achieved by February 2021 with varying injection rates of up to ~600 tonnes/day of CO<sub>2</sub>. To maximize injectivity, the injection targeted four perforated zones between 5.5 and 27.5 metres thick (totaling 88 metres) of the best reservoir layers, over a total interval of 200 m, targeting the Deadwood Formation, and the Black Island sandstone member of the Winnipeg Formation. The primary seal of the storage geological complex is the shaly Icebox member of the Winnipeg Formation (~30 m thickness) with the Prairie Evaporite acting as an additional safety barrier to CO<sub>2</sub> upward flow (Movahedzadeh et al. 2021; Rangriz-Shokri et al. 2021; Rostron et al. 2014; White et al. 2016).



**Figure 2:** (a) Map of the Aquistore storage site with the locations of the Boundary Dam Power Station, CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline and CO<sub>2</sub> injection well, schematic of (b) the observation and (d) the injection wells, and some of the monitoring components installed at the Aquistore injection site, (c) an overview of the aquifer petrophysical properties from well logs (solid) and cores (points), four perforation zones, and the regions associated with salt scale in the injection well. Images in the tubing indicate salt precipitation observed from different depths during 2017 downhole inspection with the red arrows pointing to their approximate locations (from Rangriz-Shokri et al. 2021).

Estimated porosity values of 0.022-0.159 and permeability values of 0.002-312 mD are based on calibrated well logs and core data of sidewall and whole core samples from the injection well. The average initial temperature and pressure of the target aquifers are estimated to be ~115 °C and ~34.2 MPa, respectively, with brine salinity ranging from 271000-336000 ppm (Talman et al. 2020). The Aquistore storage capacity was estimated between 8 to 27 millions tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> (Peck et al. 2014). Given that Aquistore is injecting CO<sub>2</sub> into deep (3.2 km > 2 km) hot (120 °C > 100 °C) and relatively transmissible formation (9000 mD-m > 5000 mD-m), it satisfies the minimum requirements of a CPG system and the CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test (Saar 2019; Adams et al. 2015).

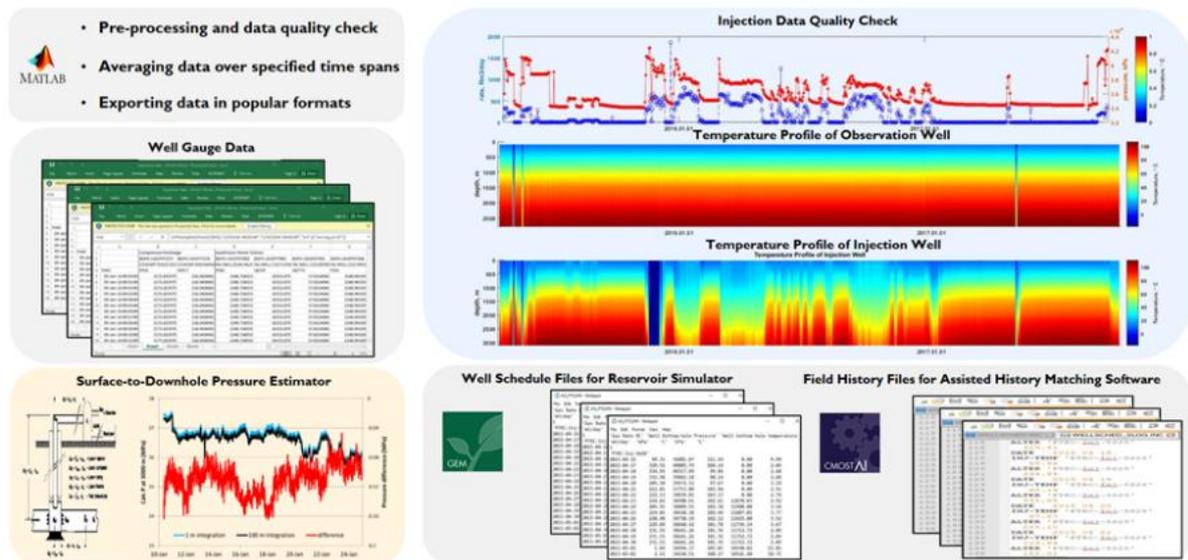
The CO<sub>2</sub> injection operation started with a single injector on April 16<sup>th</sup> 2015. An observation well, 151 m away from the injector, was drilled to monitor CO<sub>2</sub> operation, such as formation pressure and CO<sub>2</sub> plume arrival. The observation well was cased with no access to the aquifer formations, except for the FRS (fluid recovery system) through a port that could take fluid formation samples on the outside of the casing (Zambrano et al. 2015; Rostron et al. 2014). Both injection and observation wells are highly instrumented and deploy multiple monitoring technologies, including permanently installed tubing- and casing-conveyed pressure and temperature gauges, Distributed Temperature Sensing (DTS) systems at multiple discrete locations, spaced approximately every 100 m, along the length of both wells, and wellhead gauges. The site is equipped with many surface monitoring systems, including 6 broadband seismometers, 630 permanently mounted geophones, tiltmeters, InSAR (Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar) reflectors, and numerous water/soil gas sampling stations to satisfy the monitoring, measurement, and verification program (Movahedzadeh et al. 2021).



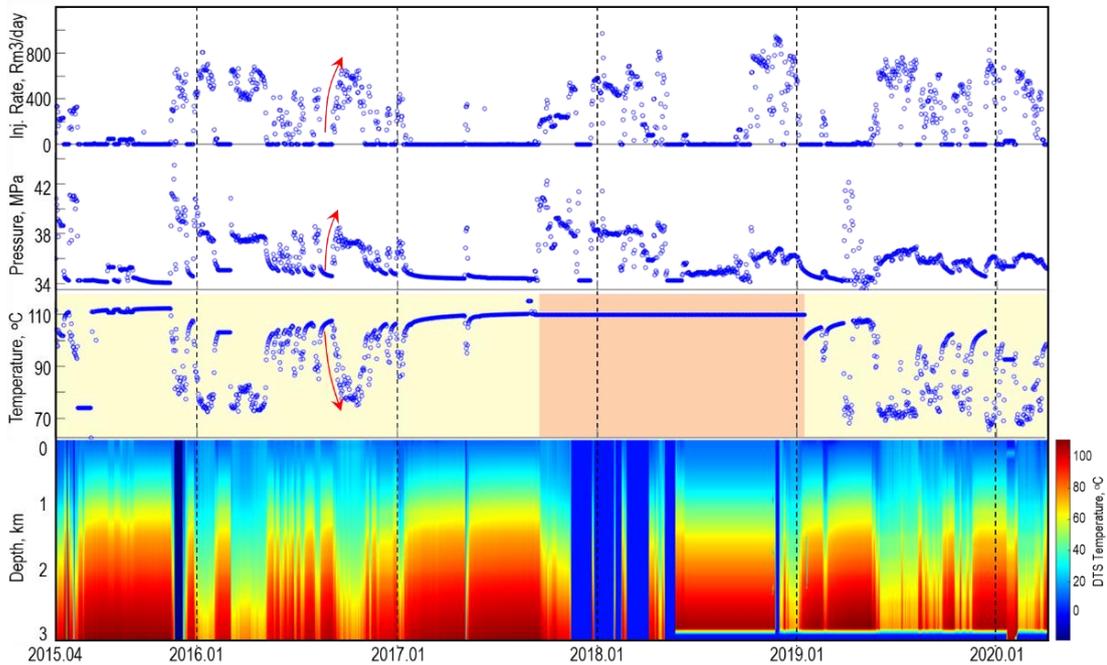
Due to maintenance of capture plant and regional demand of CO<sub>2</sub> for EOR applications, the CO<sub>2</sub> injection at Aquistore has been intermittent, i.e. repeatedly stopped and started at varying injection rates and durations (Lee et al. 2018). Continuous monitoring of this intermittent injection operation at 1-minute frequency from multiple sensors has resulted in huge data in the form of numerous large spreadsheets; this makes it cumbersome to access, navigate, view, and analyze the full or a portion of the data set. We improved our previously developed Matlab® codes to extract and process the injection data at Aquistore, between April 2015 to April 2020, and to export data on a 24-hour resolution at both the injection and observation wells for numerical simulation and history matching purposes (**Figure 3-a**). Different modules of code were aimed to pre-process reported files, perform data quality checks, get daily-averaged values of the reported data, and to plot and export the required data in popular formats as direct input into CMG/ECLIPSE simulators for matching the injection history (Rangriz-Shokri et al. 2019, 2021).

## 2.2 Relevant Field Data Observations and Implications from Aquistore

**Figure 3-(b)** shows the history of volumetric injection rate, bottomhole pressure, and bottomhole temperature of the Aquistore injection well on a daily basis. Also shown is the heat map of DTS data along the length of the injector tubing, exhibiting multiple episodes of transient heat periods (blue shading for lower temperatures and red shading for higher temperatures). This section provides major observations from 5 years of injection operation relevant to the proposed CO<sub>2</sub> circulation study.



(a)

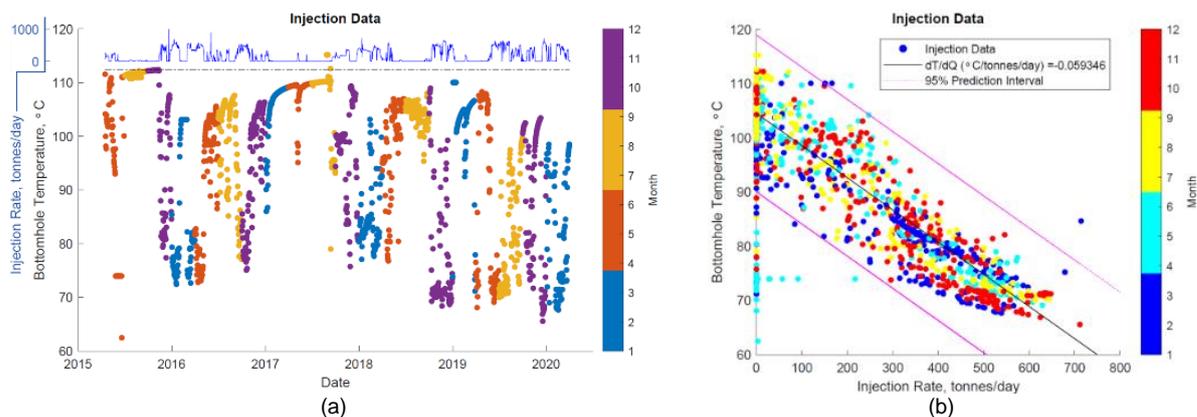


(b)

**Figure 3:** (a) Developed Matlab tool for field data pre-processing and quality check (from Rangriz-Shokri et al. 2019) (b) 5 years of the Aquistore injection history including volumetric injection rate, bottomhole pressure, bottomhole temperature, and DTS heat map, averaged at 24-hour interval. Note the episodic transient heat and flow periods. The orange box in temperature sub-plot indicates the main interval where downhole temperature gauge has apparently failed (Rangriz-Shokri et al. 2021).

### 2.2.1 Cooling Sequences of Storage Formation

Aquistore injects CO<sub>2</sub> at a lower temperature than that of the formation, referred to as cold CO<sub>2</sub> injection. That is why the bottomhole temperature decreases in response to CO<sub>2</sub> injection, and temperature reduction is amplified by higher injection rates and longer injection periods (cooling cycle). The bottomhole temperature rises towards the initial formation temperature (warming cycle) when the well is shut in. Inspection of the 5-year CO<sub>2</sub> injection history suggests that the bottomhole temperature never reaches the initial value even after several extended periods of shut-in. This means CO<sub>2</sub> injection appears to have caused long-lasting cooling of subsurface formation, at least around the injection well. Because of the intermittent nature of CO<sub>2</sub> injection, our analysis suggests that variability in bottomhole temperature at Aquistore is more rate-dependent than a result of seasonal variations of surface temperature. We observe that every increment of 100 tonnes/day in injection rate temporarily reduces the bottomhole temperature by 5.9 °C (**Figure 4**).

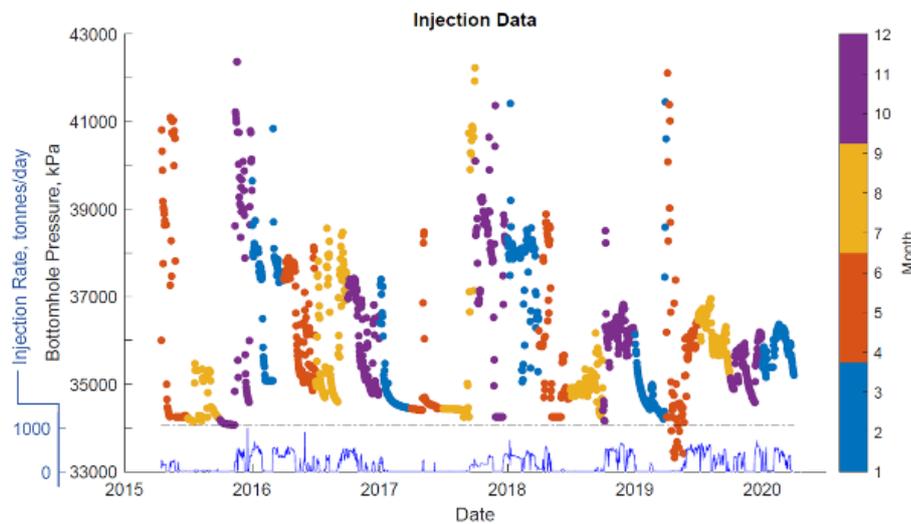




**Figure 4:** (a) Variation of bottomhole temperature due to intermittent cold CO<sub>2</sub> injection; higher injection rate and duration reduce the bottomhole temperature. Note the bottomhole temperature never rises back to the initial reservoir temperature of ~112 °C, denoted by dashed line in black, an evidence of reservoir cooling down. Also shown is the little to no impact of seasonal variation on CO<sub>2</sub> injectivity. (b) bottomhole temperature response to cold CO<sub>2</sub> injection rate, color-coded by season (Rangriz-Shokri et al. 2021)

## 2.2.2 Pressure Increase of Storage Formation

Bottomhole pressure is measured at the depth of 3136 m down the injection well by means of a tubing-conveyed gauge. When late pressure falloffs are compared with initial bottomhole pressure (34.2 MPa shown with a black dashed line) in **Figure 5**, the bottomhole pressure appears to never reach its initial value and a time-dependence in the average reservoir pressure is manifested. Of interest is the magnitude of pressure increase before and after mid 2018 – because of a workover operation. The Aquistore injection history indicates that the increase in average reservoir pressure is insignificant and it does not negatively affect storage capacity and subsurface containment. The decrease in magnitude of pressure drop after the workover is of interest and might be caused due to a combination of the creation of localized fractures and/or mobilization of precipitated salts, among other factors; this needs to be further investigated.



**Figure 5:** Variation of bottomhole pressure due to intermittent cold CO<sub>2</sub> injection; higher bottomhole pressures are attributed to larger injection rate and duration. Note the bottomhole pressure never returns to the initial reservoir pressure of 34.2 MPa, denoted by dashed line in black, an evidence of reservoir pressurization. Also shown is the little to no impact of seasonal variation on CO<sub>2</sub> injectivity (Rangriz-Shokri et al. 2021).

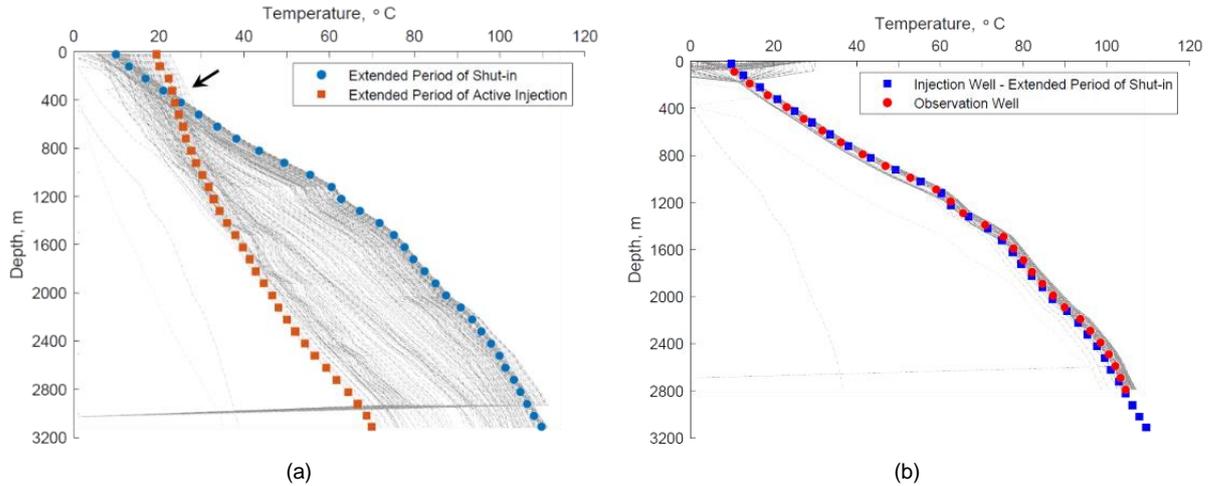
## 2.2.3 Wellbore Thermal Profiling of CO<sub>2</sub> Injection from DTS Data

**Figure 6** provides the variability of 24-hourly averaged temperature data, over 5-year operation, from DTS lines along the length of the tubing of the injection well, and the casing of the observation well. Because the DTS lines do not cover the targeted CO<sub>2</sub> storage interval, it is not possible to profile the injection flowrate in the perforated zones. The thermal profile of the injection well is primarily controlled by the temperature of the injected CO<sub>2</sub> stream and average wellbore temperature, the magnitude of rate and duration of CO<sub>2</sub> injection, thermal properties of the injected CO<sub>2</sub>, phase behaviour, and the heat transfer between wellbore and surrounding formation rock/fluids (Ramey 1962; Willhite 1967).

The Aquistore data suggest that establishing a constant injection temperature at the injector perforations could take a sufficiently large amount of time due to the intermittent nature of CO<sub>2</sub> injection. The DTS data of the observation well shows no substantial variability at deeper formations and follows closely the local geothermal gradient. This suggests that heat loss associated with CO<sub>2</sub> injection is limited to a localized medium immediate to the injector due, for instance, to the low thermal conductivity of formation



rock/fluids, the extent of the surrounding formation between the two wells, among other things (Rangriz Shokri et al. 2019, 2021).

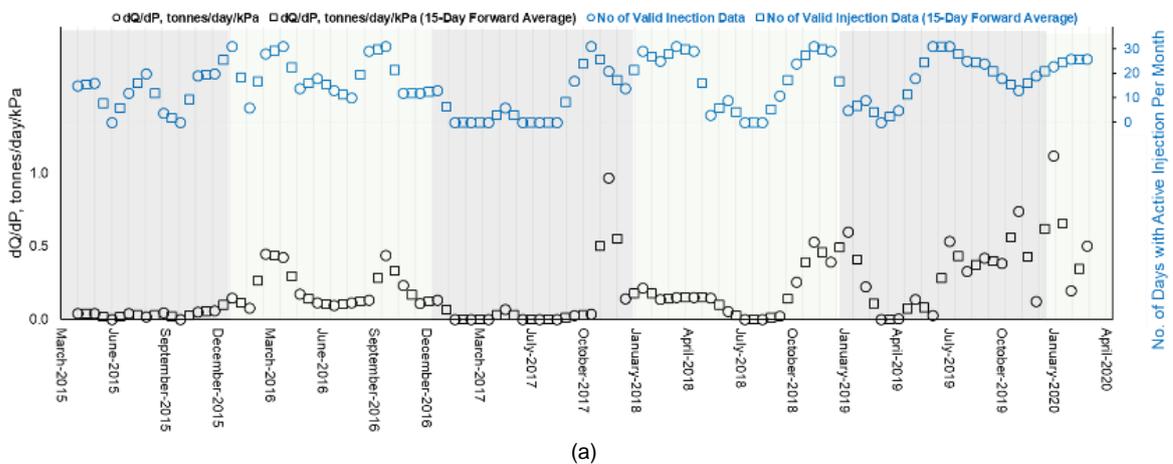


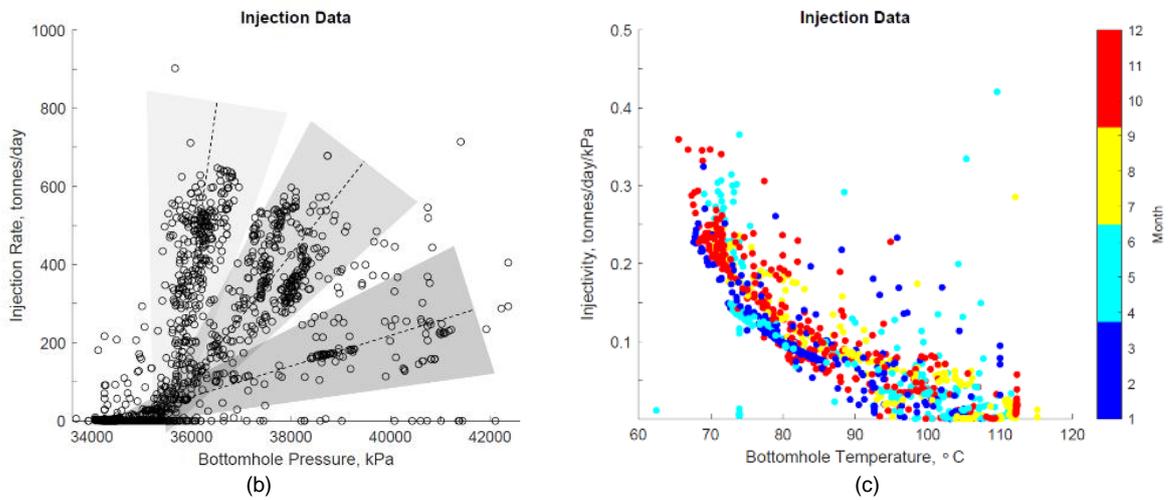
**Figure 6:** Variability of 24-hourly averaged temperature data from DTS along the length of (a) injection and (b) observation wells during 5 years of CO<sub>2</sub> injection (Rangriz-Shokri et al. 2021).

#### 2.2.4 Non-isothermal Evolution of CO<sub>2</sub> Injectivity

**Figure 7** is the plot of the temporal evolution of injectivity behaviour indicators, as well as the number of days in each month when CO<sub>2</sub> injection operation was considered active. Despite its variability, injectivity appears to increase with time. Eliminating the continuous time scale, there seems to be a correlation between the injectivity behaviour indicator and the number of days with relatively consistent average CO<sub>2</sub> injection rates; in general, injectivity improves as injection continues.

Mixed behaviour of injectivity gain and loss could be perceived in warm and cold seasons. It appears that injectivity data could be grouped into three clusters with distinct injectivity statuses: inferior (~0.01 tonnes/day/kPa), moderate (~0.1 tonnes/day/kPa), and exceptional (~1.0 tonnes/day/kPa) levels. These descriptors are at a scale unique to the Aquistore site; the magnitude of injectivity in other storage sites might differ significantly as they depend on site-specific details such as formation petrophysical properties and injector operating conditions. Overall, CO<sub>2</sub> injectivity has a strong inverse correlation with bottomhole injection temperature.



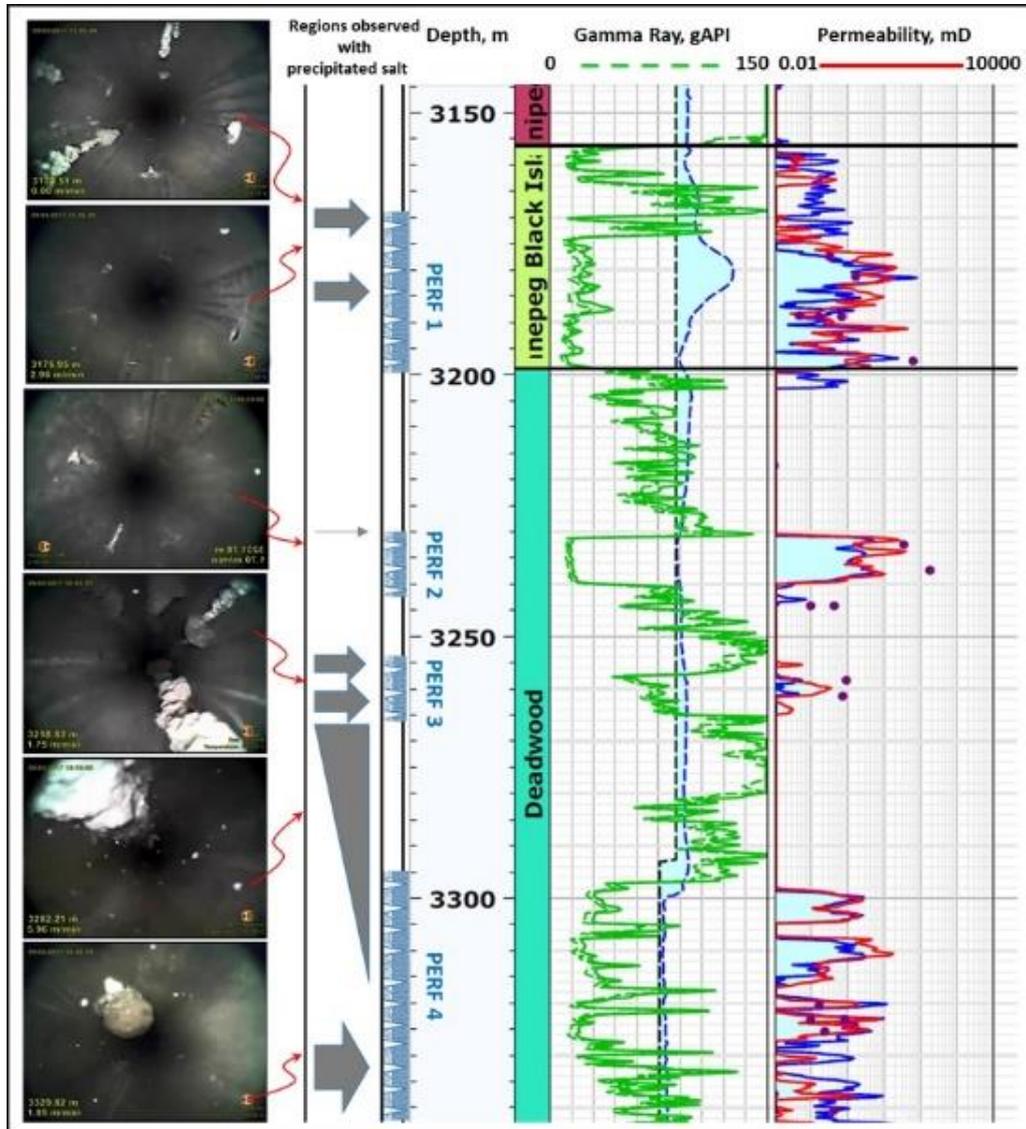


**Figure 7:** (a) Illustration of the temporal evolution of monthly-averaged injectivity behavior indicator (black) along with number of days (blue) of active injection per month, (b) identifying three clusters with distinct injectivity status, of inferior ( $\sim 0.01$  tonnes/day/kPa), moderate ( $\sim 0.1$  tonnes/day/kPa), and exceptional ( $\sim 1.0$  tonnes/day/kPa) levels at a scale unique to the Aquistore site, and (c) recognizing an inverse relation between injectivity performance and bottomhole temperature labelled by season (Rangriz-Shokri et al. 2021).

### 2.2.5 Salt Precipitation within the Injection Well

The formation brine of Aquistore is a very saline (TDS 330 g/L)  $\text{Na}^+$ ,  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Cl}^-$  rich brine with chloride as the dominant anion, >99.8 mole% of anions in solution, with water at, or near, saturation with halite and anhydrite at reservoir conditions (Talman et al. 2020). **Figure 8** provides an overview of well salt precipitation, where the second perforated zone (PERF 2) exhibits the lowest amount of precipitation. This perforation zone is associated with relatively homogeneous, high permeability, strata in the aquifer.

Significant scale development is associated with the lowest injectivity and the third perforation zone (PERF 3). This observation suggests that brine back-flow into the wellbore is related to permeability variations in the near-wellbore region, arising from complex interactions between mechanical responses, capillary forces, and chemical potential gradients. Pressure driven flow back into the well, during low injection-rate episodes, can provide a source of brine into the wellbore (Talman et al. 2020). Salt precipitation has the potential to negatively affect  $\text{CO}_2$  injectivity.



**Figure 8:** An overview of the aquifer physical properties and regions associated with salt scale. Images from different depths are shown at the left with the red arrows indicating their locations. The grey shapes indicate general locations where there is salt buildup. An indication of the location volume of the deposits is given by the grey zones (Talman et al. 2020).

### 3 Procedures and methodology

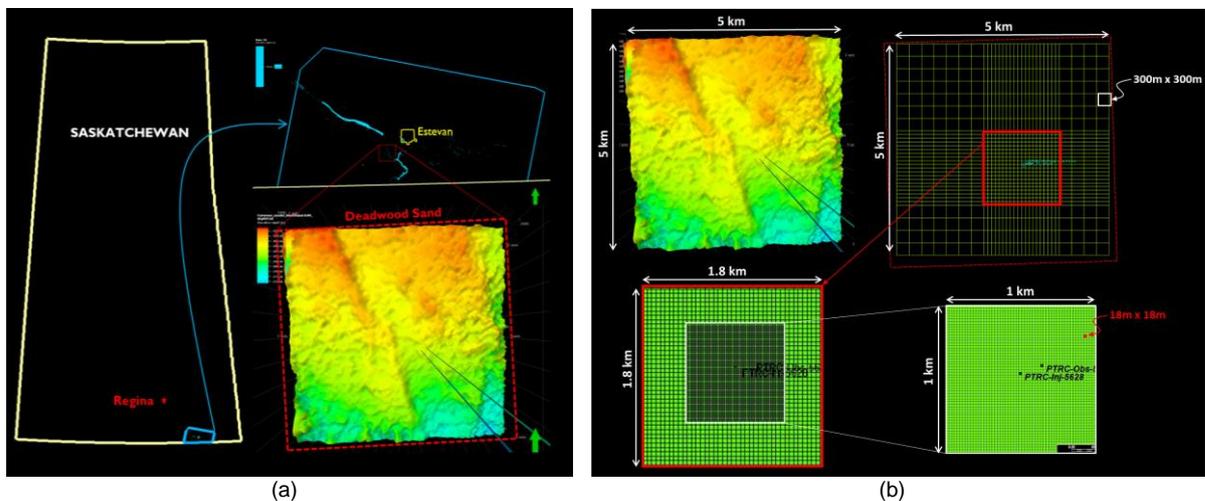
In this work, we initially appraised the most probable realizations of CO<sub>2</sub> plume extent from history matched numerical simulation and four seismic monitor surveys at the Aquistore. We then extracted and re-built a high-resolution sector model from the developed full geological model to represent the geology near the existing injection and observation wells. Given the extensive field evidences of CO<sub>2</sub> breakthrough at observation well, we employed non-isothermal simulation tools to perform uncertainty assessment of a pilot CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test between injector and producer (i.e. observation well), followed by assessment of flow regimes during CO<sub>2</sub>/brine co-production at the producer.

#### 3.1 Extract and Build a Base Sector Model



### 3.1.1 Full Field Static Geological Model

The initial full geological model was constructed by Schlumberger for a feasibility study in 2012 and then improved by EERC (Peck et al. 2014). Building on these available models, we revisited the geological model and constructed our own version of the full geological model in Petrel. We incorporated the available geological and geophysical data; they include well data (paths, logs, cores), and the interpreted seismic horizons in depth domain (Geological Survey Canada, White 2018). We adopted metric units and the coordinate reference system of NAD83 Zone 13N. Depth, from gamma ray well logs, selected as the reference to position the interpreted seismic horizons alongside the associated well tops of injection and observation wells and to correct seismic depth mismatch. The full geological model was constructed from the Winnipeg Icebox to the Precambrian erosional surface, on a 5km x 5km region associated with the Aquistore seismic monitoring activities (**Figure 9**).



**Figure 9:** (a) Geological model boundaries of the Aquistore site, and (b) top view of a tartan grid built with two levels of refinement around the injection and observation wells (Rangriz Shokri et al. 2019)

We used log data (e.g. shale volume index, lithology, and porosity logs) and the knowledge of southern Saskatchewan geology to divide the storage formations into several subdivisions. Each geological subdivision was assigned different numbers of layers. Layering was aimed to honor the vertical heterogeneity (sand vs. shale zones) and to more accurately distribute petrophysical properties (Peck et al. 2014a; Rangriz Shokri 2019). **Table 1** summarizes the zones and distribution of vertical layering in the static model.

**Table 1:** Distribution of vertical layers, perforated intervals, and rock types in different geological zones

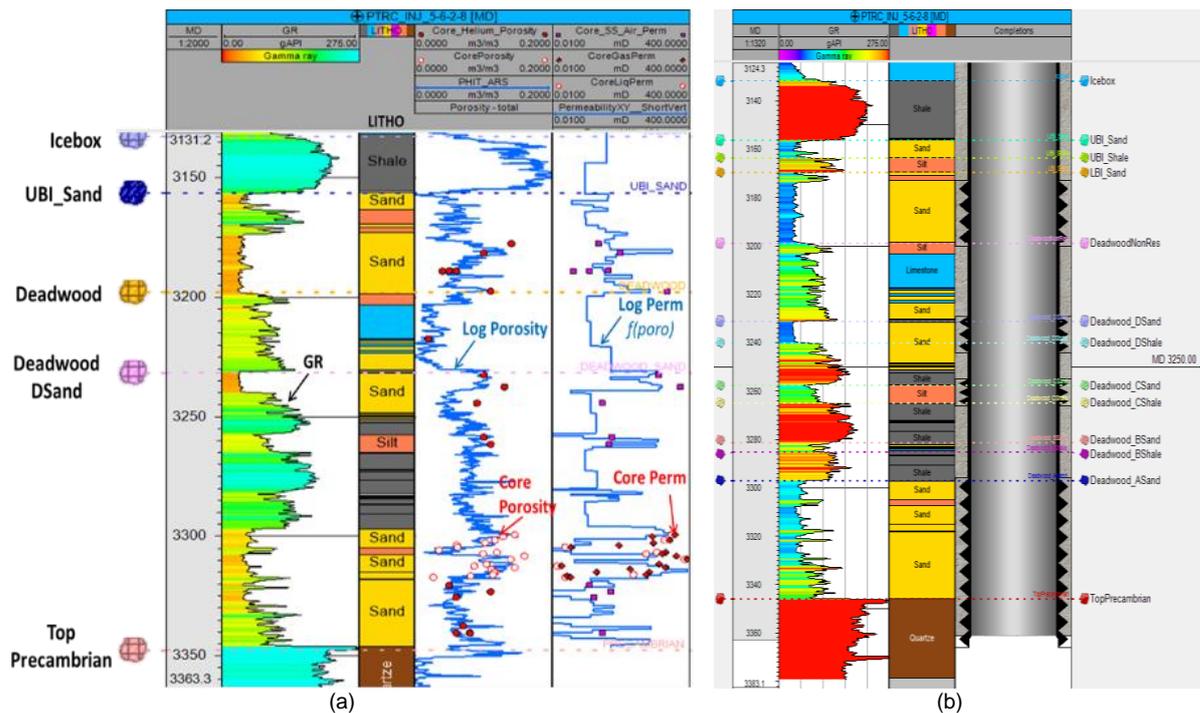
Geological Zone Division	Number of layers	Perforation Status	Relative Permeability Set Number
Icebox	2	None	3
Upper Black Island Sand	4	None	3
Upper Black Island Shale	2	None	3
Lower Black Island Sand	14	Perforated	2
Upper Deadwood – Non Reservoir	6	None	3
Deadwood D Sand	6	Perforated	1
Deadwood D Shale	3	None	3
Deadwood C Sand	5	Perforated	1
Deadwood C Shale	3	None	3
Deadwood B Sand	3	None	3
Deadwood B Shale	2	None	3
Deadwood A Sand	24	Perforated	1 and 3 – as explained in the text.

We performed a quality check on the structural surfaces, interpreted seismic horizons, and well tops, and then, generated a tartan grid for reservoir simulation (5km x 5km) with one level of refinement in a region of 2km x 2km in x-y directions around the injection well. This step was intended to re-build the



model to suit the CO<sub>2</sub> circulation feasibility study. The dimensions of the local refined area were estimated based on sensitivity analysis of the possible extent of CO<sub>2</sub> plume from previous knowledge of history-matched simulations and time-lapse seismic surveys (Rangriz Shokri 2019; White et al. 2021). Grid cell sizes were 32m x 32m near the wells and 250m x 250m close to the model boundary. As detailed in next section, we later refined the 32m x 32m grids a second time into 4m x 4m grids in Petrel. This was done to have a high-resolution sector model as the input to CMG-GEM simulator. This model helps to better compute mass and heat transport in the CO<sub>2</sub> plume region during the CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test.

Analysis of well logs from both injection and observation wells (151 m apart) indicated similar rock types and shale/sand sequences (**Figure 10**). We estimated the petrophysical properties from well logs, calibrated with core data for the injection well. Density, porosity, gas and liquid permeabilities of 20 core plugs were previously measured in the laboratory on the full diameter cores. Routine core analyses of 22 side wall core samples were also available. A depth correction was made to match logs and core data. Porosities ranged from 0.022 to 0.159, and permeabilities ranged from 0.002 to 312 mD, for the whole intervals (Figure 8) with an assumed vertical to horizontal permeability ratio ( $k_v/k_h$ ) of 0.1. The permeability log was from calibrated porosity-permeability correlations from EERC (Peck et al. 2014; Rostron et al. 2014; White et al. 2016); the correlations were based on permeability data from the Deadwood cores measured at the North Dakota Geological Survey core library facility.



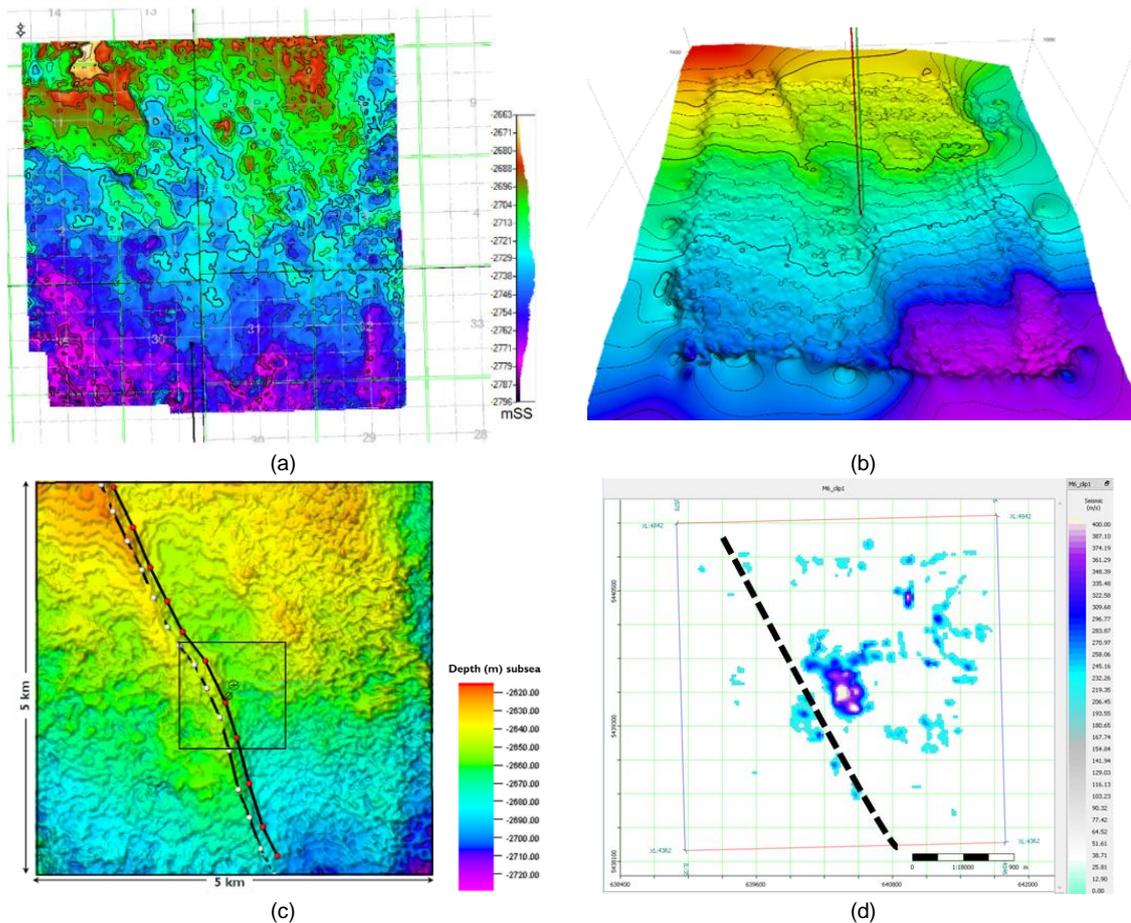
**Figure 10:** (a) Computed petrophysical data from well logs and core measurements of the injection well and (b) four different intervals perforated in the injection well (Rangriz Shokri et al. 2019)

Since the model was constrained by only two line sources (i.e. the injection and observation wells), the porosity and permeability data were initially distributed within a layer cake model. In the layer cake model, we directly assigned each property throughout the whole individual horizontal layer from these two wells. The layer cake assumption is useful for simplified modeling where heterogeneity in only vertical direction for petrophysical properties is of significance. Other realizations of petrophysical property distributions are addressed in section 4, using vertical variograms from well logs, synthetic horizontal variograms from seismic data, and random distribution generated by the Gaussian simulations.

### 3.1.2 Presence of a Flexure in Precambrian Basement



Prior to drilling the injection well and during the site screening/characterization phase, an initial pseudo 3D geophysical model (8km x 6km) was generated over the Aquistore injection site. The pseudo 3D model was constructed based on six available legacy industry 2D seismic lines in the region (**Figure 11-a**). This initially helped with characterization of the underlying Precambrian basement, but it showed no clear evidence of vertical faults, fractures, or any missing reservoir horizons over the injection site (Rostron et al. 2014).



**Figure 11:** (a) Initial estimate of elevation of the top of the Precambrian basement, interpreted from 'pseudo 3D' seismic, shows no flexure (Rostron 2014), (b) detection of flexure in subsequent high quality seismic surveys, (c) uncertainty associated with locating the flexure in interpreted depth horizon, and (d) CO<sub>2</sub> plume outline from 4D seismic monitor surveys; the flexure seems to control the migration of CO<sub>2</sub> plume.

After acquisition of a detailed 3D seismic volume, and its interpretation in connection with other geological/geophysical logs from the Aquistore injection well, a local sub-vertical Precambrian basement fault-like structure (referred to as flexure) was noticed (**Figure 11-b**). The NNW-SSE flexure (fault-like structure) is ~1km away from the injection well and is oriented at an azimuth of 75°–85° relative to the regional maximum horizontal stress. Because of its location and orientation, the flexure seems less susceptible to reactivation during CO<sub>2</sub> injection (Rostron et al. 2014). No clear evidence is available to support if the strata in the overlying flexure are faulted; the nearest known significant fault zone was determined to be located ~200 km away (White et al. 2016).

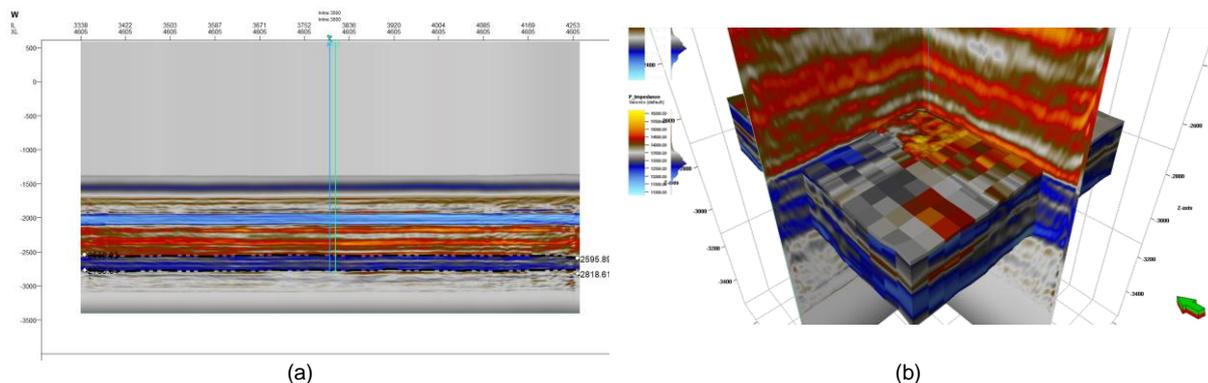
The 4D seismic surveys over the Aquistore injection site suggest that the CO<sub>2</sub> plume propagates in a certain direction; its propagation has been evidently controlled by the presence of the flexure structure (**Figure 11-d**). The interpreted CO<sub>2</sub> plume is asymmetric in shape and it appears to be propagating mainly northward from the injection well. Basic analysis indicates that this might be the result of a combination of factors, including the regional dip (SSE direction), the predominant oriented flexure



structure (NNW-SSE) and/or porosity/permeability distribution/anisotropy in the Deadwood formation (White et al. 2018, 2019, 2021).

### 3.1.3 Resampling AVO Inversion Volumes and Constraining Petrophysical Data to Acoustic Impedance

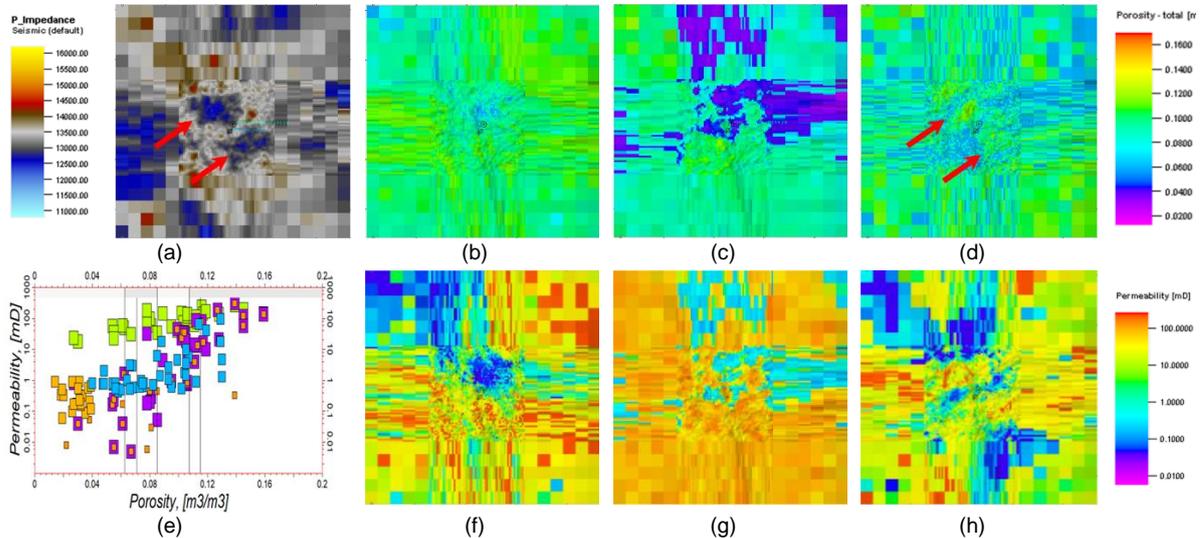
Schlumberger delivered the 3D AVO inversion volumes in time domain to PTRC for subsequent lithology prediction and porosity estimation for the Aquistore reservoir interval (Schlumberger 2018). Because of a significant acquisition footprint in the data, White (2018) applied azimuthal (kx-ky) filtering directly to the AVO inversion 3D volumes as well as the original lithology and porosity sub-volumes; the filtering process largely suppressed the acquisition footprint (White 2018; Marfurt et al. 1998). We received the AVO inversion volumes and subsequent lithology products in NAD83 UTM coordinates, where the volumes were converted to depth using the Strata model constructed by Dr. Don White of Geological Survey of Canada. The model was constructed using the injection well log data and the seismic horizons (White 2018). The seismic inversion volume in depth domain (mainly acoustic impedance) was imported to the Petrel model of the Aquistore site; it was depth corrected, and resampled to the existing tartan grid for the CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test (**Figure 12**)



**Figure 12:** (a) P-wave acoustic impedance from seismic inversion volume in depth domain, (b) importing the acoustic impedance, applying depth correction, and resampling it to the existing tartan grid to suit CO<sub>2</sub> circulation study.

To have a reliable estimation of spatial distribution of porosity, and to improve our earlier layer cake model, we took advantage of seismic inversion data, mainly the acoustic impedance. We assumed there is a negative correlation between porosity and acoustic impedance that can be defined through a single transform function (Batzie and Wang 1992). The porosity was populated using the Gaussian random function simulation, a stochastic method, so that many realizations could be produced if needed. During the Gaussian simulations, we honored well data, input distribution, and variograms from injection and observation well logs. We incorporated the knowledge of P-wave acoustic impedance volume, as a secondary variable, through collocated co-kriging with an initial correlation coefficient of -0.8 in the petrophysical modeling process. This initial value was estimated based on porosity and acoustic impedance data of the injection well. The correlation coefficient was later treated as a variable in the uncertainty workflow of section 4 to generate multiple-realizations of porosity-permeability volumes. **Figure 13** shows the acoustic impedance, and the stochastic distribution of porosity with and without constraining the porosity distribution to the P-wave acoustic impedance volume.

Given limited data from cores and well logs, cross plots of porosity vs. permeability for available facies were generated (Peck et al. 2014a; Rangriz Shokri 2019). We used the porosity-permeability cross plots per facies as secondary variables to populate the permeability in the model; the process honors well data (**Figure 13-e**). As a result, permeability distribution is a function of both the permeability of wells, their correlation with porosity at the wells, and the acoustic impedance volume; the latter is because the porosity has been already constrained to the acoustic impedance in a previous modeling step. **Figure 13** also illustrates the permeability distributions along with the assumed porosity distributions.

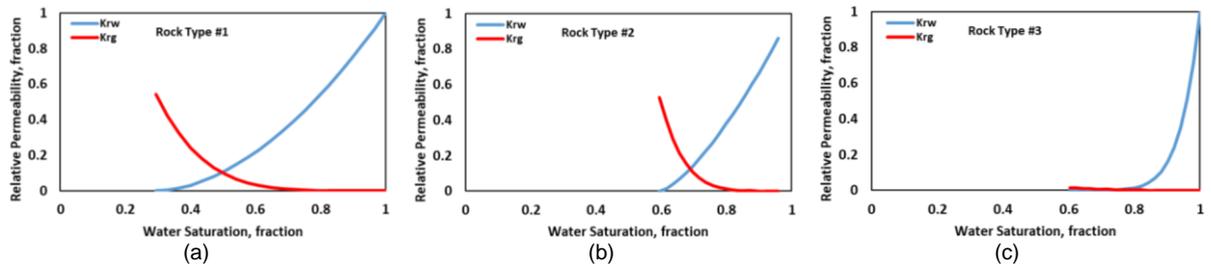


**Figure 13:** Top view of 5 km x 5 km of the Deadwood D formation (a) P-wave acoustic impedance, (b) stochastic distribution of porosity and its relevant (f) permeability, (c) distribution of porosity from EERC's model and its relevant (g) permeability, (d) distribution of porosity constrained to acoustic impedance and its relevant (h) permeability, and (e) cross-plot of porosity-permeability for different rock type/facies from core data and well logs of Aquistore injection well.

### 3.1.4 Reservoir Dynamic Simulation Model for History Matching Process

We used the CMG Compositional Simulator (CMG-GEM) to build a non-isothermal flow model and to match the CO<sub>2</sub> injection history of the Aquistore injection well in the targeted saline formations, and its breakthrough at the observation well. We selected the Peng-Robinson equation of state with two-component fluid system of brine and CO<sub>2</sub>; but trace amounts of a third component (methane 0.00001 mole fraction) were added for numerical stability reason. The CO<sub>2</sub> was allowed to dissolve in brine. The solubility of CO<sub>2</sub> in brine was estimated by Harvey's correlation in pure water and corrected for salinity effect (Harvey 1996). The correlations to calculate brine density (Rowe and Chow 1970) and viscosity (Kestin et al. 1981) were also implemented in CMG-GEM simulator. The aquifer was initially assumed to only contain brine (Sw=1) with salinity ranging between 271000-336000 ppm (Peck et al. 2014b). The pore pressure gradient was reported as 10.4-10.63 kPa/m, increasing from north to south, with a value of 10.7 kPa/m interpreted from well tests conducted in the Deadwood Formation (White et al. 2016). The model was initialized with 34129.05 kPa and 112.8 °C at a reference depth of 3173 m. The outer boundary of the full geological model was connected to an analytic infinite acting aquifer from all sides. The simulation runs were non-isothermal (Rangriz Shokri et al. 2019).

We used three sets of drainage relative permeabilities for different rock types (**Figure 14**), available from multiple sources including Kruz et al. (2014), Schlumberger (2013), and Bennion and Bachu (2006a,b). Relative permeability data from Schlumberger was sourced from unsteady-state CO<sub>2</sub> gas/CO<sub>2</sub> equilibrium brine relative permeability tests performed on a composite core stack composed of three core plugs (Schlumberger 2013). Relative permeability data of Bennion and Bachu (2006a,b) were derived from three basal Cambrian sandstone formations in the Wabamun Lake area southwest of Edmonton, Alberta (Peck et al. 2014a). We assigned heterogeneity to relative permeabilities of high quality sand zones and poor shale sequences with zero capillary pressures (Jiang et al. 2016); the effect of capillary pressures and entry pressures were ignored. A summary of the allocation of rock types to different zones is provided in **Table 1**.



**Figure 14:** Three sets of relative permeability used in the flow simulation (Peck et al. 2014a) from Bachu and Adams 2003, and Bachu et al. 2011 for (a) basal Cambrian sandstone, (b) Wabamun carbonate, and (c) shale.

We modeled CO<sub>2</sub> injection into four different perforated intervals of the injection well (**Figure 10**). These include:

- Perforation 1 in Lower Black Island;
- Perforation 2 in Deadwood D Sand, and approximately 1 meter of overlying Upper Deadwood Silts and 2 meters of underlying Deadwood D Shale;
- Perforation 3 in the Deadwood C Sand which to some extent penetrated the overlying Deadwood D Shale;
- Perforation 4 in entire Deadwood A Sand, and extended about 15 meters into the Precambrian formation.

A spinner survey of the injection well indicated that more than half of Perforation 4 at the bottom and the entire of Perforation 3 might not contribute to CO<sub>2</sub> injection (assumed plugged/non-effective). 45-50% of injection occurred at the upper section of Perforation 4, while Perforation 2 and 1 took in approximately 40-45% and 10% of injection, respectively (Schlumberger 2015) (**Figure 16**). Reports are available on brine injection tests that were conducted to obtain bulk well injectivity estimates. The tests were conducted subsequent to completion of the injection well and prior to initial CO<sub>2</sub> injection. For the plugged perforations, Jiang et al. (2016) suggested that this previous water injection during well testing might have caused clay content swelling in the formation, substantially reducing the permeability near the wellbore. Other opinions were made on the possibility of spinner malfunction because the precipitated salts might have fallen into the spinner, resulting in the spinner not operating properly. A summary of parameters used in constructing the geological model and setting up the flow simulation, is included in **Table 2**.

**Table 2:** Summary of flow simulation parameters

Parameters	Values
Initial reservoir pressure, kPa	34129.05 at 3173 m MD
Pressure gradient, kPa/m	10.7
Initial reservoir temperature, °C	112.8 at 3173 m MD
Initial water saturation, fraction	1
Brine salinity, ppm	300000
Porosity, fraction	0.002-0.105
Permeability, mD	0-312
Permeability anisotropy ( $k_v/k_h$ )	0.1
Reservoir boundary	Analytic infinite acting aquifer
Equation of State	Peng-Robinson
Default run type	Non-isothermal

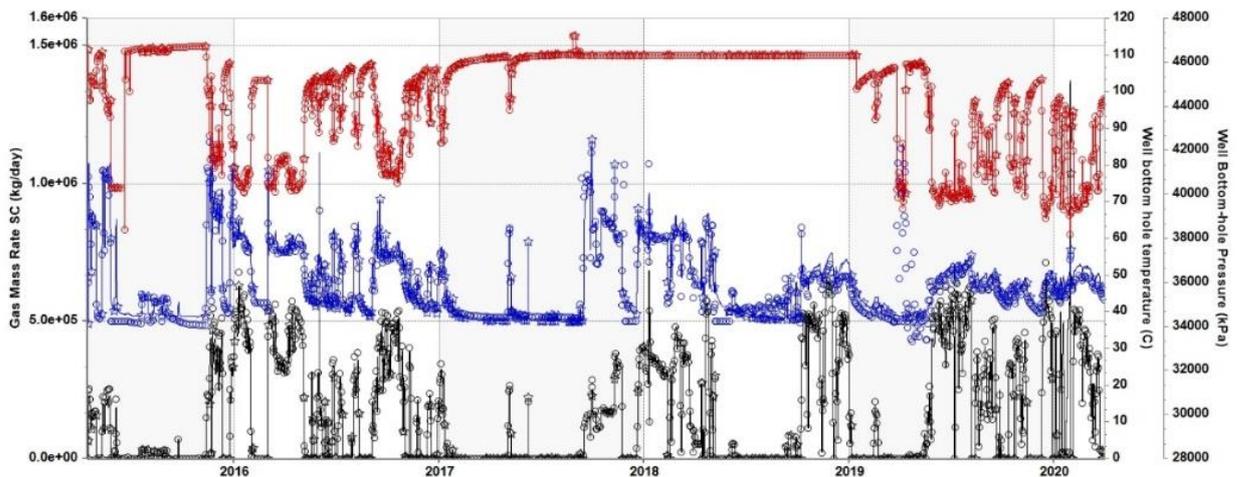
### 3.1.5 Appraise the Most Probable Realizations of CO<sub>2</sub> Plume Extent and Shape

We used the non-isothermal option of CMG-GEM simulator to match the daily averaged values of injection rate, pressure, and temperature from the Aquistore injection well. Skin factor was selected as the key history matching parameter, with the assumption that the skin factor is not a constant number.



A change in the well skin factor might indicate changes in phase behaviour, flow regime, fluid/rock interactions, thermal fractures, plugging of perforations, and/or salt precipitation, among others. To honor the spinner log, negative values of skin were required to match the injection history, mostly in periods where high injection rate and high injection pressure resulted in significant temperature drops in the near wellbore region. These periods could provide favorable conditions for localized thermal fracturing due to stress alteration, augmented by cooling effects (around 50°C change in temperature and 10 MPa change in pressure); this might result in near wellbore permeability enhancement (Rangriz Shokri et al. 2019; Jiang et al. 2016).

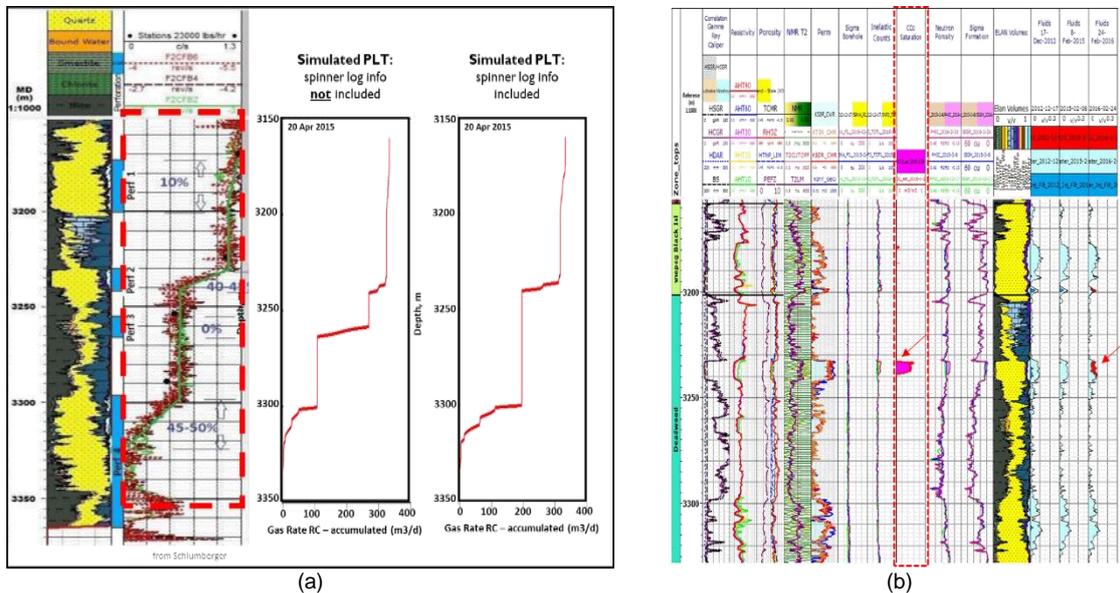
**Figure 15** shows the results of history matching of the CO<sub>2</sub> injection; observed field data are shown by circles and simulated data by solid lines. There are multiple transient heat/flow periods – non-isothermal cycles – where an increase of injection pressure results in an increase in the injection rate. Because the temperature of injected CO<sub>2</sub> stream is lower than that of the target formations, more volumes of injected CO<sub>2</sub> cause the downhole temperature to drop. When CO<sub>2</sub> injection rate occurs at lower values or comes to a stop, injection pressure drops to values close to initial reservoir pressure, and temperature rises back to values close to initial reservoir temperature. In a previous study, we suggested that non-isothermal effects are significant, especially in the periods where injection rates are significantly high, and they should be considered for more accurate modeling of cold CO<sub>2</sub> injection at Aquistore (Rangriz-Shokri et al. 2019).



**Figure 15:** Matching the injection history in non-isothermal simulations; simulated data (solid lines) vs. observed data (circles); red temperature, blue pressure, black mass rate.

**Figure 16-(a)** shows a comparison of the spinner survey of the injection well conducted by Schlumberger in 2015 and an equivalent simulated spinner log during the history matching process. The spinner log demonstrates how injected CO<sub>2</sub> was allocated in different perforations. If the knowledge of the spinner survey is trusted, some perforations should be assumed plugged/non-effective. Honoring the spinner survey in the history matching process, the shape and extent of the CO<sub>2</sub> plume differs from the case where all four perforations are assumed open to receive CO<sub>2</sub>.

Further calibration includes the knowledge of CO<sub>2</sub> breakthrough at the observation well (151 meters away from the injector). The CO<sub>2</sub> breakthrough was determined through an inspection of numerous pulsed neutron logs. The pulsed neutron logs were aimed at monitoring near fluid saturation changes at the observation well and their results (Reservoir Saturation Tool from Schlumberger) are illustrated in **Figure 16-(b)** (Swager 2017). Interpretations suggest a major change in CO<sub>2</sub> concentration occurred between December 2015 and March 2016 (Kennedy 2017). Close inspection of the interpreted data indicates on February 2016, a significant change of CO<sub>2</sub> saturation was noticed in the observation well, at depths close to Perforation 2 of the injection well. When the spinner survey was included in the history matching process, the first CO<sub>2</sub> arrival appears to occur at the depth of Perforation 2.



**Figure 16:** (a) comparison of field measured spinner survey with simulated spinner logs when perforation 3 is assumed open, and/or plugged (Schlumberger 2015), (b) arrival of CO<sub>2</sub> in the observation well from Reservoir Saturation Tool (RST) by Schlumberger.

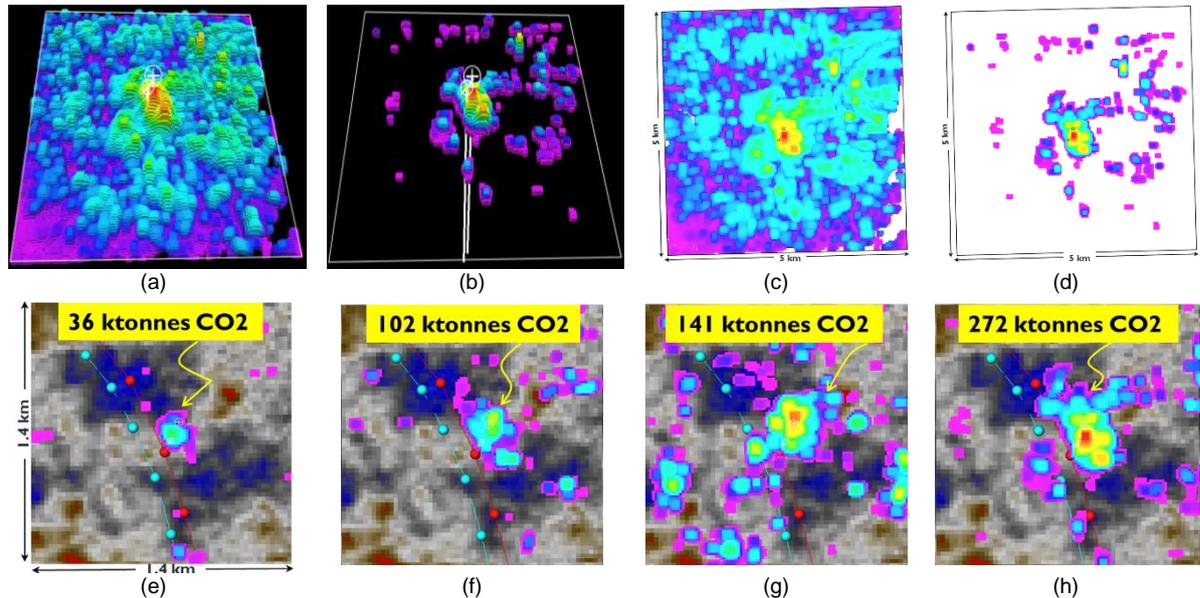
In the history-matching period, we assumed an infinite acting regional aquifer as the default boundary condition; however, the leaking capability of the regional aquifer is unknown. Leaking is a terminology used by the CMG simulator. The leakage of an aquifer, in this context, means the ability of water to leak back into the aquifer when under the influence of a higher reservoir pressure. Although the degree of the aquifer's leaking property was not fully investigated, the simulation results confirmed that for an identical amount of cumulative volumes of injected CO<sub>2</sub>, the average pressure in the target formations would significantly increase for a non-leaking confined aquifer. Since we do not experience such high average reservoir pressures, the assumption is that the capacity of the regional aquifer is significantly larger than the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> injected. This is of significance for future brine injection/disposal wells to control the CO<sub>2</sub> plume. A significant increase in average reservoir pressure could adversely affect the onset of hydromechanical failure in the target zones, constrain the storage capacity, and jeopardize the containment of the storage complex within the saline formation.

4D seismic monitoring is one of the key components of the measurement, monitoring, and verification program at the Aquistore site (Movahedzadeh et al. 2021). 4D seismic surveys have been acquired at Aquistore since 2012 with a baseline survey prior to CO<sub>2</sub> injection. Additional subsequent monitoring surveys were conducted during 2012 to 2020 for 0, 36, 102, 141, and 272 ktonnes of injected CO<sub>2</sub> (White et al. 2021). This was possible through a permanent array of buried geophones for surface recording, a permanent fiber-optic cable for DAS-based VSP recording, and dynamite shots for surface and VSP shooting. **Figure 17** shows the depth slices through the main amplitude anomaly in the upper Deadwood Formation. The footprint of the CO<sub>2</sub> plume is asymmetric, extending mainly northward from the injector. The Deadwood CO<sub>2</sub> plume amplitude grows with more CO<sub>2</sub> injection (102, 141, and 272 ktonnes). Minimum CO<sub>2</sub> thickness/saturation estimates for the main CO<sub>2</sub> plume zone in Perforation 2 are 4-10 m and 50%-100%. The CO<sub>2</sub> plume appears to be developing in a northward direction, likely as a result of a combination of factors, including the SSE regional dip, the NNW-SSE oriented flexure structure, and its impact on porosity/permeability fabric in the targeted formations (Roach and White 2018; White et al. 2021).

**Figures 17-(e)** through **-(h)** show seismic amplitude difference maps in the upper Deadwood zone for the different monitor surveys relative to the baseline survey. These 2D difference maps, overlaid on top of acoustic impedance, represent a proxy for the lateral extent of the CO<sub>2</sub> plume at the 2<sup>nd</sup> perforation. The main CO<sub>2</sub> plume is assumed to be in the high-permeability zone. White (2018) and White et al. (2021) noted the variability in the noise levels among different surveys. In particular, the noise level of

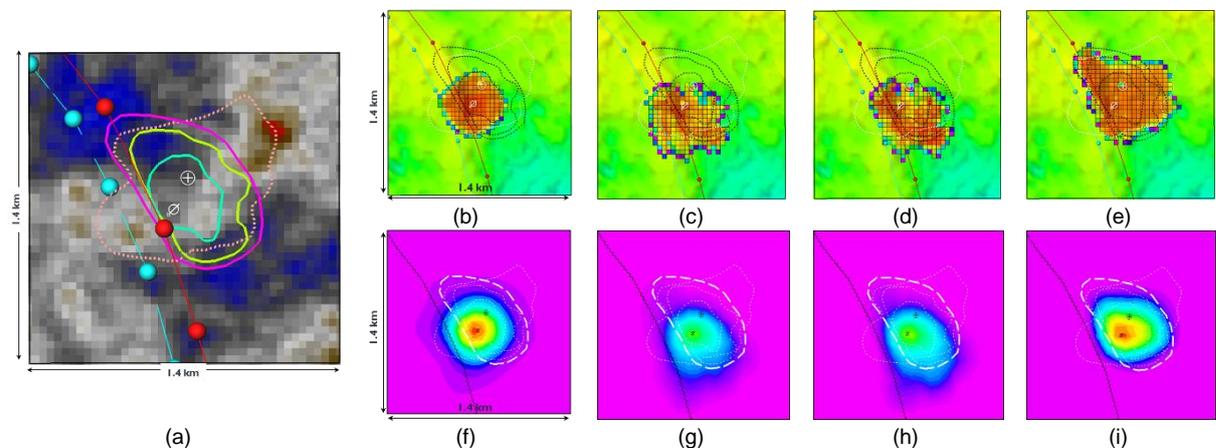


the monitor survey at 141 ktonnes was determined to be significant. White et al. (2021) indicated that the central anomaly is robust whereas the amplitude differences at distance from the wells are most likely noise and thus should be ignored for modelling purposes.



**Figure 17:** (a) and (c) bird view and top view of amplitude difference maps (272 ktonnes) and (b) and (d) exclusion the background noise with an arbitrary threshold to define the outline of CO<sub>2</sub> plume. The main plume outline seismic amplitude difference maps in the upper Deadwood zone for the different monitor surveys (e) 36 ktonnes, (f) 102 ktonnes, (g) 141 ktonnes, and (h) 272 ktonnes, relative to the baseline survey.

To exclude most of the background noise, an arbitrary threshold was applied to the amplitude difference maps. This allowed the definition of the main plume outline (**Figure 17-b** and **-d**). The outline of the amplitude anomalies is a proxy of a region where CO<sub>2</sub> saturation and thickness are sufficiently significant to be detected through seismic monitoring. Based on previous modelling experience, the minimum CO<sub>2</sub> saturations must be 10% with a note that seismic monitoring becomes less sensitive to saturation differences as the saturations increase (White et al. 2021). With more CO<sub>2</sub> being injected into Aquistore, the areas of increased amplitude likely correspond to an increase in CO<sub>2</sub> thickness and/or CO<sub>2</sub> saturation.

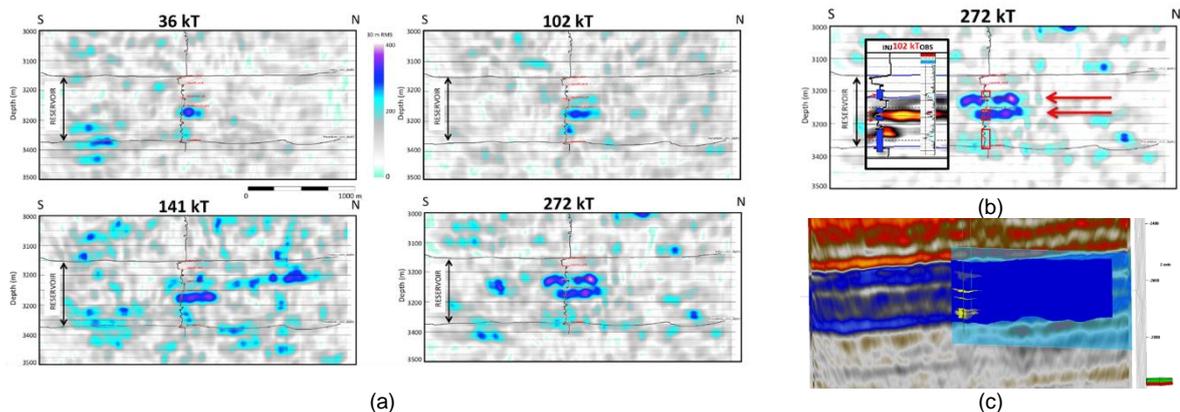


**Figure 18:** (a) outlines of CO<sub>2</sub> plume, interpreted from different seismic monitor surveys, and top-view of CO<sub>2</sub> saturation, from the flow simulator, in the top layer of the Deadwood D formation, with respect to the outlines of CO<sub>2</sub> plume with the assumptions of (b) layer cake, (c) stochastic properties, (d) stochastic properties with flexure, (e) petrophysical properties constrained to acoustic impedance and honoring the presence of flexure, and (f) through (i) their equivalent saturation-thickness average maps for all layers.



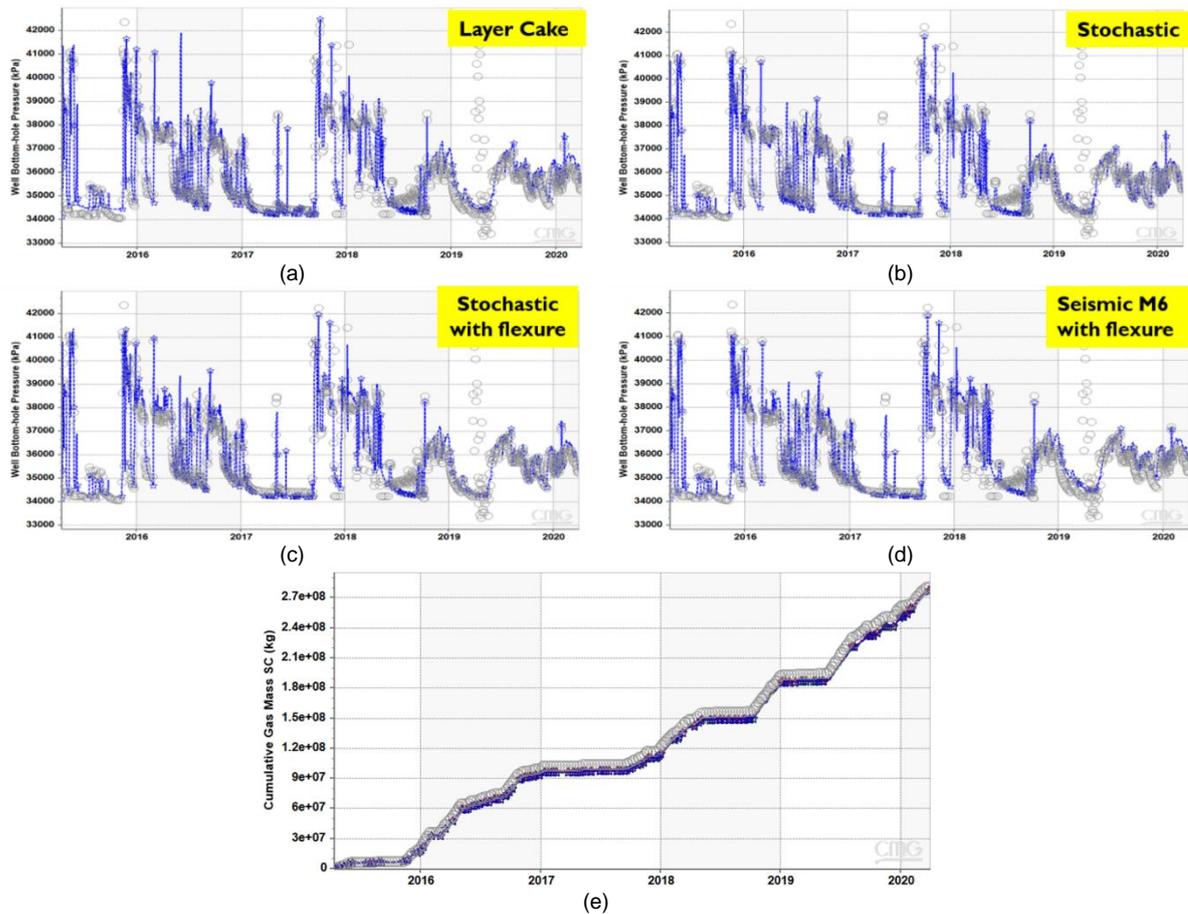
**Figures 18-(b)** through **-(e)** show different realizations of simulated CO<sub>2</sub> saturation, from the flow simulator in the top layer of the Deadwood D formation, with respect to the outlines of CO<sub>2</sub> plume, interpreted from different seismic monitor surveys. **Figures 18-(f)** through **-(i)** show corresponding saturation-thickness average maps for all layers. The inclusion of heterogeneity, constraining the porosity and permeability to acoustic impedance, and the flexure as a permeability baffle, helped to match the outline of CO<sub>2</sub> plume from the flow simulator with the interpreted CO<sub>2</sub> plume from seismic monitor surveys.

**Figure 19** shows the in-line slices from the surface 3D time-lapse RMS amplitude anomalies that pass through the CO<sub>2</sub> injection well. There are distinct time-lapse RMS anomalies within the reservoir intervals that were interpreted as zones of CO<sub>2</sub> saturation (White et al. 2019). The primary and secondary RMS amplitude anomalies are within the upper Deadwood and the lower Deadwood zones, respectively. The amplitude anomalies are beyond the background noise, and their strengths appear to grow in lateral extent with more quantities of CO<sub>2</sub> injected in each monitoring survey. The survey results agreed well with the PND log-based estimates of CO<sub>2</sub> saturation at the observation well within the Deadwood formation (White et al. 2019).



**Figure 19:** (a) Root mean square (RMS) amplitude difference for different monitor surveys, (b) with P-wave velocity log, the perforated zone locations for the injection well and interpreted pulse neutron log from the observation well superimposed (modified from White et al. 2018, 2019)

**Figure 20** illustrates the downhole injection pressure from simulated data against the observed field data on a daily averaged basis for different realizations, namely with the layer cake assumption, with inclusion of stochastic petrophysical properties with and without the flexure (fault-like structure), and with stochastic petrophysical properties constrained to the acoustic impedance volume from seismic surveys. **Figure 20-(e)** shows the cumulative injected mass of CO<sub>2</sub> for all the realizations; all of them overlay the observed field data. The quality of the history match of the injection history are high for all realizations, but each realization results in different estimates of shape and extent of the CO<sub>2</sub> plume. This highlights the significance of including the knowledge of interpreted CO<sub>2</sub> plume outlines from seismic data to better constrain the simulated flow outcomes.

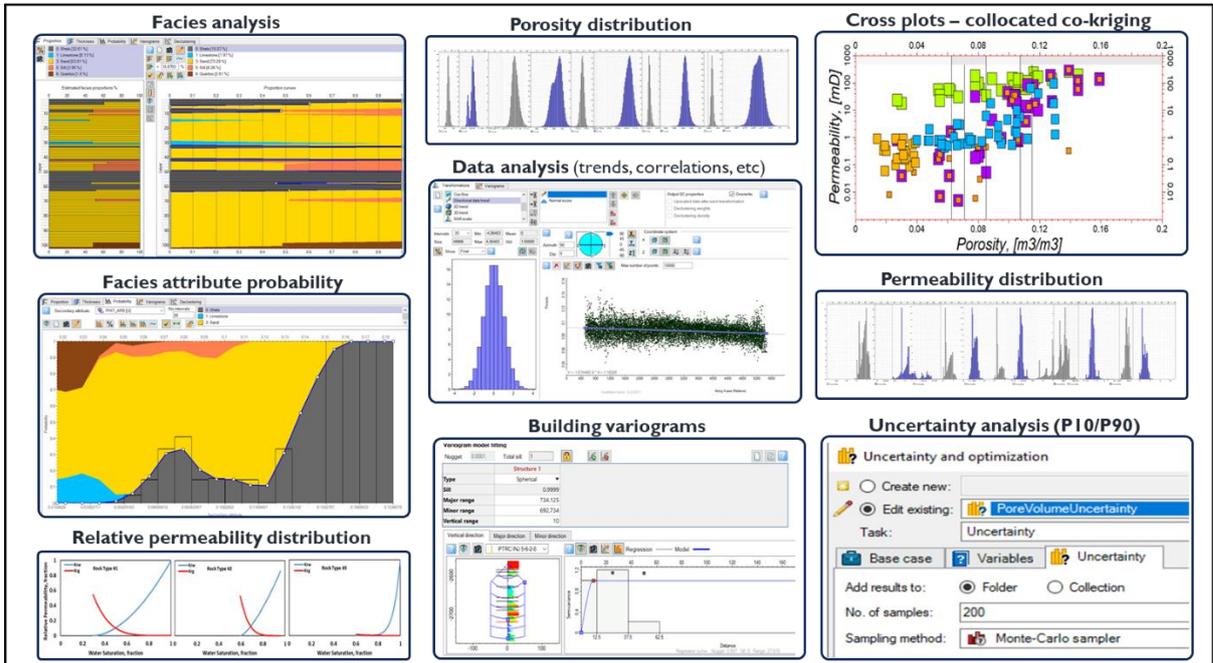


**Figure 20:** Downhole injection pressure from simulated data against the observed field data on a daily averaged basis for the realizations (a) with the layer cake assumption, (b) with inclusion of stochastic petrophysical properties, without and (c) with the flexure (fault-like structure), and (d) with stochastic petrophysical properties constrained to the acoustic impedance volume from seismic survey. (e) cumulative injected mass of CO<sub>2</sub> for all the realizations that all overlay the observed field data.

## 3.2 Build High-Resolution Sector Model to Initialize Flow Simulations

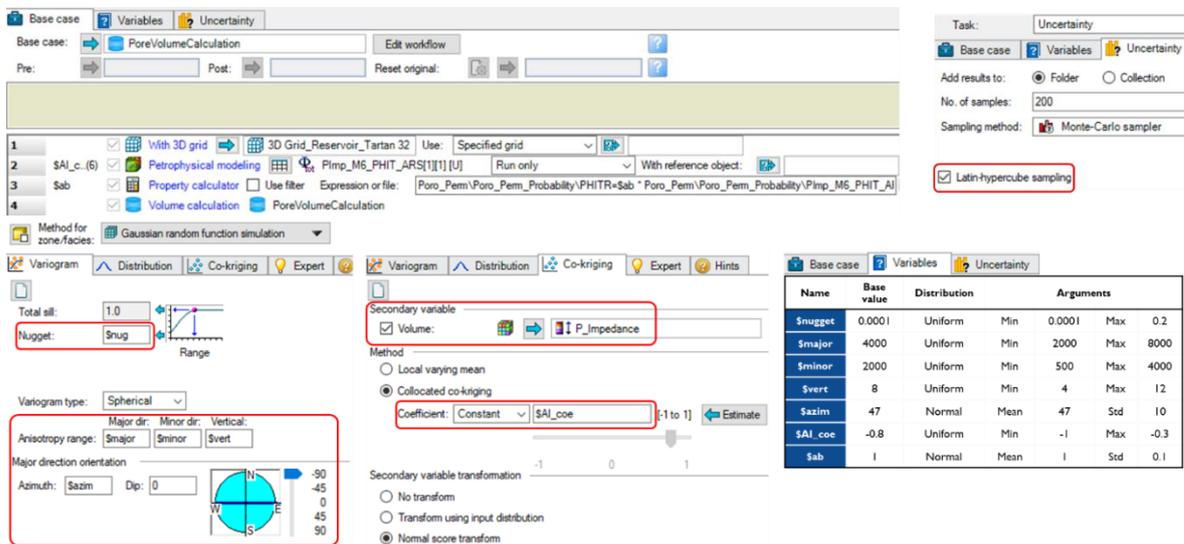
### 3.2.1 Generate and Rank Multiple Realizations of Static Geological Model

One of the advantages of the full geological modelling process is the possibility to assess uncertainties associated with seismic, geology, and flow data from the Aquistore injection site, and to visualize the spatial localization of uncertainty with respect to the developed CO<sub>2</sub> plume. We used stochastic modeling tools of Petrel (**Figure 21**) to obtain a set of realizations that takes into account the uncertainty of facies distribution (facies analysis and facies attribute probability), porosity distribution (data analysis, variograms, correlations to acoustic impedance), permeability distribution (cross plots with porosity constrained with seismic data, collocated co-kriging per facies), relative permeability (per facies), and location of the flexure (permeability baffle).



**Figure 21:** Stochastic modeling process for multiple realizations and uncertainty associated with facies distribution (facies analysis and facies attribute probability), porosity distribution (data analysis, variograms, correlations to acoustic impedance), permeability distribution (cross plots, collocated co-kriging per facies), relative permeability (per facies), and location of the flexure (permeability baffle)

The main uncertainty workflow, as shown in **Figure 22**, was based on pore volume calculation in sand bodies of the Aquistore injection site. We used Monte-Carlo sampler with Latin-hypercube sampling technique to generate 200 realizations and incorporate the uncertainties associated with vertical and horizontal heterogeneities from well logs, core data, and seismic surveys. The porosity and permeability distributions were generated at each realization using the Gaussian random function simulation method, constrained to acoustic impedance as a secondary variable (collocated co-kriging technique) with variograms (nugget, sill, range, anisotropy range, orientation) and collocated co-kriging coefficient as uncertain variables. We assigned relative permeabilities/thermal properties to appropriate facies/geological layers based on available laboratory studies from Aquistore.

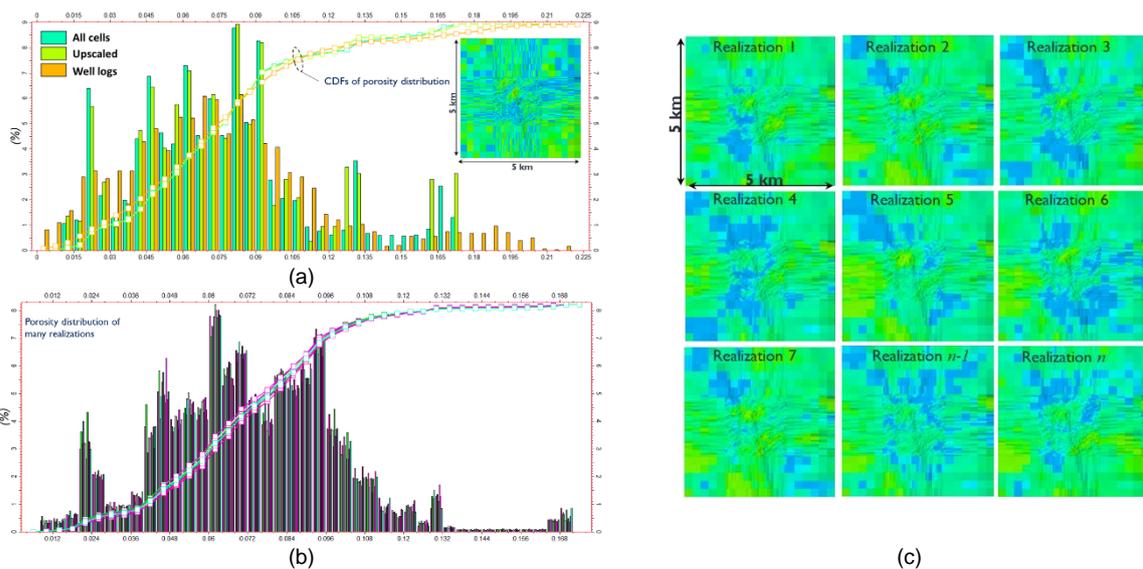


**Figure 22:** The uncertainty workflow to rank pore volume calculation in sand bodies of the Aquistore injection site.



**Figure 23-(a)** is a statistical comparison of the result of upscaling the well logs, and populating the porosity to the full geological model for one realization. An inspection of the porosity distribution and cumulative density functions indicates that the petrophysical modeling process could honor the spatial statistics of the measured well logs in the upscaled and populated properties in the model. The general assumption is that after upscaling, the log scale variations can be ignored and the emphasis in simulation would be on the match of the histogram of the upscaled cells with the full geological model. Once upscaled, it is no longer necessary to match the variability of raw logs because the variability and scale of well logs differ from the full geological model. In this way, the appropriate variability of the cell block scale is captured in the upscaled cells distribution.

We used the variability of cell block scale (upscaled from well logs) to model the full reservoir. **Figure 23-(a)** shows that the overall character of the distribution was preserved, as there is a good visual match of the vertical variability of the raw log and upscaled cells; the cumulative density functions overlay each other. **Figure 23-(b)** compares the spatial statistics of porosity distributed in many realizations (e.g. **Figure 23-(c)**). This indicates that while the spatial distributions of porosity in various realizations are different, they all honor original well log data and are statistically equivalent. This step is beneficial as we rely on limited hard data from only two wells (injection and observation wells) in the whole model of the Aquistore site.



**Figure 23:** (a) Statistical comparison of well logs, upscaled, and all populated porosity to the full geological model for one realization, and (b) porosity distributed in many realizations as in (c).

We generated multiple realizations using the Monte-Carlo simulation and computed a final pore volume of sand bodies, as shown in **Figure 24**. With the use of the Monte-Carlo method, the possible random values of each parameter were modelled. Only sand bodies (as opposed to shales) are assumed to contribute to the capacity of CO<sub>2</sub> storage complex. We ranked the generated realizations of sector model with respect to the “static base” model and exported some of the realizations (e.g. P10, P50, P90) for further flow simulations. Based on the selected rank (e.g. P50), we can obtain the relevant parameters assigned in that realization and use its porosity/permeability distribution as the required input for the base case dynamic simulation in section 5. Here, different possible ranges of variation for each parameter are specified as well as the type of statistical distribution and values of its parameters.

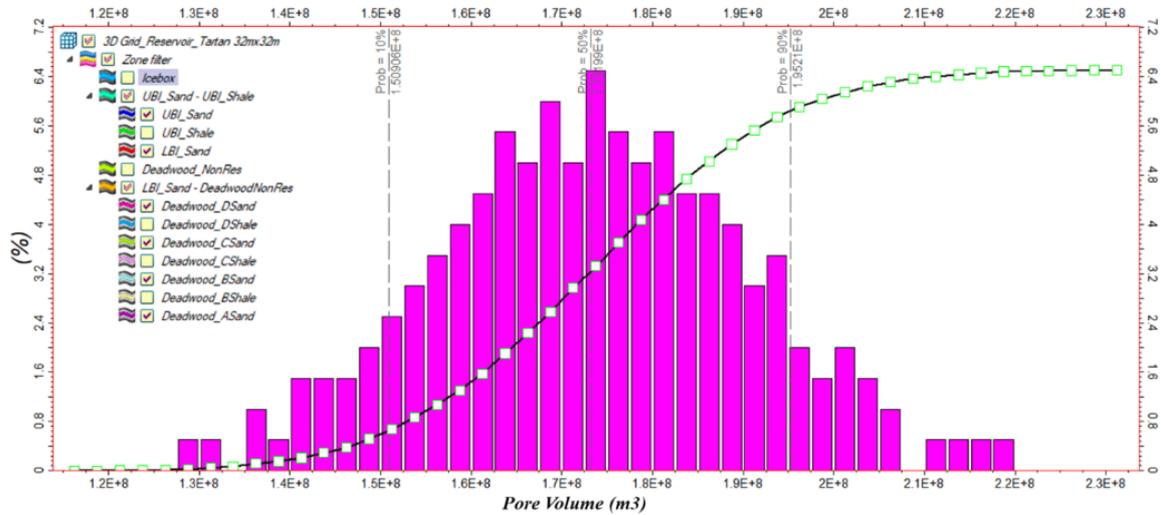


Figure 24: Generating multiple realizations using the Monte-Carlo simulation and ranking the computed pore volume of sand bodies

### 3.2.2 Impose the Initial and Boundary Conditions for the Sector Model

Based on the appraisal of most probable realizations of CO<sub>2</sub> plume extent and shape, we extracted a sector from the full geological model, and re-built it into a very fine scale geo-cellular model between the injection and observation wells (area of interest) with grid size of 4m x 4m; this step was meant to represent the near-wellbore geology and the developed CO<sub>2</sub> plume. We performed quality check and statistical comparisons of the generated high-resolution geological sector model with original petrophysical properties in the base model in terms of mean, standard deviations, histograms, and distribution (section 4.1).

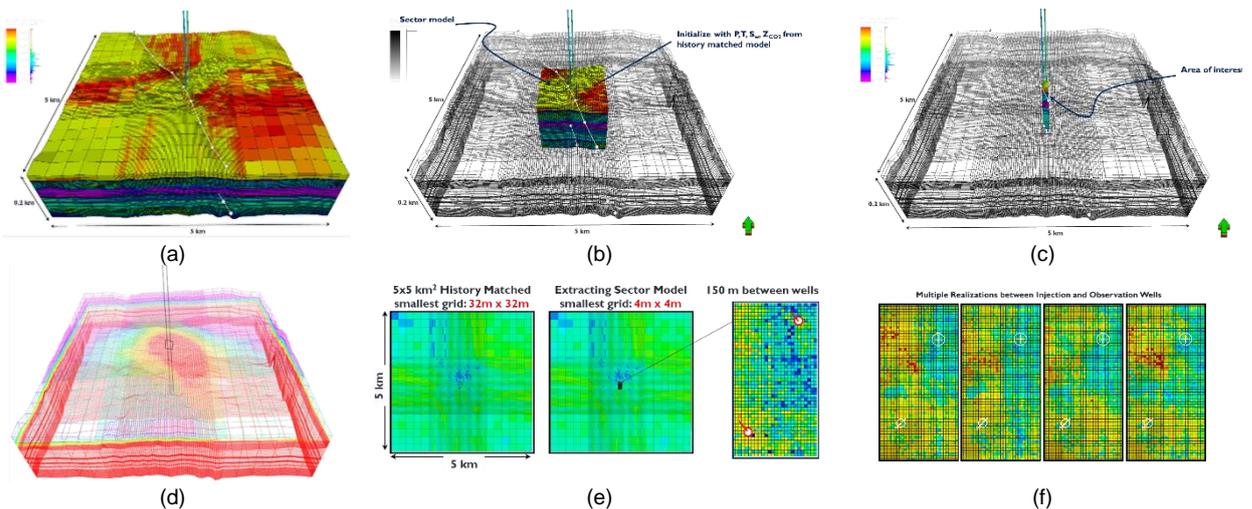


Figure 25: (a) full geological model, (b) taking initial and boundary conditions of history matched model for the sector model and (c) area of interest, (d) pore pressure over the full geological model, (e) top view of the refined cells in the area of interest between wells and (f) multiple realizations of porosity distribution for the high-resolution refined model.

The high-resolution model was first initialized based on pressure, temperature, water saturation, and global mole fractions of the last time step of the history matched model, i.e. April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 (Figure 25). During the dynamic base-case simulation, we noticed that imposing boundary conditions of no-flow or analytic aquifer at the exterior boundary of the sector model resulted in numerical instability and longer run time. We experienced similar problems when using the (last time step of history matched) properties of the exterior boundary of the area of interest to initialize the base case simulation study. This was



caused because the area of interest was affected by a developing CO<sub>2</sub> plume and, therefore, it seemed necessary to include those dynamic boundary conditions. After several modeling attempts, we concluded that the refined model should be used within the full coarse-grid geological model so that the properties at the boundary of the area of interest were directly taken from the last time step of the history-matched model as a whole. In other words, we had the refined model integrated into the full geological model with different cell sizes/resolutions. This respects the presence of a regional aquifer and its influence on the CO<sub>2</sub> plume; it significantly improved the run time and reduced the errors (e.g. material balance) in the dynamic simulations of the base case study.

**Figure 25** indicates how we included the heterogeneity of the high-resolution sector model into the full geological model, while honoring the simulated history matched results to initialize the base case study.

## 4 Results and discussion

### 4.1 Base-Case Dynamic Simulation of the CO<sub>2</sub> Circulation Test

To suit the CO<sub>2</sub> circulation study, we modified the non-isothermal CMG-GEM simulation file for the area of interest. The high resolution flow model was initialized based on the history matched full-geological model from April 2015 to April 2020. To do so, we exported the last time step of the history matched CMG-GEM file – including water saturation, pressure, temperature, and global mole fractions of CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> (methane) – to the full geological model in Petrel using rescue format. The parameters from the full geological model were then assigned to the refined high-resolution model within Petrel, and then exported as Eclipse simulation keyword properties to a text editor. The Eclipse keywords were changed to the required keywords in CMG-GEM formats. The new CMG-GEM file was then updated to suit the CO<sub>2</sub> circulation study. The petrophysical properties of the base case were constrained to seismic data, as explained earlier.

One of the main assumptions in the base case feasibility study of CO<sub>2</sub> circulation is that the observation well (151 m away from the injection well) would act as a production well. Other assumptions in the base case simulation are summarized in **Table 3** for the injection and observation (i.e. producer) wells. Throughout the text, we interchangeably use both terms: observation well and producer.

**Table 3:** Assumptions in the base case simulation of CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test

Injection well	Observation well (i.e. producer)
Max downhole injection pressure 42.5 MPa (95% fracturing pressure)	Min downhole production pressure 33 MPa
CO <sub>2</sub> injection rate 600 m <sup>3</sup> /day* (5-yrs avg. max injection rate)	Max CO <sub>2</sub> production rate 300 m <sup>3</sup> /day* (consistent with 0.11 m ID tubing)
Downhole injection temperature 70 °C (5-yrs avg. temperature of active injection)	Production through 2nd perforated interval only (highest permeability)
Injection through all 4 perforated intervals	No fracturing/no salt precipitation around production well
Injectivity is governed by: - formation properties (porosity, permeability, facies) - formation thickness - fluid distribution (saturation, relative permeability)	
Injection period of 9 months continuous CO <sub>2</sub> circulation	

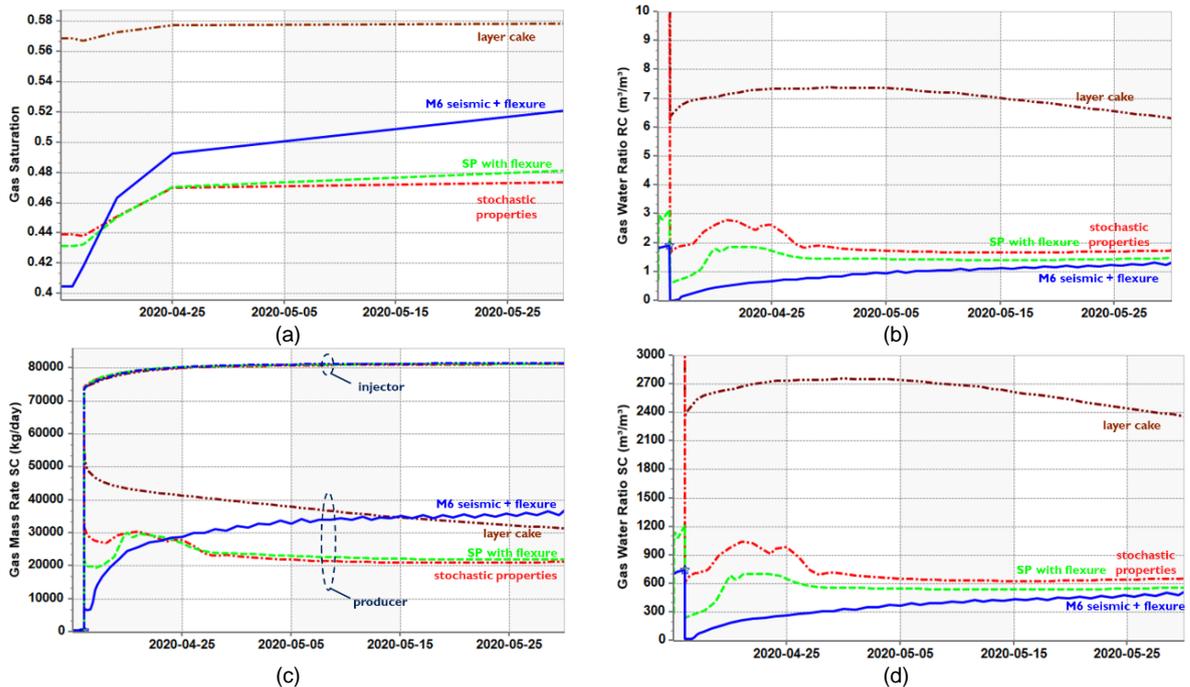
\* m<sup>3</sup>/d: volume (m<sup>3</sup>) is reported at reservoir conditions.

**Figure 26-(a)** shows the gas saturation in a block reservoir near production well in Deadwood D – 2<sup>nd</sup> perforation. Basic simulations on different realizations of the CO<sub>2</sub> plume suggests that the layer cake assumption leads to an overestimation of gas saturation around the observation well. Initial gas saturation from other realizations are reasonably comparable. Gas saturation increases in all cases after a few days. The increase in gas saturation due to CO<sub>2</sub> circulation is highest for the realization that was calibrated to the seismic data and assumed the presence of a flexure. From this exercise, one may conclude that heterogeneity, anisotropy, and inclusion of fracture could negatively affect the performance of CO<sub>2</sub> circulation.

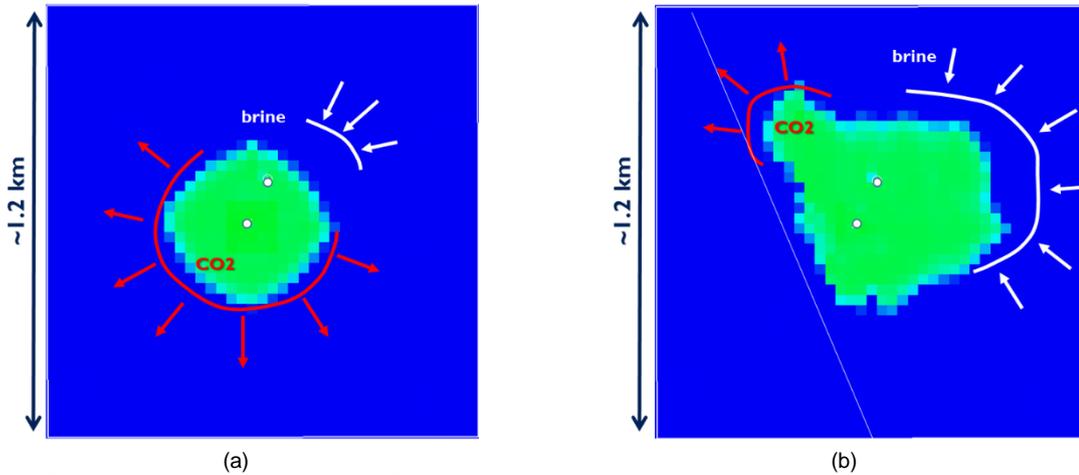


**Figure 26-(b)** shows the gas/water ratio at the production well. It seems that the layer cake assumption leads to better gas-to-water ratio at the production well. Gas-to-water ratio decreases and then increases with more CO<sub>2</sub> injection. The ratios at standard conditions are significantly larger due to CO<sub>2</sub> compressibility and water incompressibility. Moreover, fluid injection in the base case study was through 4 perforated intervals at the injector, while fluid production was only allowed from the 2<sup>nd</sup> perforated interval of the producer (**Table 3**). These observations suggest that we need to examine and optimize the injection/production well constraints to manage the CO<sub>2</sub>/brine production.

**Figure 26-(c)** is the CO<sub>2</sub> mass rate at injection and production wells. Note that the amount of injected CO<sub>2</sub> is almost identical in all realizations so that the production rate of brine and CO<sub>2</sub> could be compared in each simulation. In all cases, the mass of injected CO<sub>2</sub> is higher than the mass of produced CO<sub>2</sub> which means a portion of CO<sub>2</sub> is permanently trapped in the formations. In addition, there is a need for make up fluid (i.e. additional captured CO<sub>2</sub>) in each cycle to maintain the same level of injection. Mass of produced CO<sub>2</sub> shows an increasing trend for the realizations of stochastic properties constrained to seismic data, with the assumption of the flexure. These basic observations convey the message that CO<sub>2</sub> circulation tests could be executed while permanently storing CO<sub>2</sub> underground. Because of the presence of 4 perforated intervals with inter-bedded shale layers, the perforation/completion design of the production well again is a subject for optimization (e.g. voidage replacement, gravity override/water coning/buoyancy effects).



**Figure 26:** (a) gas saturation in a block reservoir near production well – Deadwood D, (b) gas/water ratio at production well at reservoir and (d) surface conditions, and (c) CO<sub>2</sub> mass rate at injection & production wells.



**Figure 27:** Top view of water saturation in the Deadwood D formation with (a) layer cake assumption, and (b) calibrated flow simulation to M6 monitor seismic survey with inclusion of flexure.

**Figure 27** provides the top view of water saturation near the injection and production wells during the course of CO<sub>2</sub> circulation. Early simulation results with the base assumptions suggest there is a possibility of brine entering the CO<sub>2</sub> plume zone and the observation well from an encroaching aquifer. Note how the inclusion of heterogeneity and flexure in the Deadwood Formation changes the way CO<sub>2</sub> and brine move within the reservoir during CO<sub>2</sub> circulation tests in **Figure 27-(b)**. This highlights the significance of examining and optimization of injection/production well constraints to determine the possible existence of any working conditions for both wells (e.g. rates and pressures) to minimize brine entering the CO<sub>2</sub> plume/rich zones.

## 4.2 Dynamic Uncertainty Analysis of the CO<sub>2</sub> Circulation Test

The dynamic uncertainty of CO<sub>2</sub> injection arises from the degree of confidence in determining the extent and shape of the CO<sub>2</sub> plume, the distribution of brine and CO<sub>2</sub> saturations within the plume, difficulty in determining the heterogeneity and anisotropy of the petrophysical properties and geological structures (e.g. shale baffles, flexure), and dynamic alterations in reservoir behaviour (e.g. reduced permeability and enhanced imbibition zone due, for instance, to salt precipitation or increase in permeability/injectivity due to localized thermal fracturing). Other sources of uncertainty are the presence and quality of the regional aquifer, its ability in mobilizing the brine into the CO<sub>2</sub>-rich zones and/or the low pressure sinks (e.g. production well), and (previously experienced) brine back-flow into the wellbore during shut-in periods in intermittent injection (Talman et al. 2020). To assess the impacts of such uncertain variables on the performance of the CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test, we used the base case simulation of the area of interest; this was extracted from the history-matched model. As a result, initial and boundary conditions for the sector model were adopted from a unique parent history-matched model and were identical in all uncertain case studies. The latter step was aimed to show that the incremental changes in key performance metrics of CO<sub>2</sub> circulation tests (e.g. cumulative production, water-to-brine ratio, among others) were truly associated with the limits of selected uncertain variables, rather than initial/boundary conditions of the base model.

In the base model, we assumed that CO<sub>2</sub> injection occurs through the 4 perforated intervals at a rate of 600 rm<sup>3</sup>/d and maximum BHP of 42.5 MPa (95% of fracking pressure). The producer was allowed to operate through only the 2<sup>nd</sup> perforated interval (i.e. highest permeability zone) at a minimum BHP of 33 MPa with a 300 rm<sup>3</sup>/d constraint on production rate.

**Table 4** lists the uncertain variables, their base values, and variability limits. Operating parameters that could control the CO<sub>2</sub> circulation performance include the injection and production rates/pressures, the design of the wells, especially with respect to the completion/perforations. This is because currently there are four perforated intervals in the injection well and it is essential to manage the multi-horizon



CO<sub>2</sub>/brine flow displacement within the CO<sub>2</sub> plume. Through proper completion/perforation design, one might manage the common issues in immiscible/miscible floods such as gravity override due to buoyancy effects, water coning, and changes in flow regimes, among others. One of the reasons to examine the injection/production well constraints was to estimate the possible existence of any working conditions of the injection/production wells (e.g. rates and pressures) to manage brine entering the CO<sub>2</sub>-rich zones within the plume and near the production well. These values should be optimized in a comprehensive FEED study prior to conducting any pilot test at the Aquistore site. This is once more important because it can control the co-production of CO<sub>2</sub> and brine volumes at the production well (downhole and surface) so that proper surface facility equipment could be designed in order to handle/manage any initial brine kick during the CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test.

**Table 4:** uncertain variables, their base values, and variability limits for CO<sub>2</sub> circulation study

Uncertain variables	Base values	Variability limits
Injection rate at the injector	600 rm3/d	100 to 900 rm3/d*
Downhole pressure at the producer	33 MPa	23 to 39 MPa
Production rate at the producer	300 rm3/d	100 to 900 rm3/d*
Completion configurations at the injector	all 4 perforated intervals	all 4 perforated vs. 2nd interval only
Completion configuration at the producer	2 <sup>nd</sup> perforated interval	all 4 perforated intervals individual interval only (1st/2nd/3rd/4th only) only one layer of 2nd interval (1st to 6th layer)
Fracturing/slat precipitation at the producer (S)	0 (=intact formation)	-2 (=fractured); 0 (=intact); +2 (=slight salt); +10 (=moderate salt)
Inclusion of localized perm. heterogeneity	Realization 0	8 stochastic realization
Adoption of post-workover injectivity gain	1x (=intact formation)	10-100x enhanced permeability zone

\* rm3/d: volume (m<sup>3</sup>) is reported at reservoir conditions

In the uncertainty analysis, we did not look into optimizing the location of the production well; we simply assumed the existing observation well could act as a producer. Locating the production well within the CO<sub>2</sub> plume is of interest. The developed model can be used to determine the location of a new producer or an additional brine well for brine disposal or to manage reservoir pressure in future studies.

To compare the operability and efficiency of the CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test, we looked at different performance indicators including:

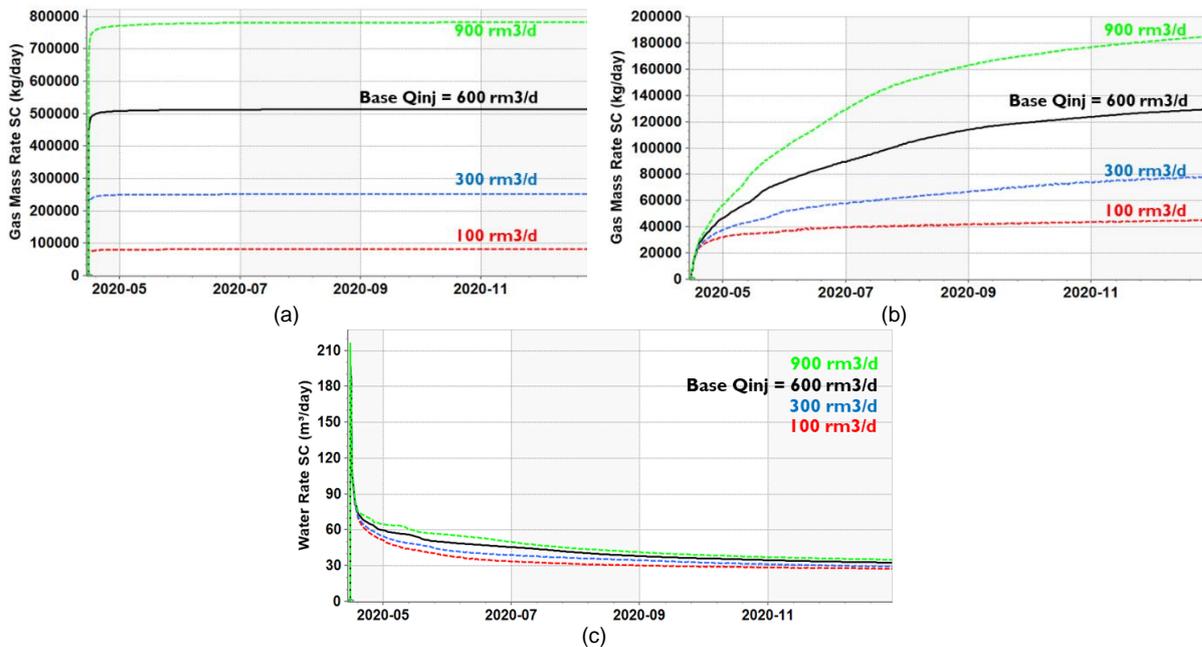
- rates (CO<sub>2</sub> mass injection, CO<sub>2</sub> mass production, brine production);
- cumulatives (injected CO<sub>2</sub> mass, produced CO<sub>2</sub> mass, produced brine, permanently stored CO<sub>2</sub>);
- pressures (injection pressure, production pressure, well-double pressure drop within CO<sub>2</sub> plume); and
- others (gas-to-water ratio, dry-out time, brine inflow from regional aquifer).

The dry-out time was the time that CO<sub>2</sub> circulation between the injector and producer will reach close to steady-state operation (Hau et al. 2021). Note that the CO<sub>2</sub> circulation was assumed to operate at pressure ranges below fracturing pressure, at/below CO<sub>2</sub> plume pressure, and above/at/below pressure of the regional aquifer. For brevity, we only included the figures for the impact of injection rate. Figures for other uncertain variables are included as an appendix. It is worth mentioning that CMG-GEM simulator requires volumetric input of the CO<sub>2</sub> injection rate; but we converted the output and reported the CO<sub>2</sub> rates on a mass basis in order to compare the results.

**Figure 28-(a)** shows that higher CO<sub>2</sub> injection rate takes a slightly larger time to stabilize at the injection well. The simulation results during 9 months of CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test suggest that the saline formation has the capacity to accept continuous high rates of CO<sub>2</sub> injection. The production rate at the producer seems



to be responding to a variable CO<sub>2</sub> injection rate (**Figure 28-b**). Higher CO<sub>2</sub> injection rates results in higher CO<sub>2</sub> production rates, and larger time for the production rate to stabilize at the producer. If one defines the ratio of CO<sub>2</sub> production mass rate to CO<sub>2</sub> injection mass rate, as a performance indicator, this mass rate ratio decreases from 49% to 24% when increasing the injection rate from 100 to 900 rm<sup>3</sup>/d. This indicates more CO<sub>2</sub> is lost or permanently trapped at higher injection rate during the CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test. Of interest, the brine production rate also slightly increases with higher injection rate (**Figure 28-c**).



**Figure 28:** (a) CO<sub>2</sub> mass injection rate at the injector, (b) CO<sub>2</sub> mass production rate at the producer, (c) brine production rate at the producer; note that the operator should be prepared to manage initial brine production and continue with the CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test.

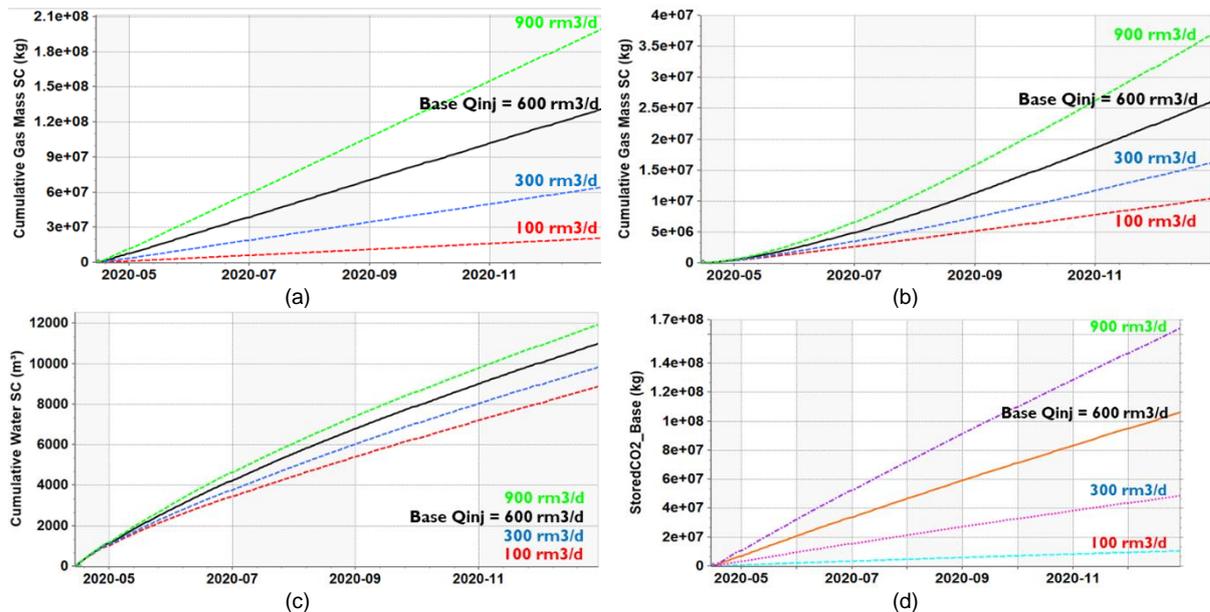
All of the simulations suggest that CO<sub>2</sub> circulation might initially result in production of a large volume of brine at the producer, and a proper surface facility should be available to manage the initial kick from brine production and continue the test. The brine production will abruptly decrease beyond this point. Note that this initial brine production is expected from the simulation work, and it should not result in shutting the production well early during the proposed pilot test (i.e. immature pilot test); the CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test should not be interpreted as unsuccessful because of an early brine kick.

The set of plots in **Figure 29** are performance indicators based on the cumulative mass, rather than rates. The slope of the lines shown in **Figure 29-(a)** are almost constant and indicate the saline aquifer has sufficient capacity and injectivity to accept the increase in CO<sub>2</sub> injection without any significant disruption. Higher injection rate resulted in an increase of cumulative mass of produced CO<sub>2</sub> from the production well (**Figure 29-b**). Defining the ratio of cumulative injected to produced CO<sub>2</sub> on a mass basis, the cumulative mass ratio decreases from 50% to 18% due to an increase in injection rate from 100 to 900 rm<sup>3</sup>/d. This suggests a larger amount of CO<sub>2</sub> is being lost/trapped within the saline formation at higher injection rates, which might be due to multi-horizon CO<sub>2</sub> injection/production. Bear in mind that CO<sub>2</sub> is injected through four perforated intervals at the injector, but it is only produced from the second perforated interval at the producer.

We can determine the trapped/stored CO<sub>2</sub> as the difference between the cumulative mass of injected and produced CO<sub>2</sub> during the circulation test, as depicted in **Figure 29-(d)**. Defining the mass ratio of stored CO<sub>2</sub> to cumulative injected CO<sub>2</sub>, another performance indicator, the increase in injection rate from 100 to 900 rm<sup>3</sup>/d results in an increase of the stored mass ratio from 50% to 82%. It is also important to know the fate of CO<sub>2</sub> lost during the CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test, and whether it remains safely contained in



the formation or not (e.g. dissolution in the aqueous phase, formation of solid carbonates). The higher CO<sub>2</sub> injection rate also increases the cumulative brine production from the saline formation (**Figure 29-c**).

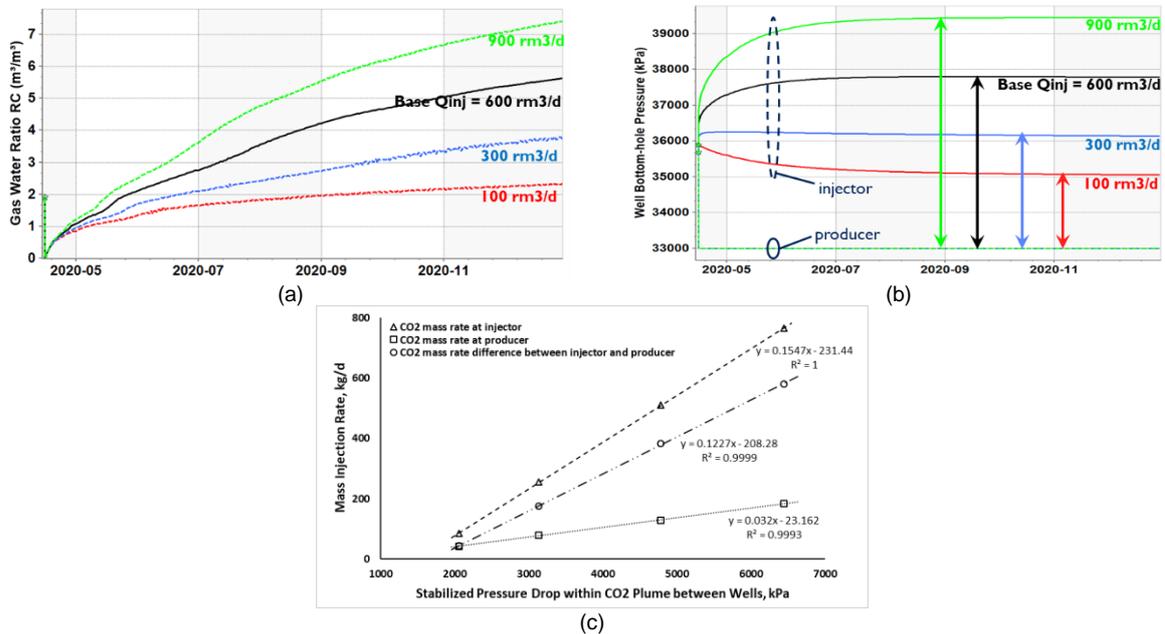


**Figure 29:** (a) cumulative injected CO<sub>2</sub>, (b) cumulative produced CO<sub>2</sub>, (c) cumulative produced brine, (d) cumulative stored CO<sub>2</sub> in the saline formation (CO<sub>2</sub> loss during CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test).

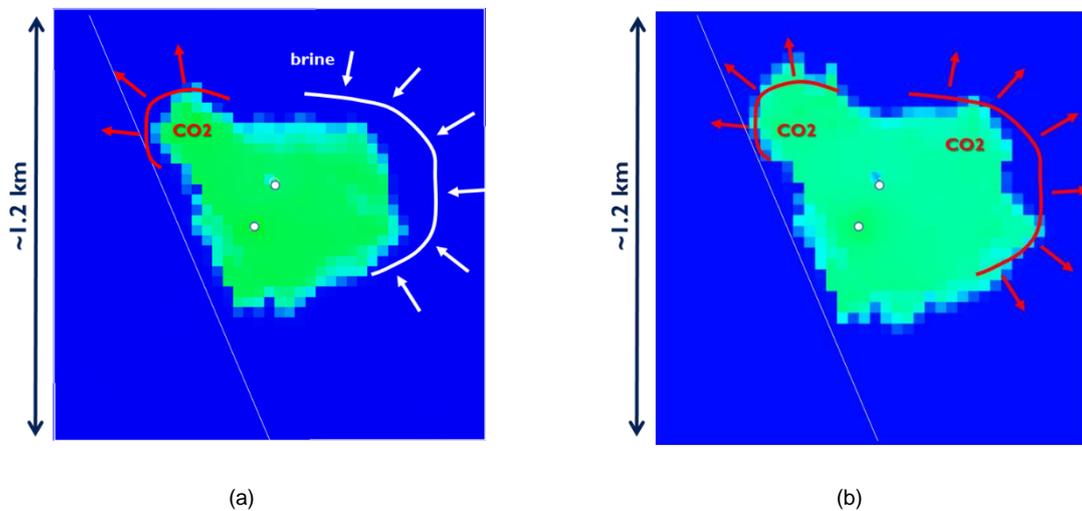
Other metrics include the gas-to-water ratio of the production well at reservoir conditions as depicted in **Figure 30-(a)**. Because simulated results indicate an initial brine kick in the production well, the gas-to-water ratio decreases immediately to values close to zero. Shortly after the initial brine production, the gas-to-water ratio increases during the CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test. Higher injection rate results in higher gas-to-water ratio, which is of significance to avoid liquid loading in the production well. By liquid loading, we mean the accumulation of liquid brine in the production well due to insufficient CO<sub>2</sub> rate and low gas-to-water ratio.

**Figure 30-(b)** illustrates the pressure related results. It is evident that injecting CO<sub>2</sub> at higher rates requires higher injection pressure. For the base case, we have a maximum bottomhole pressure constraint of 42.5 MPa (95% of fracking pressure) at the injector, and a minimum bottomhole pressure of 33 MPa at the producer. It appears the injection pressure reaches close to steady-state conditions in all cases. The time for the pressure to reach a steady-state condition depends on the extent and pressure of the CO<sub>2</sub> plume. In this case, the initial pressure of formation is 34.2 MPa and the average CO<sub>2</sub> plume pressure is estimated to be initially 35-36 MPa (prior to the CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test). Deviation of injection pressure from the pressure within the CO<sub>2</sub> plume seems to control how fast the pressure (injector and plume) reaches steady-state conditions.

We can define the pressure difference between the injector and producer within the CO<sub>2</sub> plume as an additional performance indicator. Higher CO<sub>2</sub> injection rate results in higher pressure drop between wells within the CO<sub>2</sub> plume. **Figure 30-(c)** compares the relationship of injection mass rate, production mass rate, and the mass rate difference between the injector and producer with pressure drop within the CO<sub>2</sub> plume. Although this is not a simple 1 D single phase flow or immiscible displacement analytical model, when the system stabilizes, it is interesting to note that there is a linear trend between these variables; one might think it follows a form of Darcy's equation. This may be due to the fact that the CO<sub>2</sub> plume within the injector and observation wells in Aquistore has been fairly developed and CO<sub>2</sub> seems to be the dominant mobile phase.



**Figure 30:** (a) gas water ration at the production well in downhole condition, (b) well bottomhole pressure of the injector, the producer and the difference in downhole pressure between the two wells within the CO<sub>2</sub> plume, (c) the relationship among injection rate and pressures.



**Figure 31:** Top view of water saturation at the Deadwood D formation – top layer with calibrated flow simulation to M6 monitor seismic survey with inclusion of flexure (a) injection rate of 300 rm3/day, and (b) injection rate of 900 rm3/day.

**Figure 31** provides the top view of water saturation near the injection and production wells during the course of CO<sub>2</sub> circulation. **Figure 31-(a)** shows that with an injection rate of 300 rm3/d, the CO<sub>2</sub> plume extends in NNE direction alongside the flexure structure (i.e. permeability baffle), but brine from the regional aquifer would push the CO<sub>2</sub> plume toward the production well (brine encroachment). **Figure 31-(b)** is also the top view of water saturation near the injection and production wells, but the injector operates at a higher injection rate of 900 rm3/d. It appears that the injection rate, and as a requirement, the injection/plume pressure, are sufficiently large to extend the CO<sub>2</sub> plume in all directions, and additionally, to prevent or minimize the brine encroachment. These basic simulations highlight the importance of examining and optimization of injection/production well constraints to determine the possible existence of any working conditions for both wells (e.g. rates and pressures) to minimize brine entering CO<sub>2</sub> plume/rich zones.



**Table 5** provides the summary of uncertainty analysis and changes in the main performance metrics, as determined at the end of the simulated CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test. We can rearrange **Table 5** as in **Table 6** by tracking the changes of simulated results with the base case assumptions in each column. For instance, the relative change in cumulative injected CO<sub>2</sub> for each case can be defined as the difference between cumulative injected CO<sub>2</sub> of that specific case with the base case, divided by the cumulative injected CO<sub>2</sub> of the base case; we express it in percentage. In **Table 6**, red color represents an impairment/downgrade and green color represent an improvement/upgrade with respect to the performance of CO<sub>2</sub> circulation.

Numerous shades of green color suggest that it is possible to optimize the operating conditions to improve the performance of the successful circulation test. The operating parameters include injection rate, production rate, bottomhole pressures, completion designs and workover in injection/production wells, among others. Looking into different realizations of localized and post-workover permeability, it seems heterogeneity has a positive impact on permanent trapping of CO<sub>2</sub> in saline formations. The post-workover changes, including 10-100x increase in injectivity, could significantly change CO<sub>2</sub> circulation outcomes and result in a ~300% increase in CO<sub>2</sub> production and ~85% improvement in cumulative gas-to-water ratio. This potentially minimizes the issues with liquid loading and significant brine production.



**Table 5: Simulation results at the end of CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test during the uncertainty analysis**

All simulated cases		Cumulative injected CO <sub>2</sub> (kg)	Cumulative produced CO <sub>2</sub> (kg)	Cumulative produced water (Sm <sup>3</sup> )	Stored CO <sub>2</sub> (kg)	Injector BHP (kPa)	Producer BHP (kPa)	Stabilized pressure drop (kPa)	Cumulative gas-to-water (tonne/Sm <sup>3</sup> )
<b>Base case assumptions</b>	See Table 4	132254000	26125720	11003	106128280	37785	33000	4785	2
<b>Injection rate (rm<sup>3</sup>/d)</b>	100	21020546	10431332	8874	10589214	35056	33000	2056	1
	300	64882260	16228574	9839	48653686	36135	33000	3135	2
	900	201243504	36977836	11939	164265668	39449	33000	6449	3
<b>Production rate (rm<sup>3</sup>/d)</b>	100	132510704	16591232	7169	115919472	38143	35382	2761	2
	300	132254000	26125720	11003	106128280	37785	33000	4785	2
<b>Producer BHP (MPa)</b>	23	130431720	70009912	47421	60421808	36483	23000	13483	1
	27	131158184	55613692	30897	75544492	36962	27000	9962	2
	30	131704320	42155728	20199	89548592	37351	30000	7351	2
	36	132808376	7539942	2549	125268435	38286	36000	2286	3
	39	132995360	374	0	132994986	38528	39000	-472	1
<b>Producer well skin (fracturing/plugging/salt precipitation)</b>	-2	131992648	34129592	15225	97863056	37571	33000	4571	2
	+2	132407384	21222042	8678	111185342	37916	33000	4916	2
	+10	132671280	12267743	4740	120403537	38163	33000	5163	3
<b>Completion design of injector</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> perforated interval	126206552	66265540	6584	59941012	42500	33000	9500	10
<b>Completion design of producer</b>	All perforated intervals	130721248	83881656	24209	46839592	36294	33000	3294	3
	1 <sup>st</sup> perforated interval	131991728	32370412	6437	99621316	37668	33000	4668	5
	3 <sup>rd</sup> perforated interval	132767280	7689367	5732	125077914	38282	33000	5282	1
	4 <sup>th</sup> perforated interval	132035448	44221804	7891	87813644	37319	33000	4319	6
	Layer 1 of 2 <sup>nd</sup> perforated interval	132971976	1057112	98	131914864	38503	33000	5503	11
	Layer 2 of 2 <sup>nd</sup> perforated interval	132988584	307108	48	132681476	38520	33000	5520	6
	Layer 3 of 2 <sup>nd</sup> perforated interval	132990256	231523	41	132758733	38521	33000	5521	6
	Layer 4 of 2 <sup>nd</sup> perforated interval	132894392	4004253	1370	128890139	38407	33000	5407	3
	Layer 5 of 2 <sup>nd</sup> perforated interval	132315792	24215636	10041	108100156	37834	33000	4834	2
Layer 6 of 2 <sup>nd</sup> perforated interval	132991248	73899	149	132917349	38524	33000	5524	0	
<b>Different realizations of localized and post-workover permeability heterogeneity</b>	Realization 1	133653048	16227430	11835	117425618	39502	33000	6502	1
	Realization 2	133327224	19066884	15266	114260340	38886	33000	5886	1
	Realization 3	133394872	17283240	16702	116111632	38829	33000	5829	1
	Realization 4	132937096	22641756	14267	110295340	38473	33000	5473	2
	Realization 5	133249992	15930492	11370	117319500	38683	33000	5683	1
	Realization 6	132973048	19773008	13874	113200040	38473	33000	5473	1
	Realization 7	133204064	15858060	13419	117346004	38554	33000	5554	1
	Realization 8	133473752	12769813	12453	120703939	38919	33000	5919	1
	Post-workover permeability	129086560	101657248	23439	27429312	35064	34428	635	4



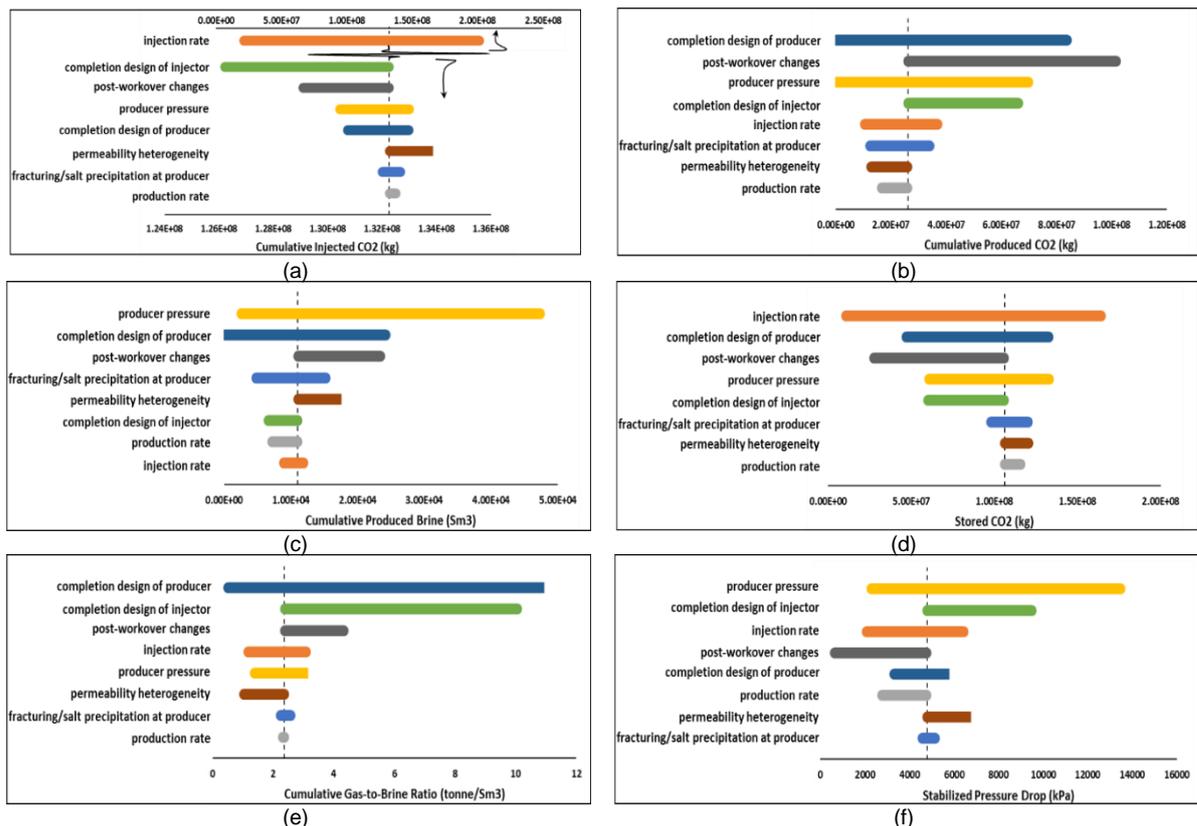
**Table 6:** Quick overview of uncertainty assessment with respect to the base case assumptions

All simulated cases		Change in cumulative injected CO <sub>2</sub> (%)	Change in cumulative produced CO <sub>2</sub> (%)	Change in cumulative produced water (%)	Change in stored CO <sub>2</sub> (%)	Change in injector BHP (%)	Change in stabilized pressure drop (%)	Change in cumulative water-to-gas ratio (%)
<b>Base case assumptions</b>	See Table 4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Injection rate (rm3/d)</b>	100	-84	-60	-19	-90	-7	-57	-50
	300	-51	-38	-11	-54	-4	-34	-31
	900	52	42	9	55	4	35	30
<b>Production rate (rm3/d)</b>	100	0	-36	-35	9	1	-42	-3
	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Producer BHP (MPa)</b>	23	-1	168	331	-43	-3	182	-38
	27	-1	113	181	-29	-2	108	-24
	30	0	61	84	-16	-1	54	-12
	36	0	-71	-77	18	1	-52	25
	39	1	-100	-100	25	2	-110	-42
<b>Producer well skin (fracturing/plugging/salt precipitation)</b>	-2	0	31	38	-8	-1	-4	-6
	+2	0	-19	-21	5	0	3	3
	+10	0	-53	-57	13	1	8	9
<b>Completion design of injector</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> perforated interval	-5	154	-40	-44	12	99	324
<b>Completion design of producer</b>	All perforated intervals	-1	221	120	-56	-4	-31	46
	1 <sup>st</sup> perforated interval	0	24	-42	-6	0	-2	112
	3 <sup>rd</sup> perforated interval	0	-71	-48	18	1	10	-43
	4 <sup>th</sup> perforated interval	0	69	-28	-17	-1	-10	136
	Layer 1 of 2 <sup>nd</sup> perforated interval	1	-96	-99	24	2	15	353
	Layer 2 of 2 <sup>nd</sup> perforated interval	1	-99	-100	25	2	15	172
	Layer 3 of 2 <sup>nd</sup> perforated interval	1	-99	-100	25	2	15	141
	Layer 4 of 2 <sup>nd</sup> perforated interval	0	-85	-88	21	2	13	23
	Layer 5 of 2 <sup>nd</sup> perforated interval	0	-7	-9	2	0	1	2
	Layer 6 of 2 <sup>nd</sup> perforated interval	1	-100	-99	25	2	15	-79
<b>Different realizations of localized and post-workover permeability heterogeneity</b>	Realization 1	1	-38	8	11	5	36	-42
	Realization 2	1	-27	39	8	3	23	-47
	Realization 3	1	-34	52	9	3	22	-56
	Realization 4	1	-13	30	4	2	14	-33
	Realization 5	1	-39	3	11	2	19	-41
	Realization 6	1	-24	26	7	2	14	-40
	Realization 7	1	-39	22	11	2	16	-50
	Realization 8	1	-51	13	14	3	24	-57
	Post-workover permeability	-2	289	113	-74	-7	-87	83



Tornado plots in **Figure 32** provide a quick look at the results of the uncertainty analysis within the operational limits that were defined for the CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test. Apart from the obvious impact of injection rate, the completion design of the injector and post-workover changes significantly affect the cumulative injected CO<sub>2</sub> (**Figure 32-a**). Cumulative produced CO<sub>2</sub> is more a function of completion design of the producer, post-workover changes and bottomhole pressure of the producer (**Figure 32-b**). The reason that injector constraints are ranked lower is because a developed CO<sub>2</sub> plume can act itself as a source of CO<sub>2</sub> in early stages, and significantly contribute to CO<sub>2</sub> production at the producer.

The bottomhole pressure at the producer seems a controlling factor to manage the brine production (**Figure 32-c**). When the producer operates at lower bottomhole pressure than the pressures of the CO<sub>2</sub> plume and the aquifer, the brine from the regional aquifer will eventually enter the production well. To minimize the brine production from the aquifer, the CO<sub>2</sub> plume pressure should be maintained sufficiently higher than the pressure in the regional aquifer. This requires a balance of production rate/pressure at the producer and injection pressure/rate at the injector. The completion designs of injector, and in particular the producer, also control the total fluid production, and consequently, the cumulative brine production. The completion design should be optimized to assure that CO<sub>2</sub> can be produced at sufficiently high rates to prevent liquid loading in the production well.



**Figure 32:** Resultant tornado plots for the uncertainty assessment of the CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test

As explained earlier, significant amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> could be permanently trapped in the saline formation during the CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test. **Figure 32-(d)** shows the injection rate primarily controls the amount of lost/trapped/stored CO<sub>2</sub>. Higher injection rate could lead to development of the CO<sub>2</sub> plume in all directions. Multi-well injection/production scenarios could be investigated to minimize the CO<sub>2</sub> loss and the need for make up fluid at the surface. **Figure 32-(e)** confirms that the operational parameters can be managed to maximize CO<sub>2</sub> production and minimize brine production from the producer. Completion designs of both the injector and producer are the key factors in controlling the gas-to-water ratio. Because the injector has a maximum bottomhole pressure constraint of 42.5 MPa (95% of fracking



pressure), the pressure drop between wells within the CO<sub>2</sub> plume is mostly controlled by bottomhole pressure at the producer.

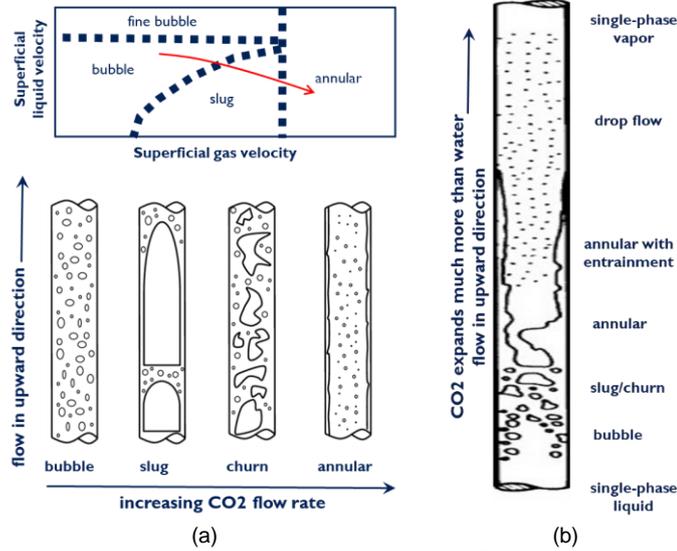
Finally, it is interesting that simulation results do not change as significantly as expected by realization of different permeabilities. This might be due to the fact that the CO<sub>2</sub> plume has already developed and covers both the injector and producer. Moreover, at Aquistore, CO<sub>2</sub> is actively injected into the plume, and the saline formations are believed to be massive continuous sand bodies with acceptable levels of permeability. There is little to no evidence of a permeability barrier between the two wells. However, an increase in permeability between the two wells (due for instance to post-workover conditions, fracturing, movement of salts away from the wells) can positively affect the flow performance of the CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test. The thermal performance of CO<sub>2</sub> circulation should also be investigated (e.g. CO<sub>2</sub> retention time, heat exchange between CO<sub>2</sub> and the porous saline fluid/formations).

### 4.3 Simplified Wellbore Dynamics and Thermal Multiphase Flow in Production Well

To estimate the potential complex flow regimes and their impacts on the production well and related co-production of CO<sub>2</sub> and brine, we used simplified two-phase vertical flow models for the CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test. One of the key requirements to effectively produce CO<sub>2</sub> back to the surface is a high production rate; however, high fluid rate can result in water coning around the perforated intervals of the production well (Ezekiel et al. 2021). The simulated CO<sub>2</sub> circulation indicates the co-production of both gas and brine in all cases.

The production of liquid (brine) and gas (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the vertical production well can be initially assessed by flow regime maps, as in **Figure 33-(a)**. Based on superficial liquid and gas velocities, the well could undergo fine bubble (mostly liquid), bubble, slug, and annular (mostly gas) flow regimes. For fine bubble and bubble flow, the wellbore is mostly filled with continuous liquid phase whereas the gas phase is distributed as fine/small bubbles within the liquid. Higher gas flow rate causes the small gas bubbles to coalesce, forming large bubbles. The gas bubbles could get sufficiently large to fill most of the pipe/wellbore cross section, with some volume of the gas existing as entrained small bubbles in the liquid between the large bubbles. The large bubbles will become unstable and collapse at higher gas flow rates – churn flow – until it reaches a point where the gas is the dominant phase in the wellbore; the continuous gas phase would then carry the liquid droplets by itself, i.e. annular flow (Taitel et al. 1980).

Since the flow in the production well is in upward direction and CO<sub>2</sub> could expand much more than the brine, flowing towards surface, the flow regime at the well perforations (downhole) is of significance in our calculations. With an increase in the CO<sub>2</sub> flow rate, the flow regime could go from bubble to slug/churn to annular flow (**Figure 33**). This transition to annular flow is the favorable flow regime for CO<sub>2</sub> circulation in order to avoid liquid loading (Ezekiel et al. 2021, Hau et al. 2021). If the gas flow rate is not sufficiently high, the liquid could fall to the bottom of the wellbore near the perforated intervals and accumulate, referred to as liquid loading. The liquid loading in the wellbore during CO<sub>2</sub> circulation could eventually kill the well if pumping is not provided; this was one of the speculations for the Cranfield test (Ezekiel et al. 2021, Hau et al. 2021).



**Figure 33:** (a) different two-phase flow regimes in vertical well and (b) how CO<sub>2</sub>/brine multiphase flow could evolve in a vertical well (modified after Taitel et al. 1980; Lienhard and Lienhard, 2008)

For the simplified two-phase flow in the vertical wellbore, we used the steady-state equations from Taitel et al. (1980). The equations estimate the transition boundaries between flow regimes based on the superficial liquid and gas velocities as follows:

Bubble flow:

$$U_{S,L} = 4 \left\{ \frac{D^{0.429} (\sigma / \rho_L)^{0.089}}{(\mu_L / \rho_L)^{0.072}} \left[ \frac{\Delta \rho g}{\rho_L} \right]^{0.446} \right\} - U_{S,G}$$

Slug/churn flow:

$$U_{S,L} = -1.15 \left[ \frac{\sigma \Delta \rho g}{\rho_L^2} \right]^{0.25} + 3U_{S,G}$$

Annular flow:

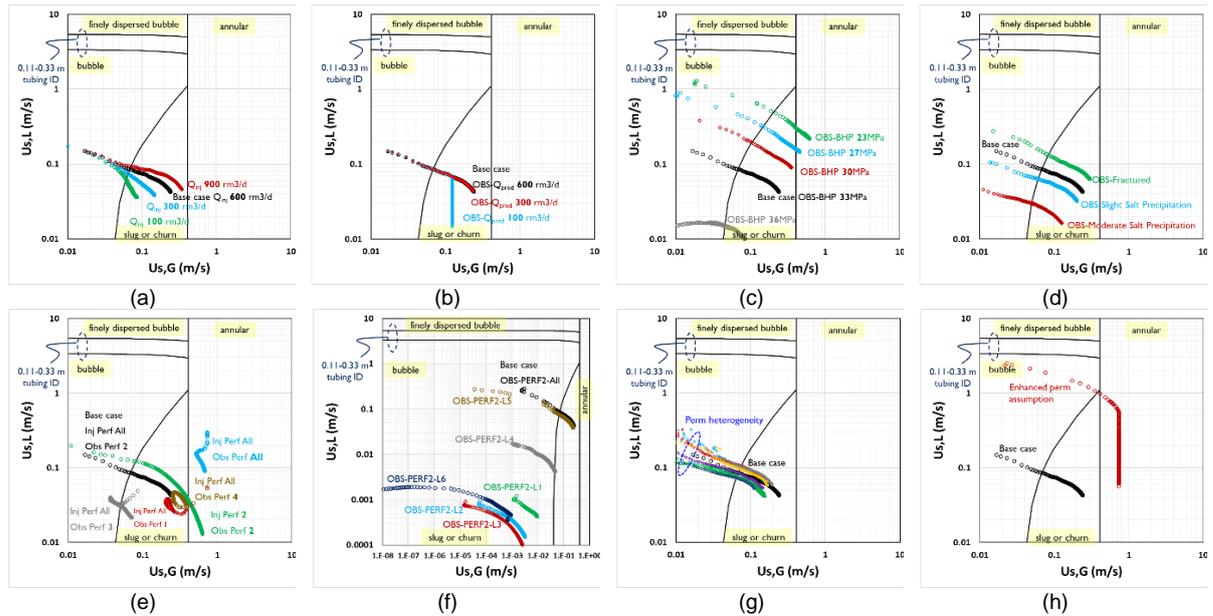
$$U_{S,G} = 3.1 \left[ \frac{\sigma \Delta \rho g}{\rho_G^2} \right]^{0.25}$$

where  $U_{S,L}$  is superficial liquid velocity,  $U_{S,G}$  is superficial gas velocity,  $D$  is wellbore diameter,  $\sigma$  is interfacial tension,  $\rho_L$  is liquid density,  $\rho_G$  is gas density,  $\Delta \rho$  is the density difference between liquid and gas phases,  $\mu_L$  is liquid viscosity, and  $g$  is gravitational acceleration. It seems that only the bubble flow regime depends on the wellbore diameter. To calculate the superficial velocities, we divided the simulated flow rates at the producer by the cross-sectional area of the production wellbore. The assumptions were 11 to 33 cm wellbore diameter, average pressure of 36 MPa, average temperature of 115 °C, brine salinity of 300000 ppm, CO<sub>2</sub>/brine interfacial tension of 0.033 mN/m, brine density of 1087 kg/m<sup>3</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub> density of 667 kg/m<sup>3</sup>, gravitational acceleration of 9.81 N/kg, and brine viscosity of 0.0001 Pa.s (Pruess and Garcia 2002; Bachu and Bennion 2009; Pereira et al. 2017; Rangriz Shokri et al. 2019; Ezekiel et al. 2021).

**Figure 34** provides the flow regime maps for different simulated cases of the CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test. Overall, a higher injection rate at the injector helps the transition from bubble flow to annular flow (**Figure 34-a**). It is better not to limit the production rate at the producer (**Figure 34-b**); yet we should maintain



the lowest practical bottomhole pressure at the producer (**Figure 34-c**). The production well would benefit from a workover operation prior to a CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test (**Figure 34-d**) with optimized completion designs for both the injector and producer in order to achieve an annular flow regime (**Figure 34-e**). Production from a limited section of perforated intervals might reduce the gas flow rate and cause a delay for the wellbore to experience annular flow regime (**Figure 34-f**).

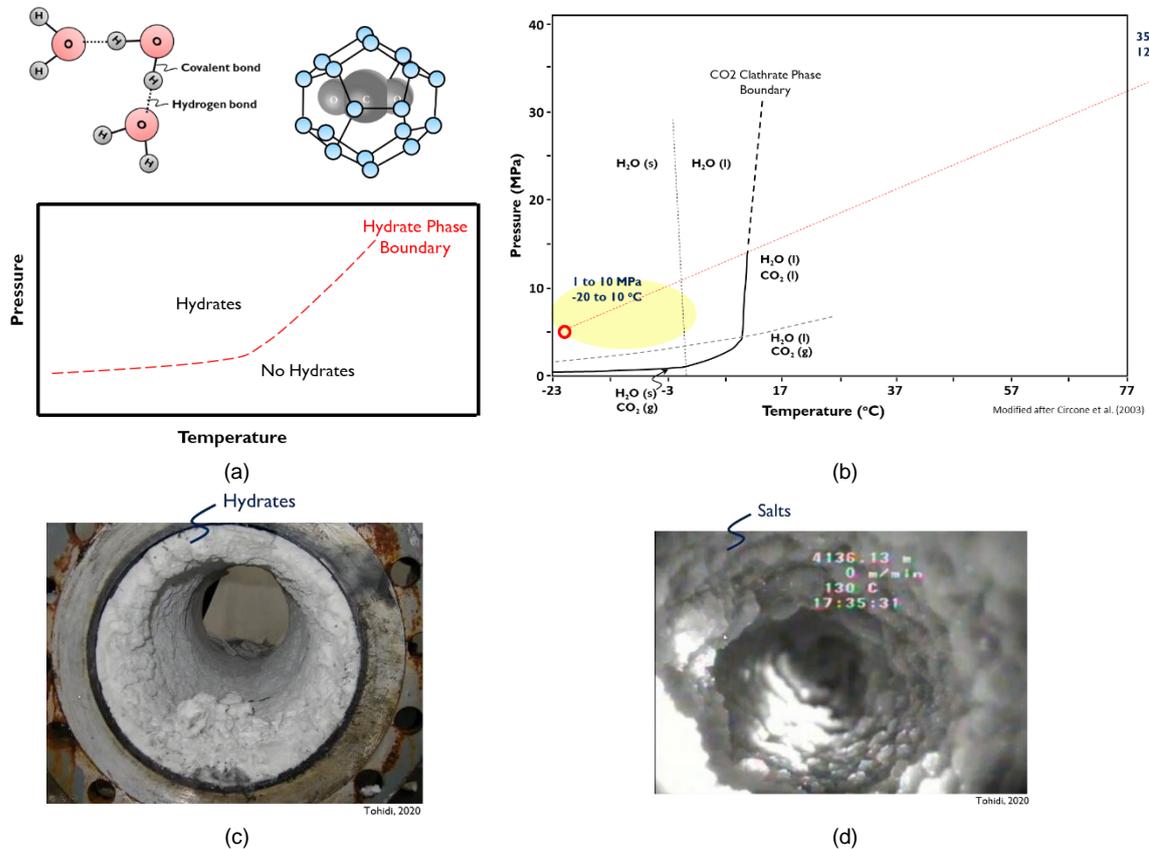


**Figure 34:** Flow regime maps for different simulated cases of CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test.

If the CO<sub>2</sub> plume has been already developed between two wells, as in the Aquistore site, slight heterogeneity in permeability might not be of huge significance (**Figure 34-g**); this is not the case when shale barriers are expected between injector and producer within the CO<sub>2</sub> plume. Enhancement in permeability/injectivity between two wells due, for instance, to post-workover conditions (e.g. fracturing, salt removal) significantly helps the CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test; it pushes the flow regime in the production wellbore to favorable annular flow regimes (**Figure 34-h**).

## 5.4 Comments on CO<sub>2</sub> Clathrate Formation

Extensive work on transportation of natural gas suggests that the presence of small gas molecules with water at conditions of high pressure and low temperature might result in the formation of crystalline compounds, called gas hydrates. Hydrates are solid structures of water lattice surrounding trapped gas molecules due to hydrogen bonding, an attractive interaction of a hydrogen atom with an electronegative atom (e.g. oxygen) from another molecule. The thermodynamics of hydrate formation could be very complex, but essentially it requires the presence of water/ice, suitably sized gas/liquid molecules (e.g. CH<sub>4</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>), suitable temperature and pressure conditions, and proper gas/liquid/water compositions. Often, hydrates are expected when there is high pressure, low temperature conditions (e.g. sea beds), or there is an abrupt change in pressure/temperature (e.g. chokes, regulators, vents, safety valves) and there is a flow of water in liquid or vapour with suitably sized molecules. To predict hydrate formation, a hydrate phase boundary could be estimated from theory or experiment (Circone et al. 2003; Chapoy et al. 2011, 2014; Pereira et al. 2017; Thoutam et al. 2019) (**Figure 35**).



**Figure 35:** (a) hydrates and phase boundary of hydrate formation, (b) possibility of CO<sub>2</sub> clathrate formation during CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test at the Aquistore, (c) hydrates could restrict the flow in the pipe/tubing, (d) hydrates could exclude salts from aqueous phase, resulting in salt precipitation.

CO<sub>2</sub> hydrates, CO<sub>2</sub> molecules trapped in water lattice, are often referred to as CO<sub>2</sub> clathrate. In the CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test, clathrate could form just from a bend in the tubing due to cooling associated with pressure/temperature drops during flow around a corner/bend. Clathrates can restrict the flow in the pipe/tubing. Clathrates can form in the presence of brine (water with high salinity). This will take the water molecules and exclude salts from the aqueous phase, resulting in salt formation.

Hydrate formation is case specific and a strong function of temperature, pressure, and compositions of aqueous and gas phases (Circone et al. 2003; Chapoy et al. 2011, 2014; Pereira et al. 2017; Thoutam et al. 2019). Case specific conditions should be properly investigated. We did not look at the severity of CO<sub>2</sub> clathrate on wellbore/pipe blockage, reduced flow rates, or salt precipitation. But given the downhole and surface conditions of the Aquistore site, our simplified analysis indicates the possibility of CO<sub>2</sub> clathrate formation during CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test at Aquistore (**Figure 35-b**). One of the siphon stages of the Cranfield pilot test was also heavily impacted by the formation of CO<sub>2</sub> clathrate at surface (Pan et al. 2018), but an increase of temperature above the formation point of CO<sub>2</sub> clathrate could solve the problem. It is recommended that CO<sub>2</sub> clathrate formation be examined prior to a CO<sub>2</sub> circulation pilot test; there are different options in order to avoid and/or remediate the adverse effects of CO<sub>2</sub> clathrate formation at downhole and surface conditions.



## 5 Conclusions

A summary of the main observations and remarks from the CO<sub>2</sub> simulation study is provided below.

- Simulations suggest that CO<sub>2</sub> circulation seems feasible at Aquistore, but it needs significant work on front end engineering design prior to a pilot test.
- Simulations suggest we do not continuously produce huge volumes of brine from the aquifer. An early brine breakthrough is expected and it does not mean the test is unsuccessful. It is recommended that a surface facility be prepared to handle the early brine production and continue the CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test.
- CO<sub>2</sub> makeup fluid is required during the CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test. In all simulated cases, a significant amount of injected CO<sub>2</sub> will be stored in the saline aquifer.
- Operating conditions can be optimized to have a successful CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test (e.g. injection/production rates, pressure drops, completion designs at both injector and producer, among others).
- Heterogeneity, in particular shale barriers, has a negative impact on the flow performance of CO<sub>2</sub> circulation. The evidence of post-workover changes in the saline aquifer should be thoroughly investigated.
- Well stimulation (e.g. localized fracturing or salt removal) at both injection and observation wells improves the CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test.
- Formation of CO<sub>2</sub> clathrate during CO<sub>2</sub> circulation operation is possible and could result in tubing/pipes blockage, reduced flow rates, or salt precipitation. Ways to avoid or remediate the CO<sub>2</sub> clathrate at downhole and surface conditions should be investigated.

## 6 Outlook and next steps

The major next step is to develop the Front-End Engineering and Design (FEED) study for the CO<sub>2</sub> circulation pilot test at the Aquistore site. The developed model in this study can be enhanced with learning from the Deep Earth Energy Production (DEEP) geothermal project in Saskatchewan, extended or adapted for deployment of CPG technology to ensure that activities involved in a CPG pilot at Aquistore do not impose a risk to the integrity of the existing CO<sub>2</sub> storage complex. Some of the specific issues include:

- As a part of a future uncertainty assessment, we need to explore heat extraction behavior during the CO<sub>2</sub> circulation test. This also includes the impact of potential thermally induced fractures and their propagation (short circuiting the injection/production wells).
- Future work should address CO<sub>2</sub> loss, and the need for make-up fluid, brine disposal, voidage replacement, and pressure management.
- Locating the production well within the CO<sub>2</sub> plume is of interest: the developed model can be used to determine the location of a new producer, or an additional brine well for brine disposal, to manage reservoir pressure in future studies.
- The geochemistry of supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> (brine/CO<sub>2</sub>/rock), is not well characterized. Future work is needed to predict possible long-term changes in reservoir porosity and permeability.



## 7 National and international cooperation

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## 8 Communication

Not applicable.

## 9 Publications

### Published

Hau, K.P., **Rangriz Shokri, A.**, Chalaturnyk, R.J., Saar, M.O. (2021) On the Suitability of the Aquistore CCS-site for a CO<sub>2</sub>-Circulation Test, World Geothermal Congress, Reykjavik, Iceland, May 21 – 26.

Hau, K.P., **Rangriz Shokri, A.**, Nickel, E., Chalaturnyk, R.J., Saar, M.O. (2021) Modeling CO<sub>2</sub> Circulation Test, as a Key Element of CO<sub>2</sub> Plume Geothermal, at An Active CO<sub>2</sub> Storage Site, GeoConvention Conference, Virtual Event, September 13-15.

Chalaturnyk, R.J., **Rangriz Shokri, A.** (2021) Advancing Canadian Experience and Best Practices in Containment, Conformance, and Injectivity of Deep Subsurface CO<sub>2</sub> Storage, CO<sub>2</sub> EOR, and CO<sub>2</sub> Geothermal, GeoConvention Conference, Virtual Event, September 13-15.

### In preparation

**Rangriz-Shokri, A.**, Hau, K.P., Saar, M.O., Chalaturnyk, R.J., White, D.J., Nickel, E., Siddiqi, G. On the Feasibility of CO<sub>2</sub> Circulation Test for Sustainable Geothermal Power Generation at the Aquistore Storage Site, Saskatchewan, Canada



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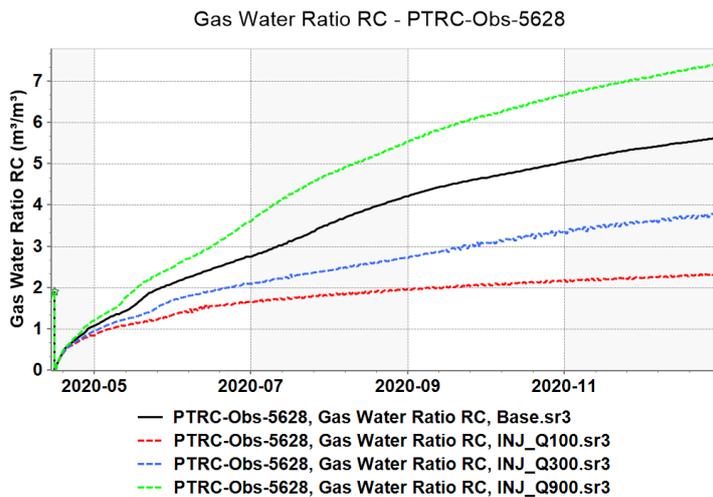
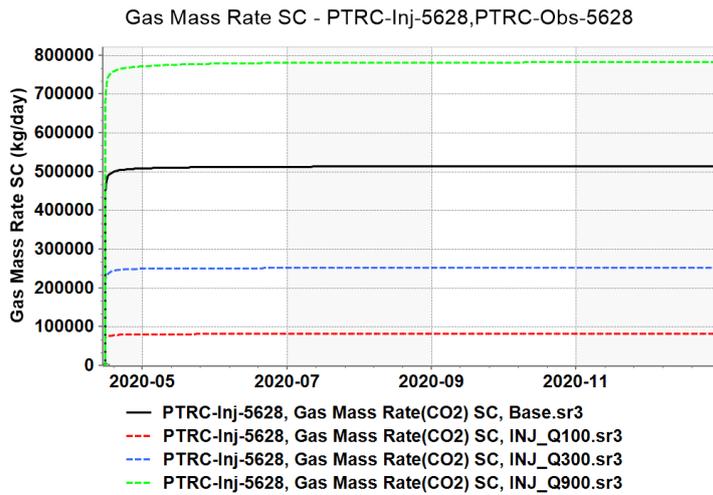
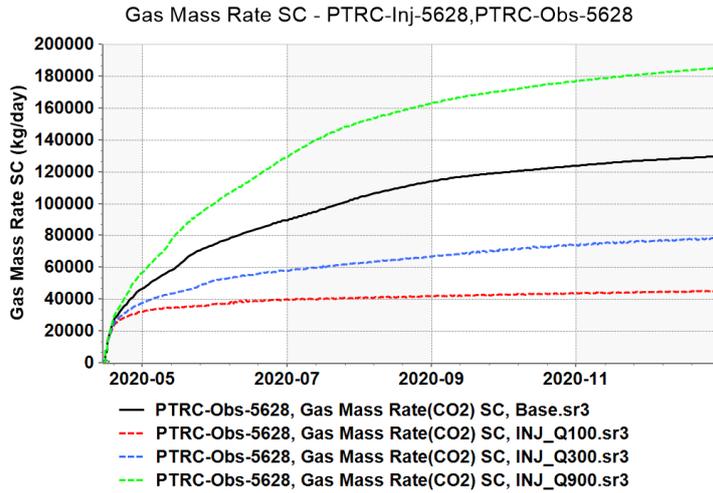
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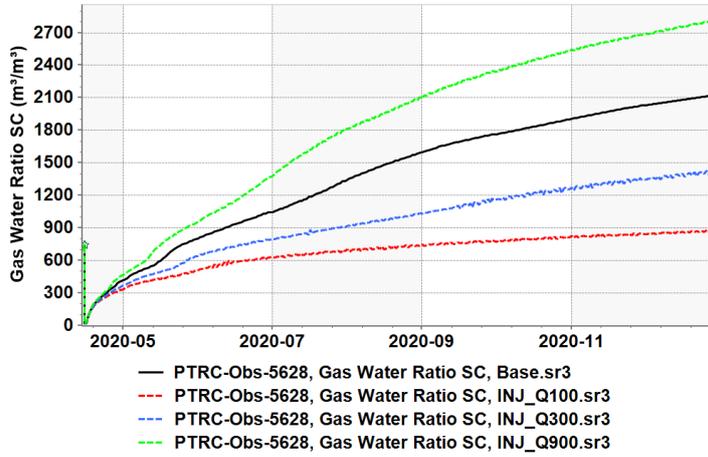
# 11 Appendix

## Plots related to injection rate

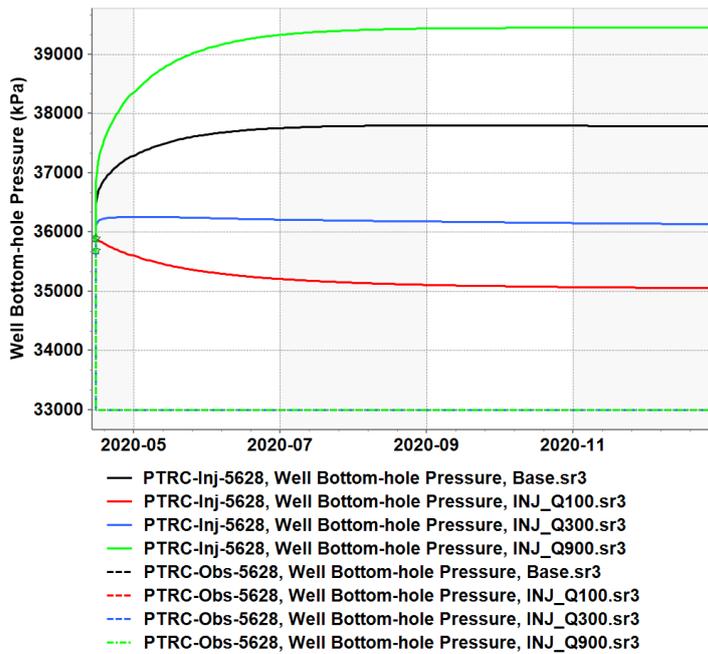


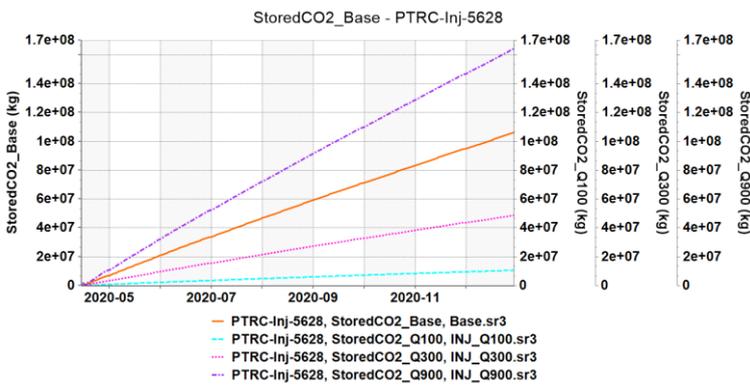
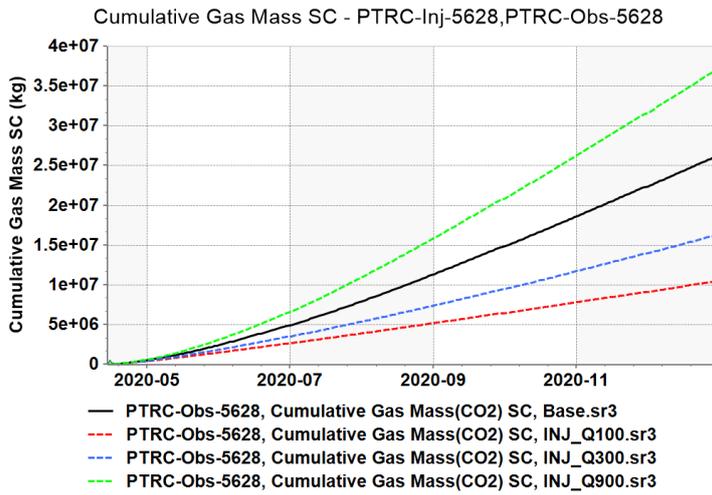
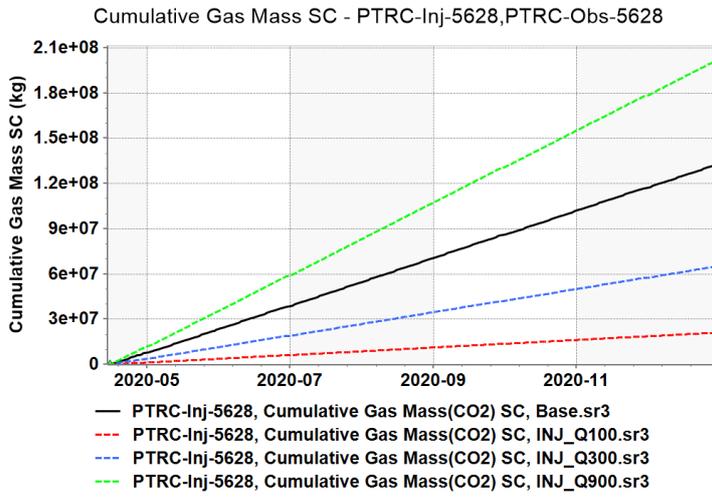


Gas Water Ratio SC - PTRC-Obs-5628



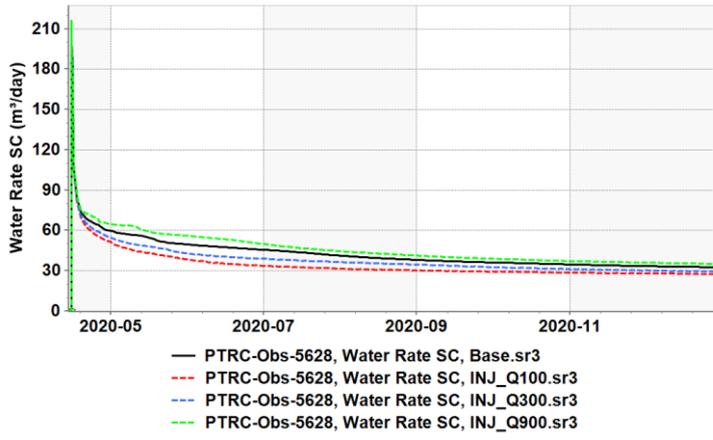
Well Bottom-hole Pressure - PTRC-Inj-5628, PTRC-Obs-5628



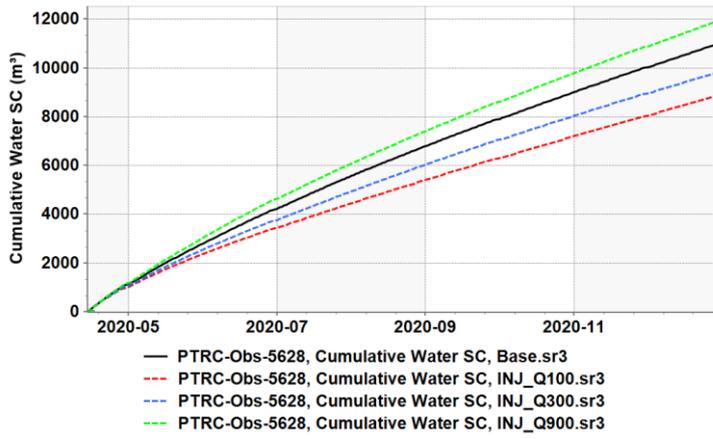




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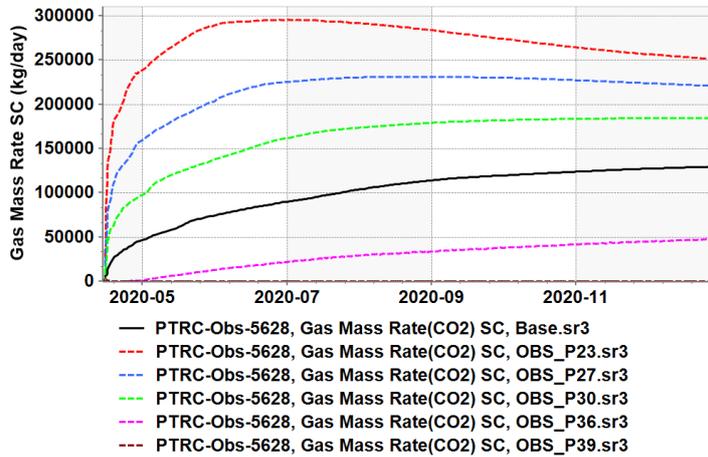
Cumulative Water SC - PTRC-Obs-5628



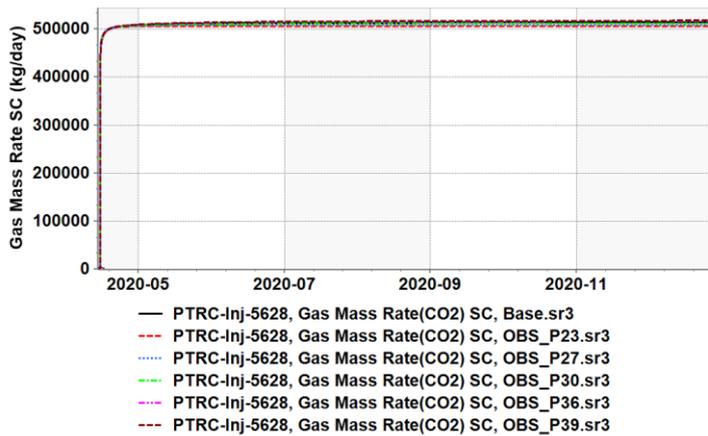


## Plots related to bottomhole pressure of producer

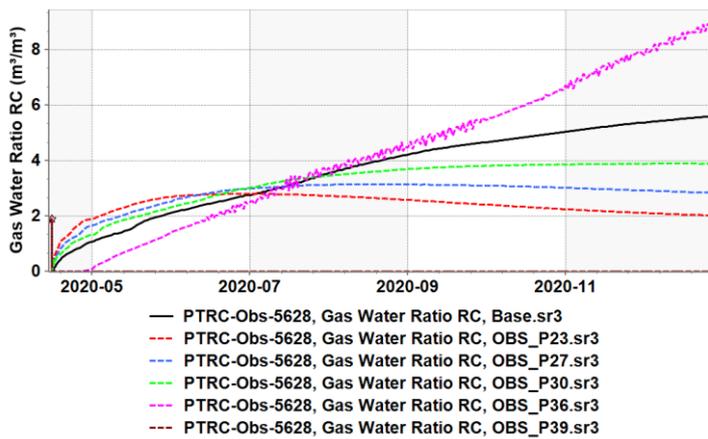
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Gas Mass Rate SC - PTRC-Inj-5628

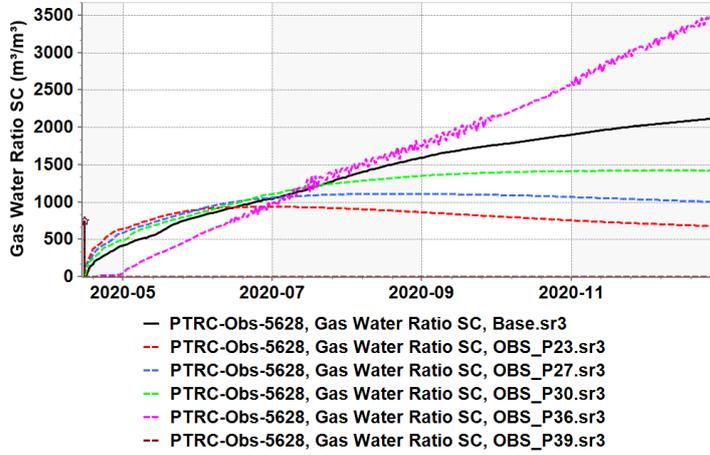


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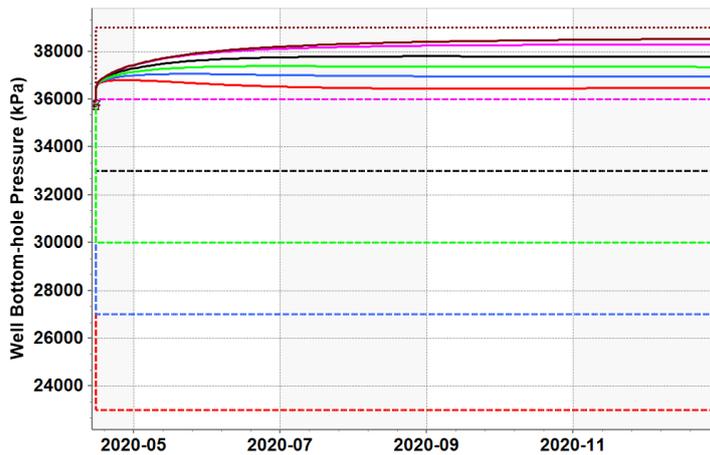




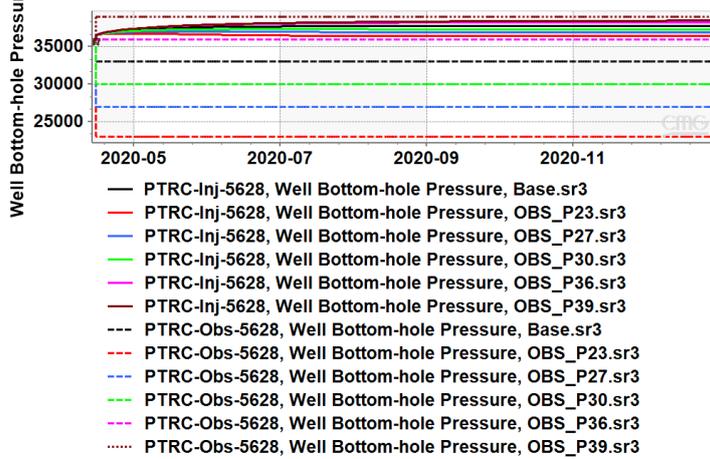
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Well Bottom-hole Pressure - PTRC-Inj-5628,PTRC-Obs-5628

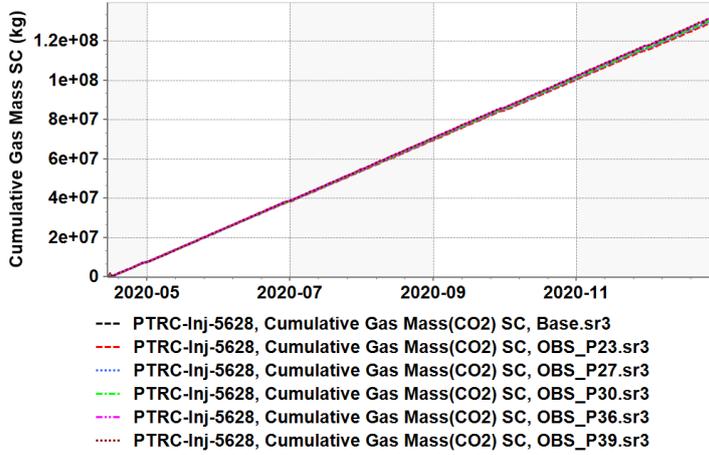


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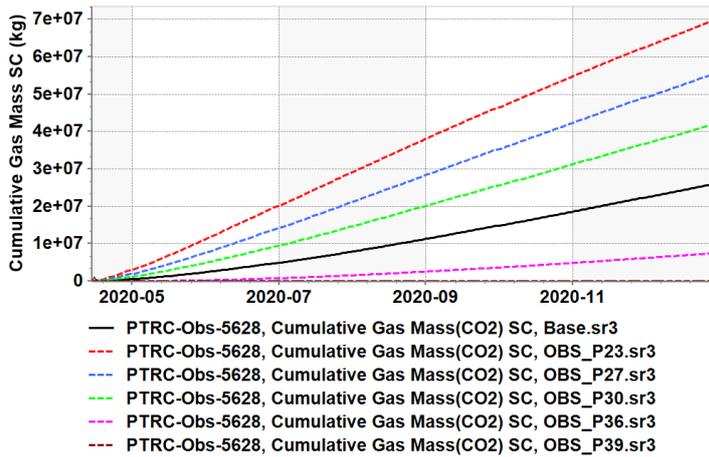




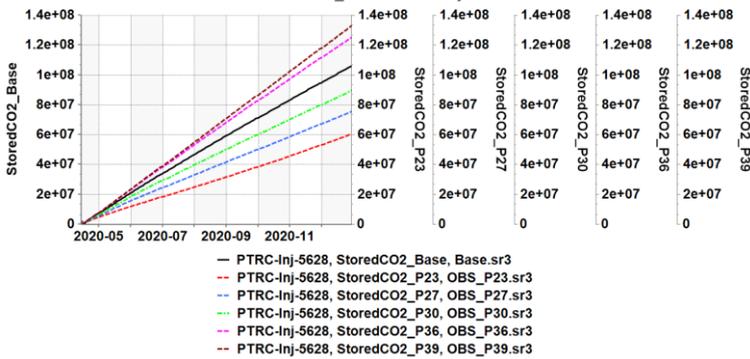
Cumulative Gas Mass SC - PTRC-Inj-5628



Cumulative Gas Mass SC - PTRC-Obs-5628

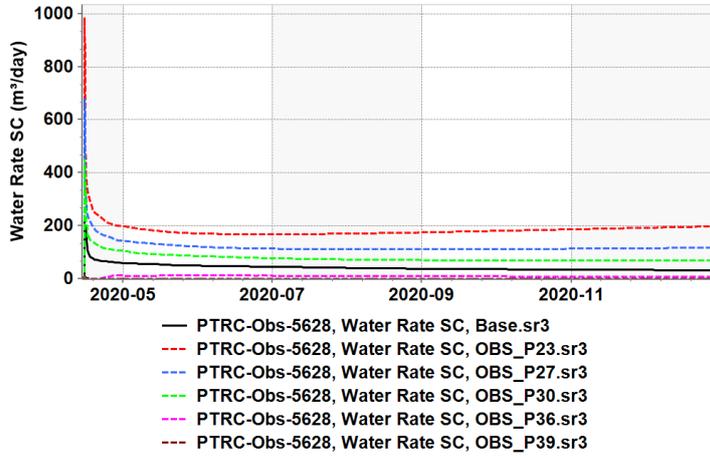


StoredCO2\_Base - PTRC-Inj-5628

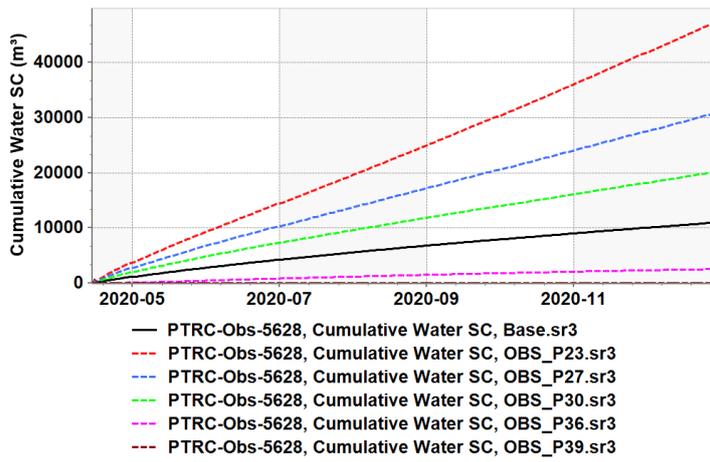




Water Rate SC - PTRC-Obs-5628



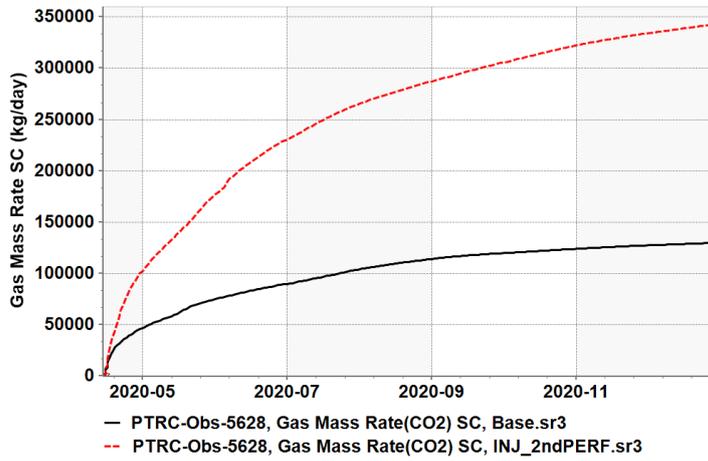
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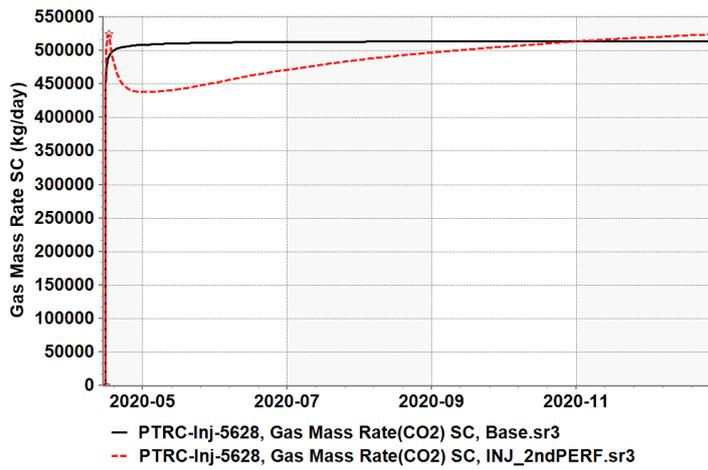


## Plots related to perforation of the injector

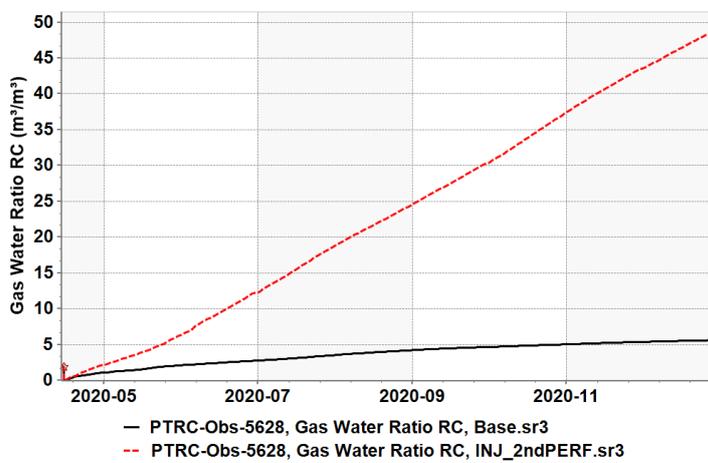
Gas Mass Rate SC - PTRC-Obs-5628



Gas Mass Rate SC - PTRC-Inj-5628

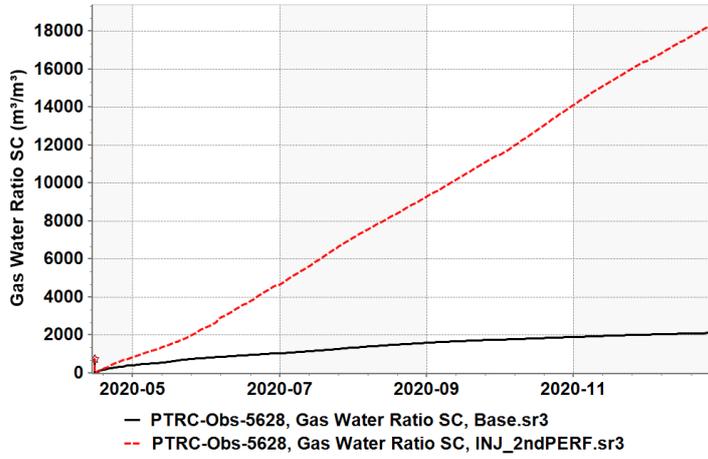


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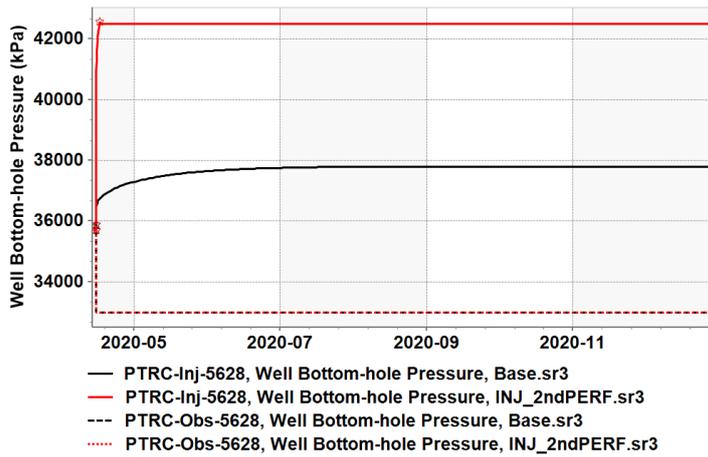




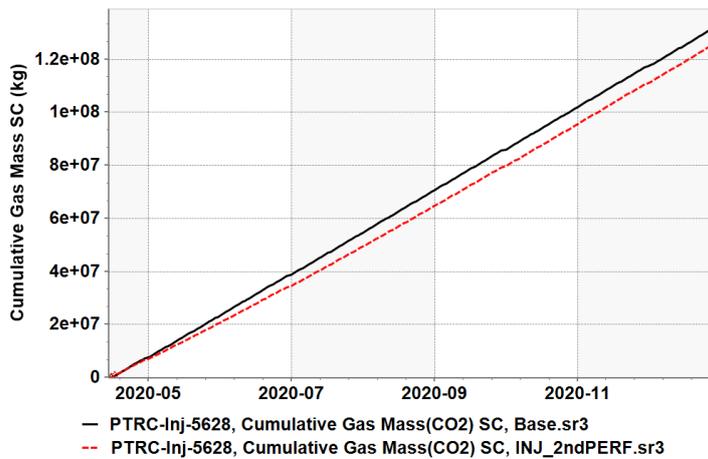
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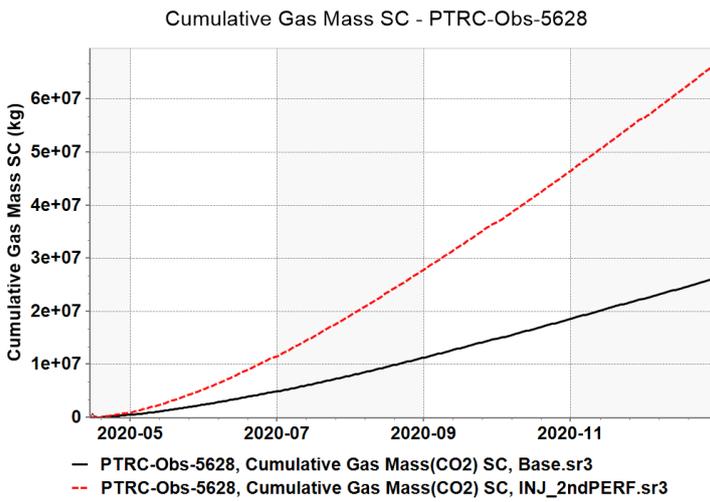
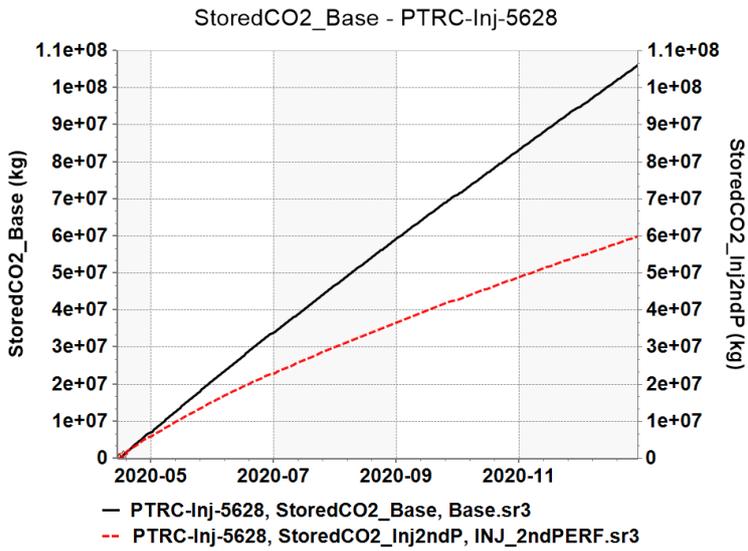


Well Bottom-hole Pressure - PTRC-Inj-5628, PTRC-Obs-5628



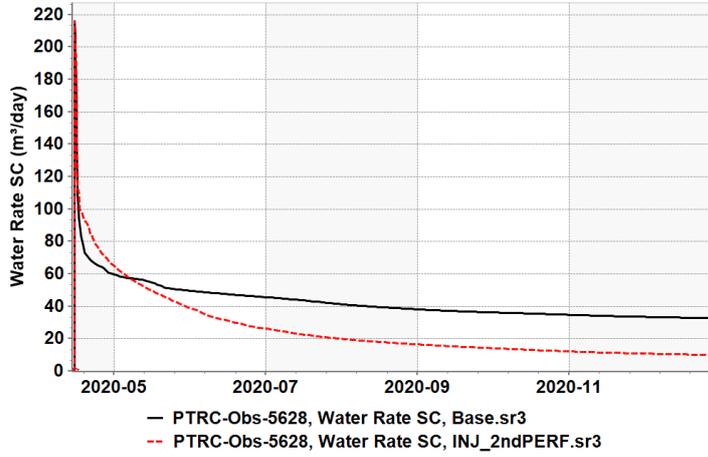
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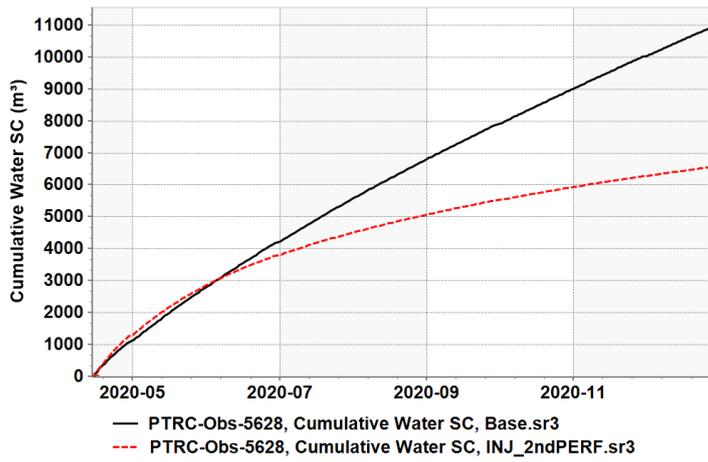




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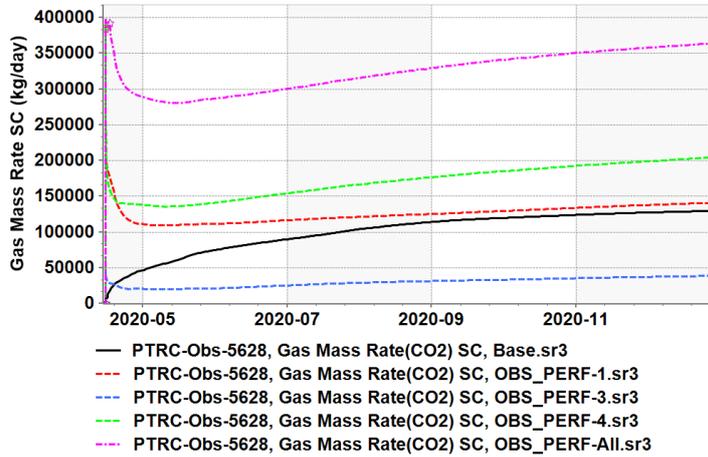
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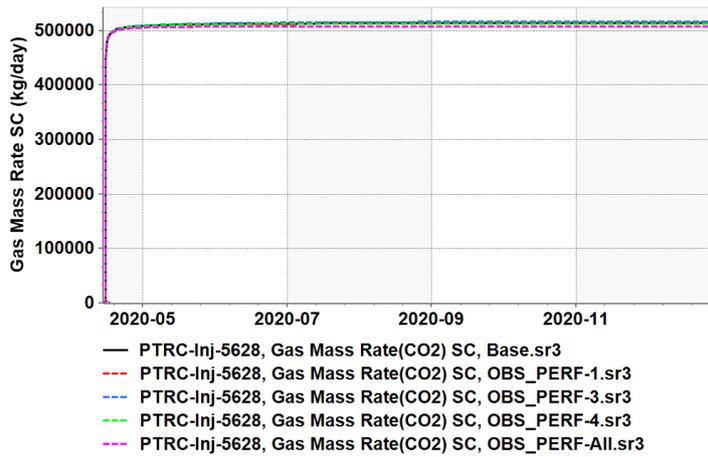


## Plots related to perforation of the producer

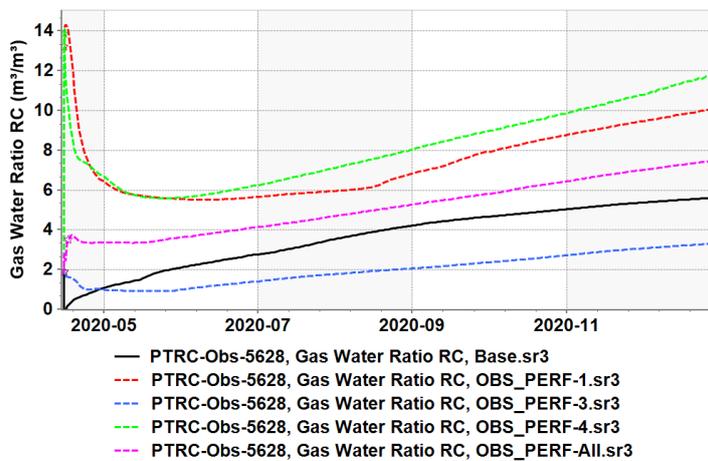
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Gas Mass Rate SC - PTRC-Inj-5628, PTRC-Obs-5628

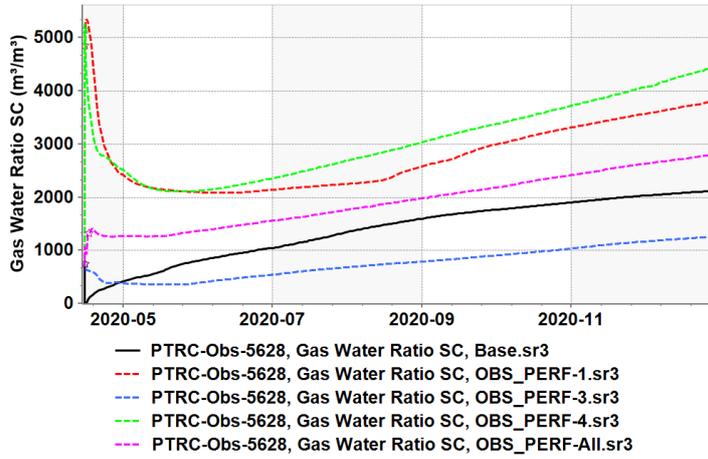


Gas Water Ratio RC - PTRC-Obs-5628

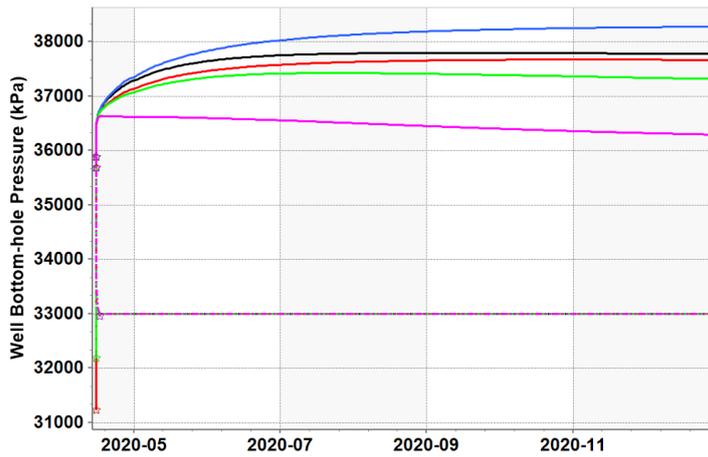




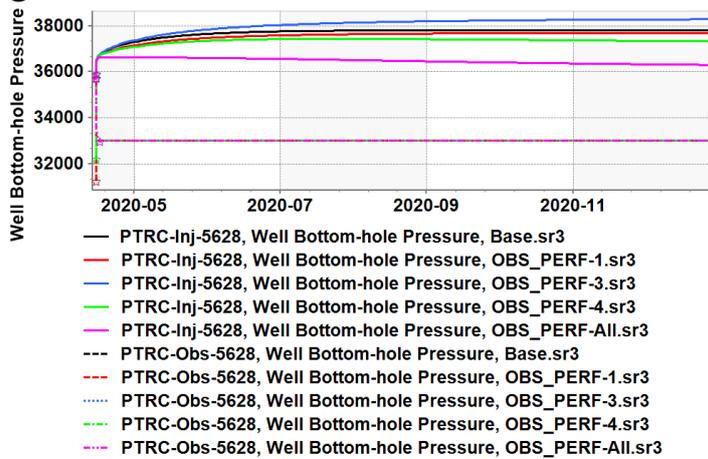
Gas Water Ratio SC - PTRC-Obs-5628



Well Bottom-hole Pressure - PTRC-Inj-5628,PTRC-Obs-5628

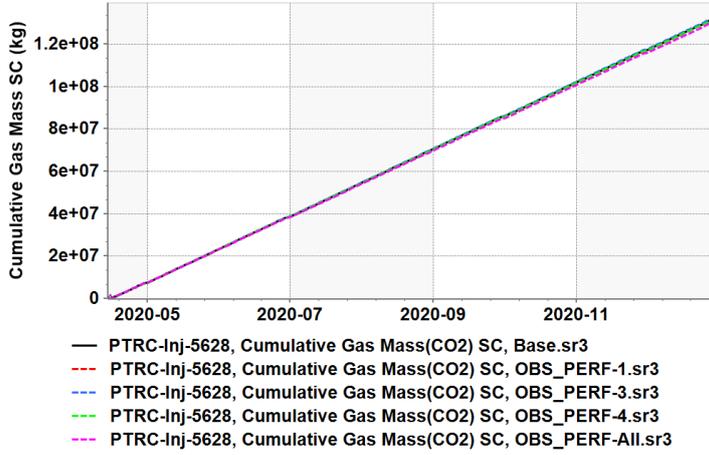


Well Bottom-hole Pressure - PTRC-Inj-5628,PTRC-Obs-5628

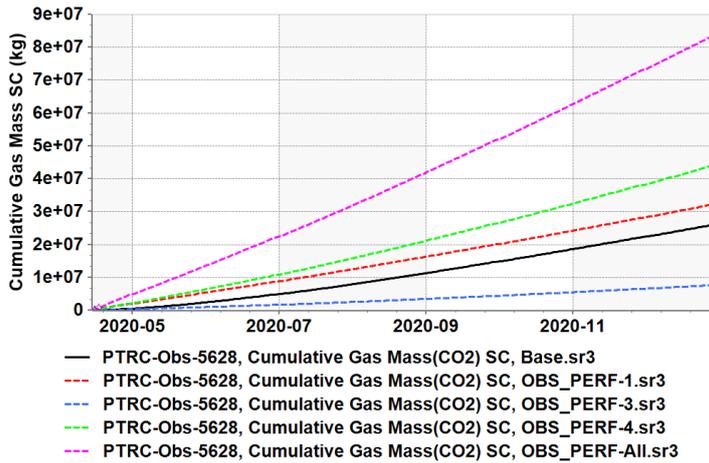




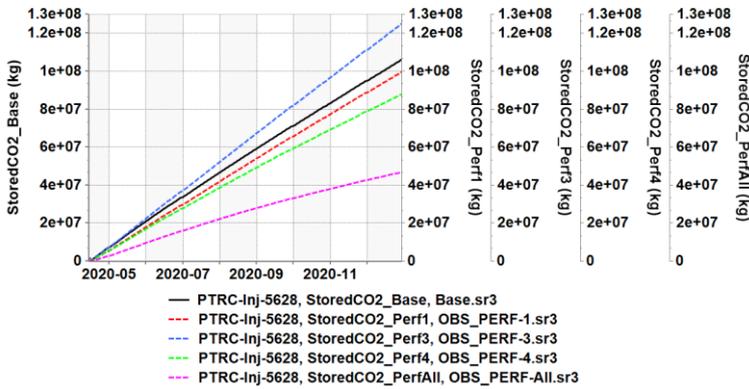
Cumulative Gas Mass SC - PTRC-Inj-5628,PTRC-Obs-5628



Cumulative Gas Mass SC - PTRC-Inj-5628,PTRC-Obs-5628

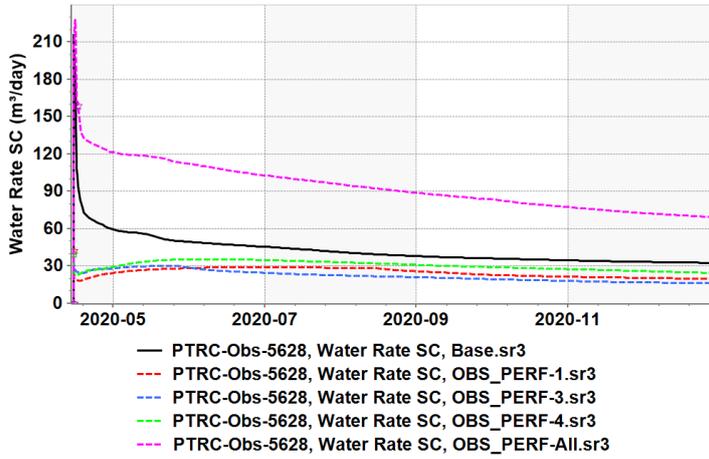


StoredCO2\_Base - PTRC-Inj-5628

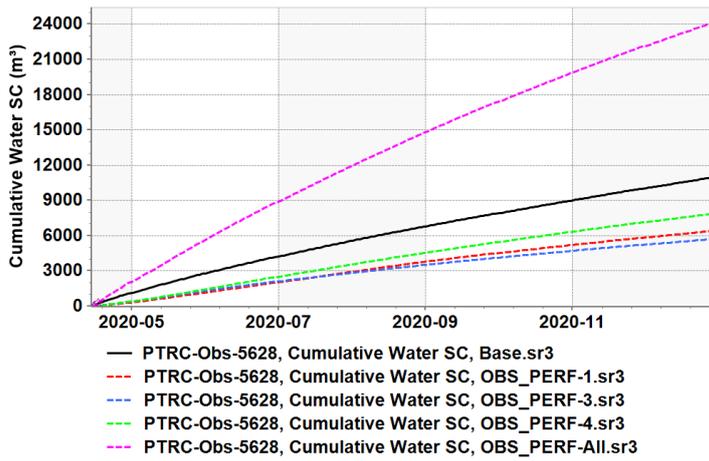




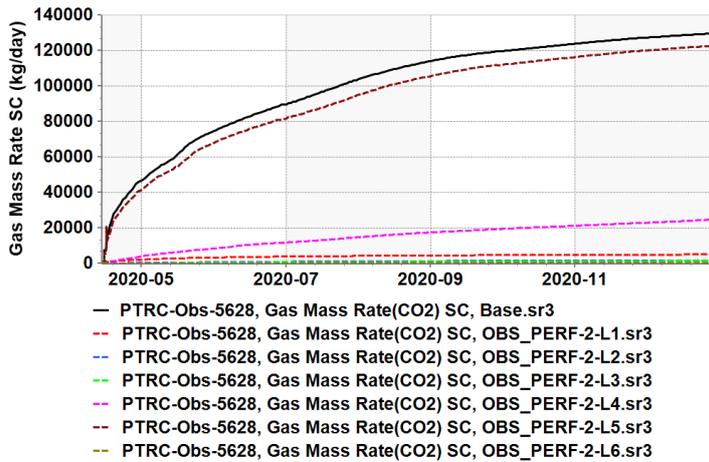
Water Rate SC - PTRC-Obs-5628



Cumulative Water SC - PTRC-Obs-5628

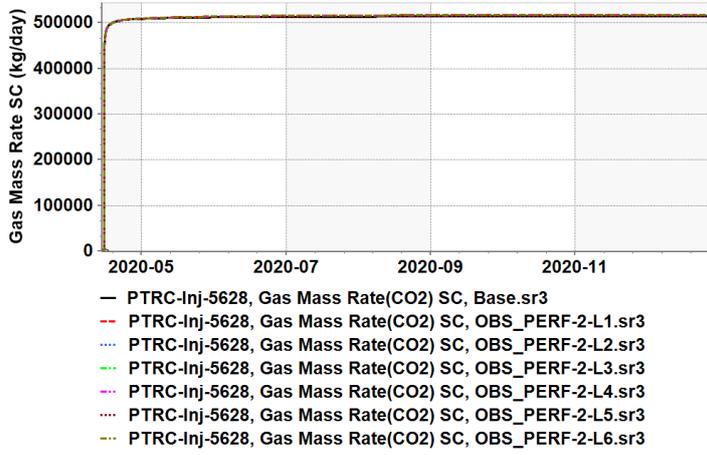


Gas Mass Rate SC - PTRC-Inj-5628,PTRC-Obs-5628

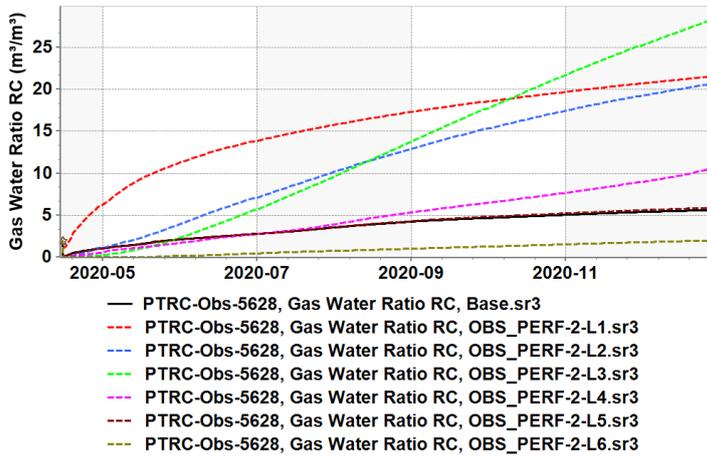




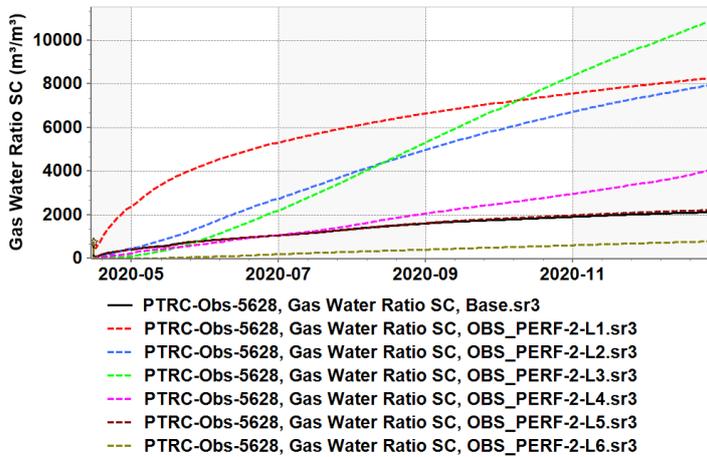
Gas Mass Rate SC - PTRC-Inj-5628,PTRC-Obs-5628



Gas Water Ratio RC - PTRC-Obs-5628

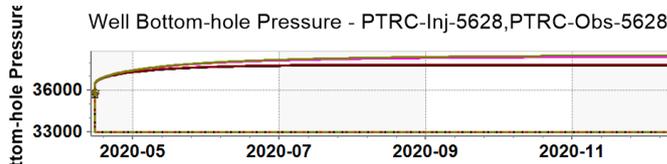
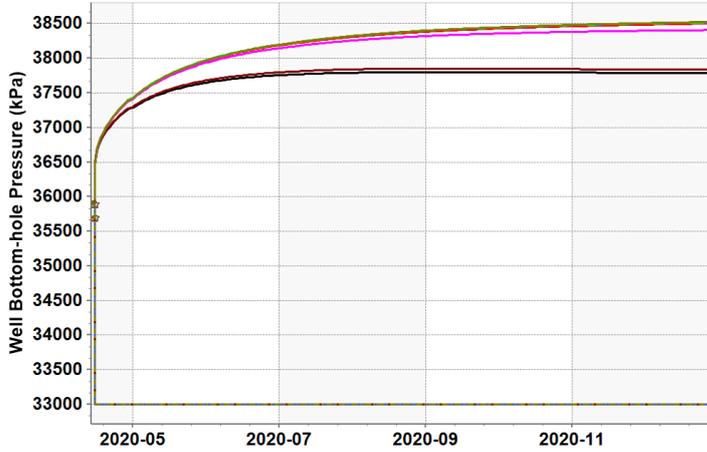


Gas Water Ratio SC - PTRC-Obs-5628



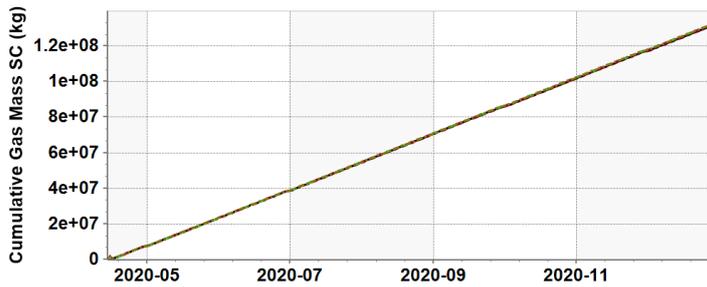


Well Bottom-hole Pressure - PTRC-Inj-5628,PTRC-Obs-5628

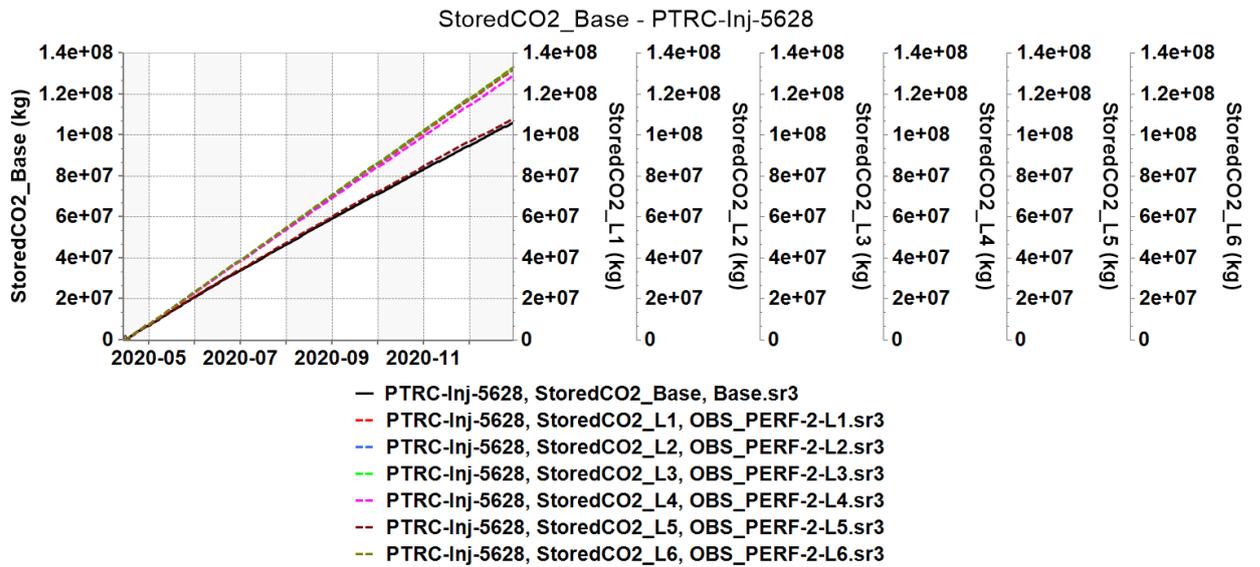
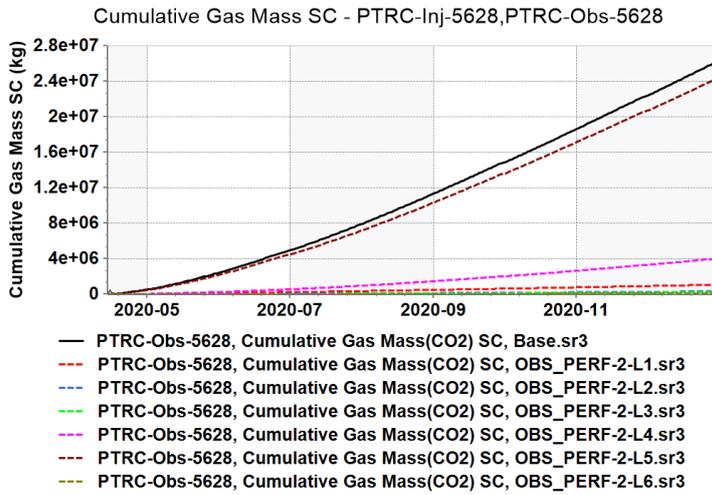


- PTRC-Inj-5628, Well Bottom-hole Pressure, Base.sr3
- PTRC-Inj-5628, Well Bottom-hole Pressure, OBS\_PERF-2-L1.sr3
- PTRC-Inj-5628, Well Bottom-hole Pressure, OBS\_PERF-2-L2.sr3
- PTRC-Inj-5628, Well Bottom-hole Pressure, OBS\_PERF-2-L3.sr3
- PTRC-Inj-5628, Well Bottom-hole Pressure, OBS\_PERF-2-L4.sr3
- PTRC-Inj-5628, Well Bottom-hole Pressure, OBS\_PERF-2-L5.sr3
- PTRC-Inj-5628, Well Bottom-hole Pressure, OBS\_PERF-2-L6.sr3
- PTRC-Obs-5628, Well Bottom-hole Pressure, Base.sr3
- PTRC-Obs-5628, Well Bottom-hole Pressure, OBS\_PERF-2-L1.sr3
- PTRC-Obs-5628, Well Bottom-hole Pressure, OBS\_PERF-2-L2.sr3
- PTRC-Obs-5628, Well Bottom-hole Pressure, OBS\_PERF-2-L3.sr3
- PTRC-Obs-5628, Well Bottom-hole Pressure, OBS\_PERF-2-L4.sr3
- PTRC-Obs-5628, Well Bottom-hole Pressure, OBS\_PERF-2-L5.sr3
- PTRC-Obs-5628, Well Bottom-hole Pressure, OBS\_PERF-2-L6.sr3

Cumulative Gas Mass SC - PTRC-Inj-5628,PTRC-Obs-5628

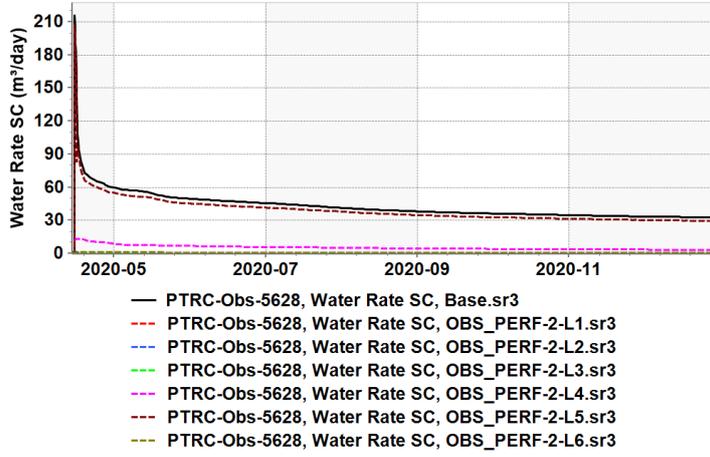


- PTRC-Inj-5628, Cumulative Gas Mass(CO2) SC, Base.sr3
- PTRC-Inj-5628, Cumulative Gas Mass(CO2) SC, OBS\_PERF-2-L1.sr3
- PTRC-Inj-5628, Cumulative Gas Mass(CO2) SC, OBS\_PERF-2-L2.sr3
- PTRC-Inj-5628, Cumulative Gas Mass(CO2) SC, OBS\_PERF-2-L3.sr3
- PTRC-Inj-5628, Cumulative Gas Mass(CO2) SC, OBS\_PERF-2-L4.sr3
- PTRC-Inj-5628, Cumulative Gas Mass(CO2) SC, OBS\_PERF-2-L5.sr3
- PTRC-Inj-5628, Cumulative Gas Mass(CO2) SC, OBS\_PERF-2-L6.sr3

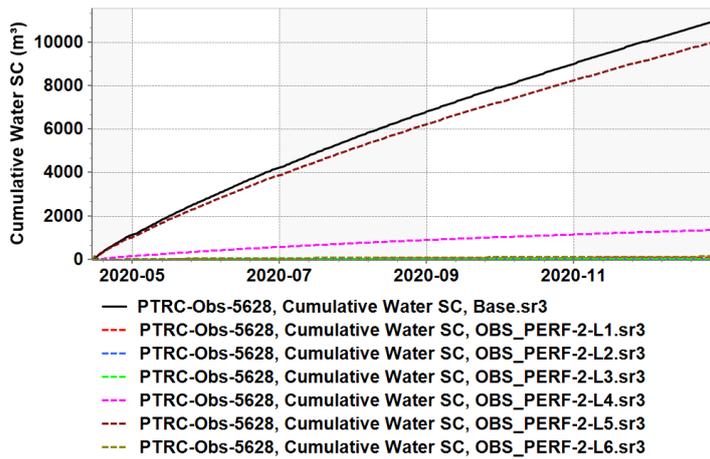




Water Rate SC - PTRC-Obs-5628



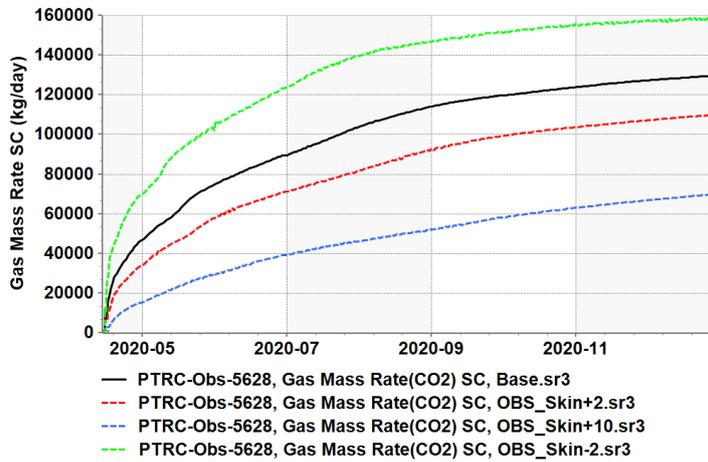
Cumulative Water SC - PTRC-Obs-5628



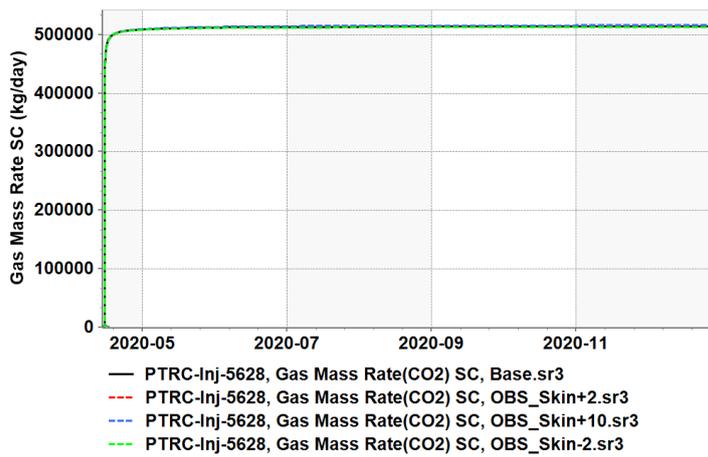


## Plots related to skin factor of the producer

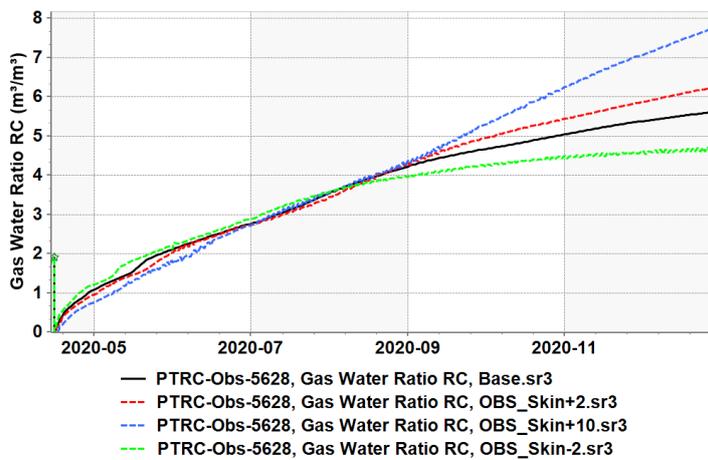
Gas Mass Rate SC - PTRC-Inj-5628,PTRC-Obs-5628



Gas Mass Rate SC - PTRC-Inj-5628,PTRC-Obs-5628

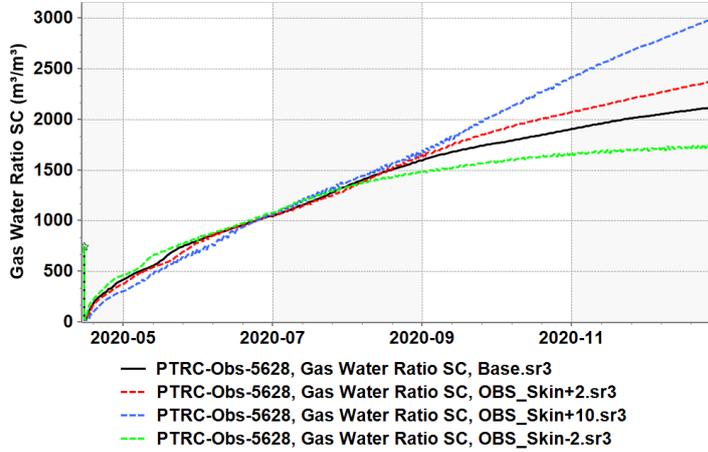


Gas Water Ratio RC - PTRC-Obs-5628

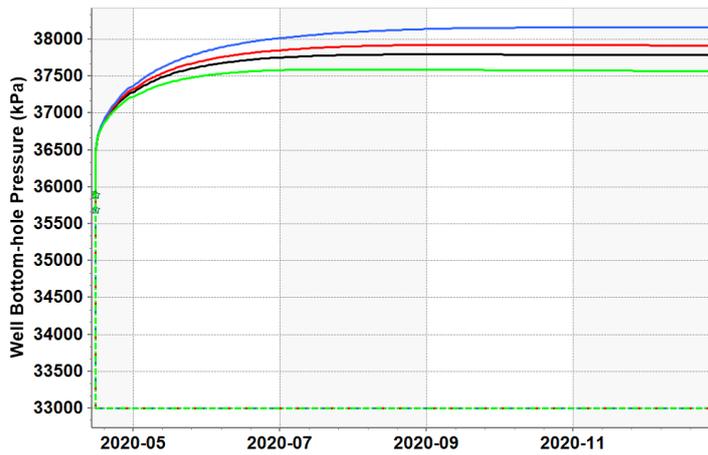




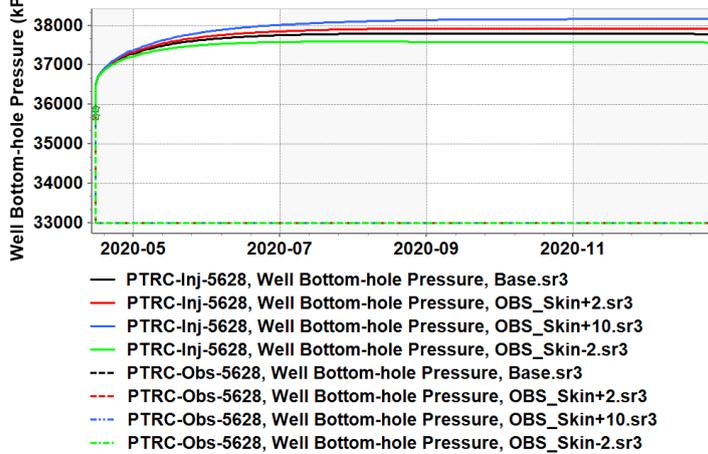
Gas Water Ratio SC - PTRC-Obs-5628



Well Bottom-hole Pressure - PTRC-Inj-5628, PTRC-Obs-5628

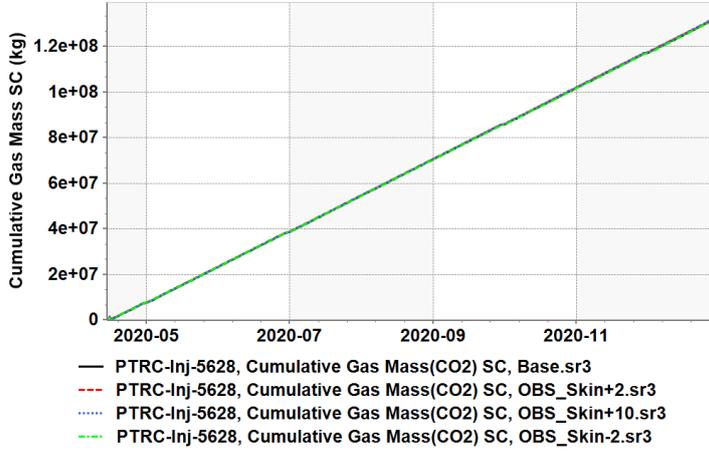


Well Bottom-hole Pressure - PTRC-Inj-5628, PTRC-Obs-5628

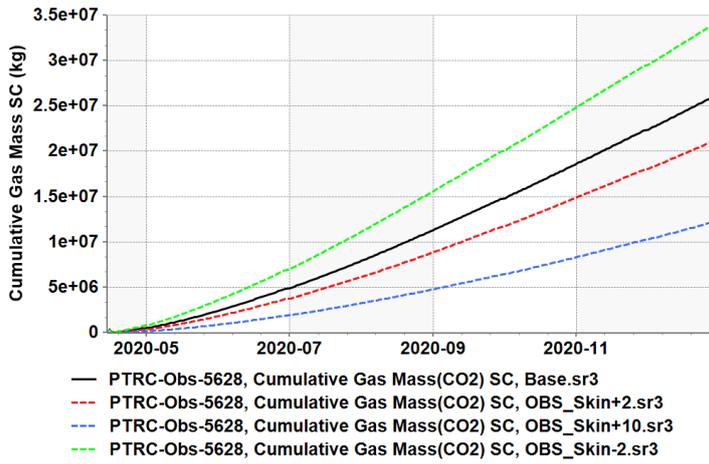




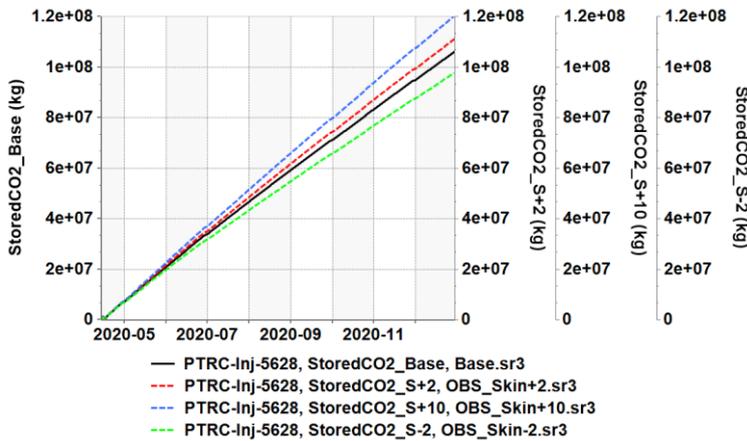
Cumulative Gas Mass SC - PTRC-Inj-5628,PTRC-Obs-5628



Cumulative Gas Mass SC - PTRC-Inj-5628,PTRC-Obs-5628

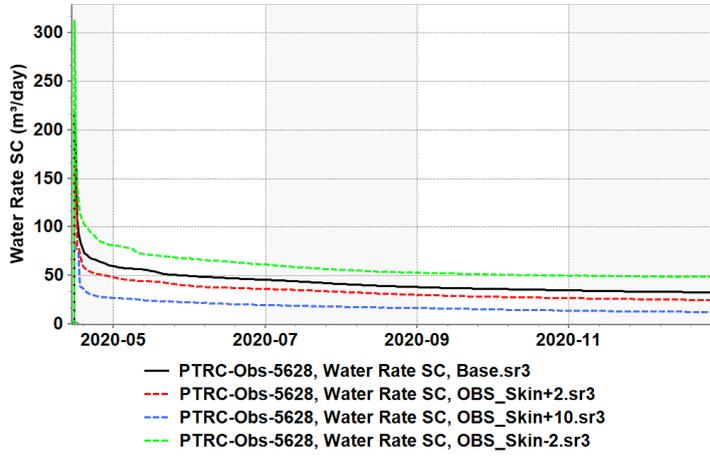


StoredCO2\_Base - PTRC-Inj-5628

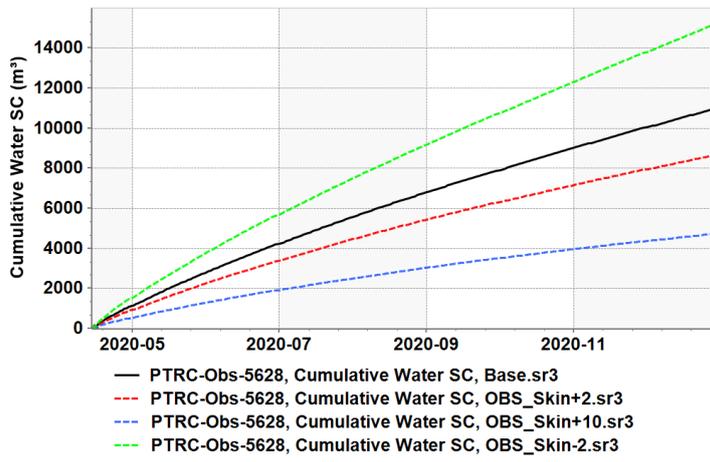




Water Rate SC - PTRC-Obs-5628



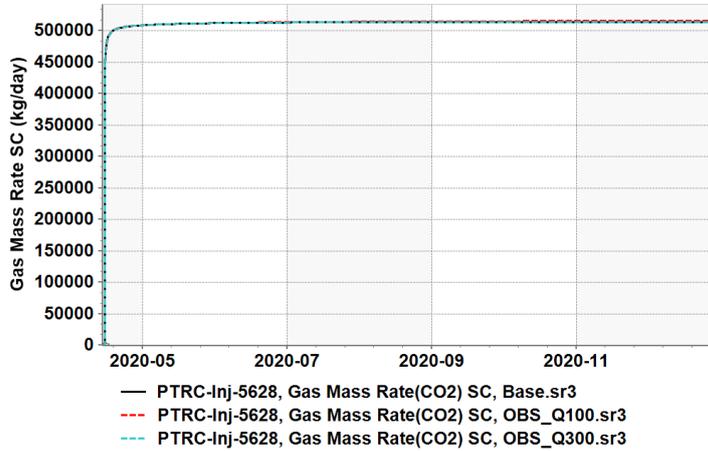
Cumulative Water SC - PTRC-Obs-5628



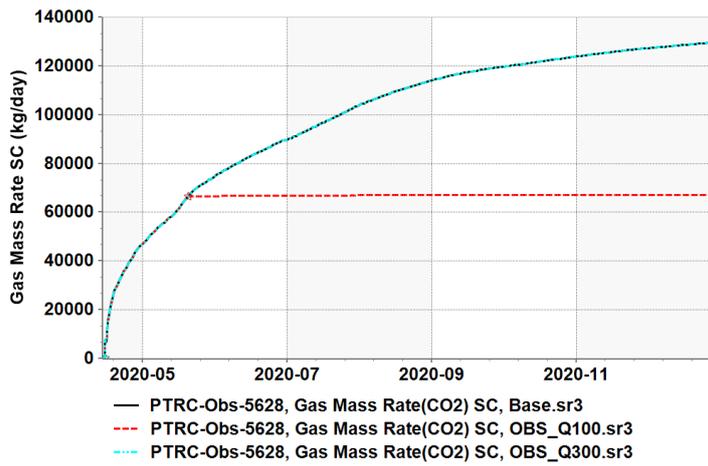


## Plots related to production rate

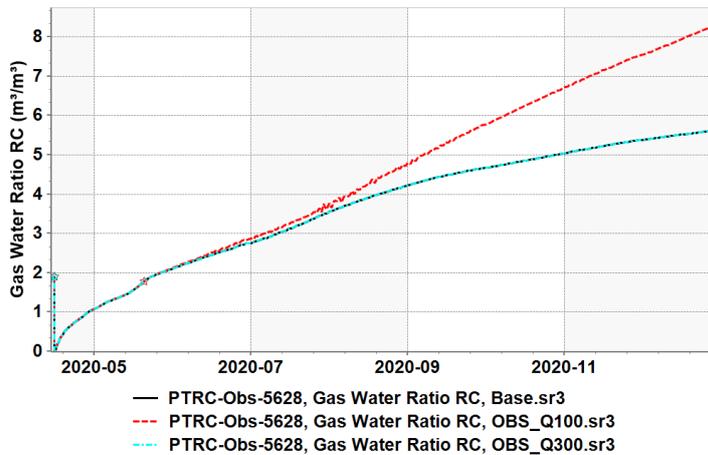
Gas Mass Rate SC - PTRC-Inj-5628,PTRC-Obs-5628



Gas Mass Rate SC - PTRC-Inj-5628,PTRC-Obs-5628

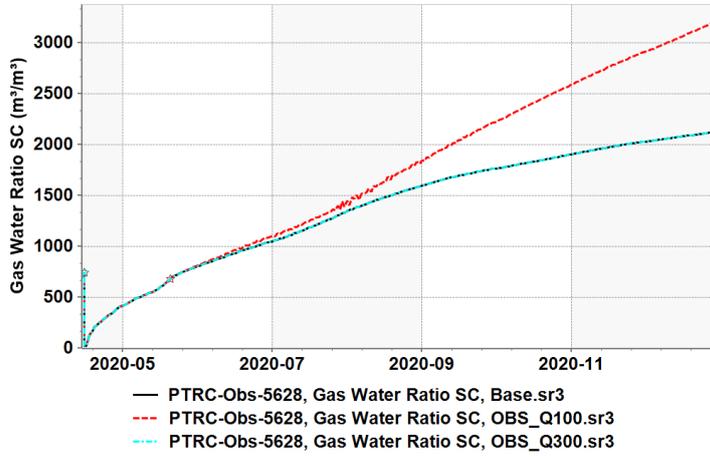


Gas Water Ratio RC - PTRC-Obs-5628

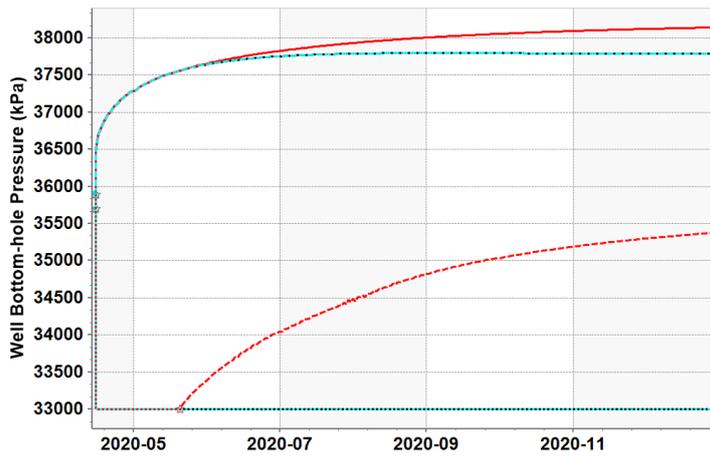




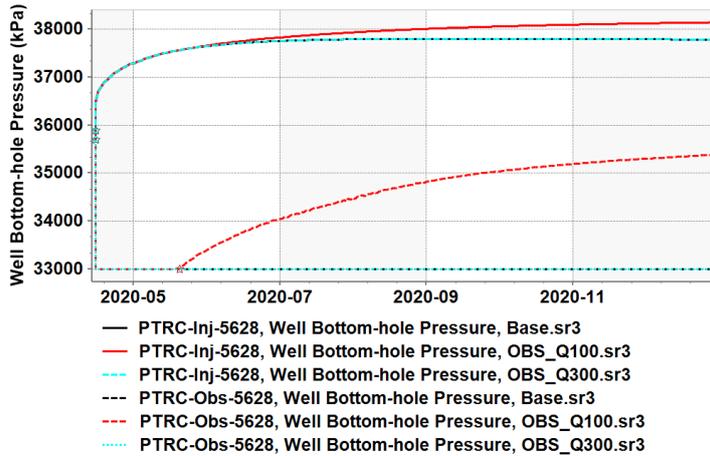
Gas Water Ratio SC - PTRC-Obs-5628

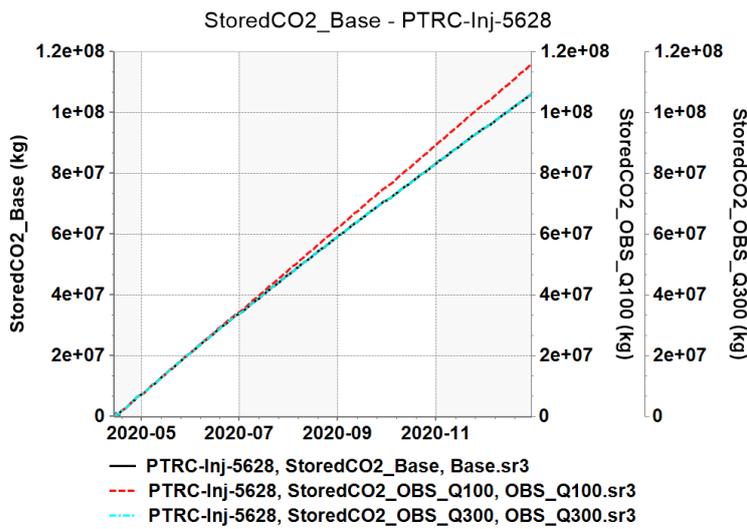
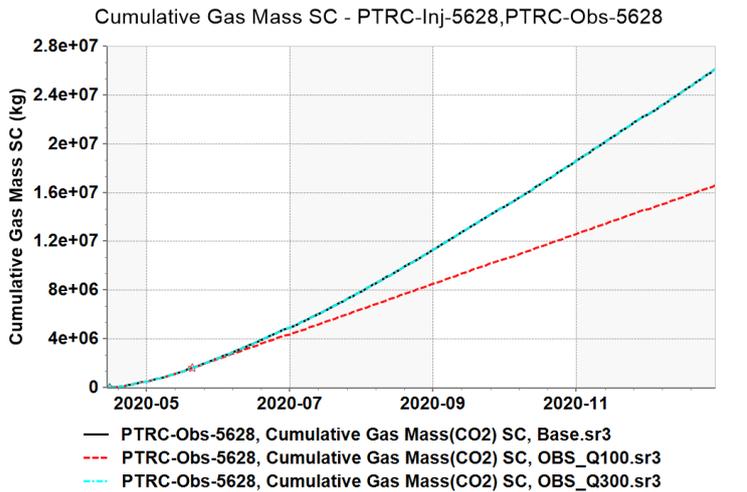
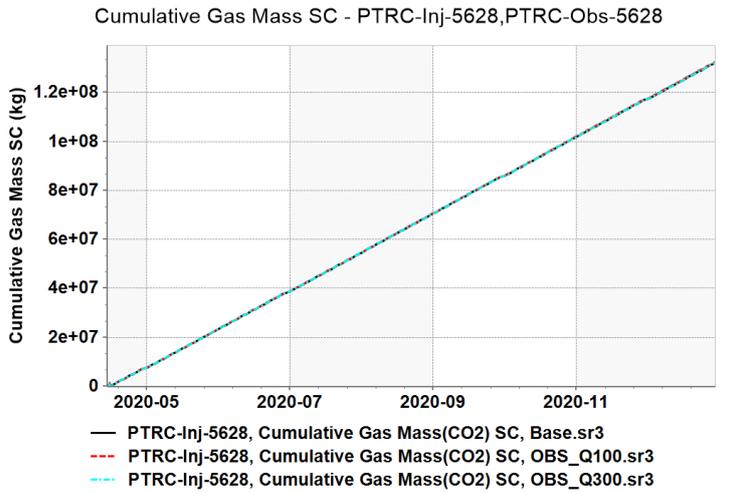


Well Bottom-hole Pressure - PTRC-Inj-5628, PTRC-Obs-5628



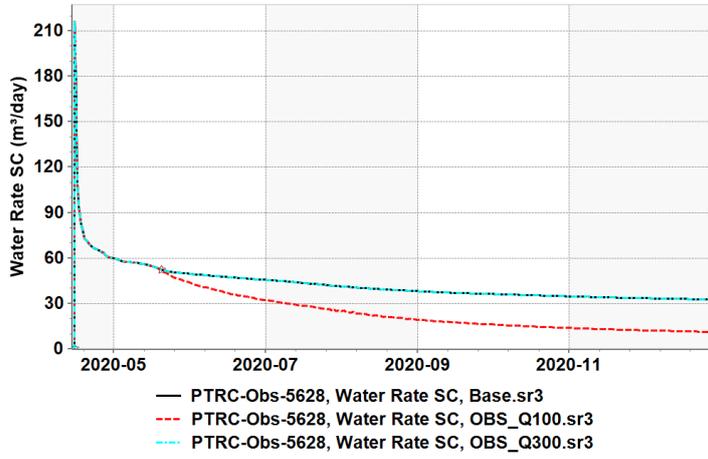
Well Bottom-hole Pressure - PTRC-Inj-5628, PTRC-Obs-5628



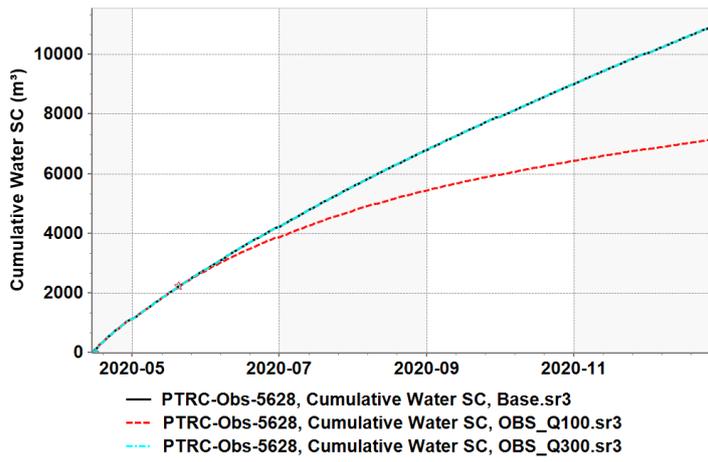




Water Rate SC - PTRC-Obs-5628

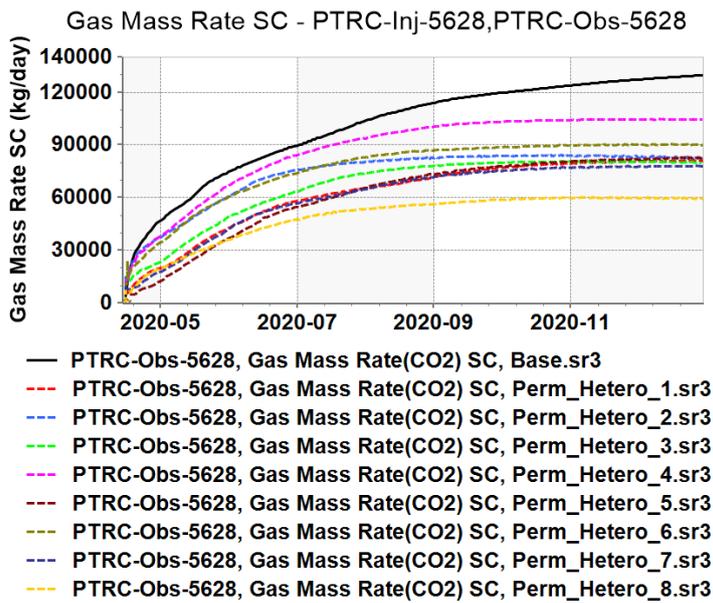
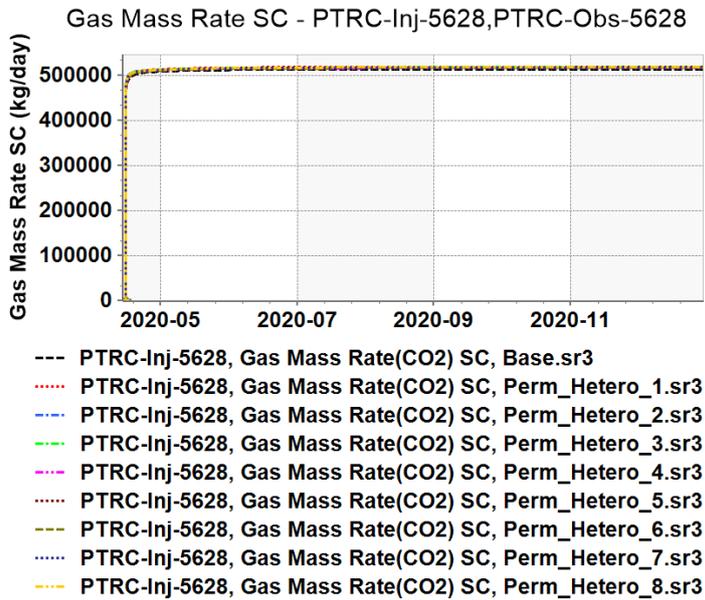


Cumulative Water SC - PTRC-Obs-5628



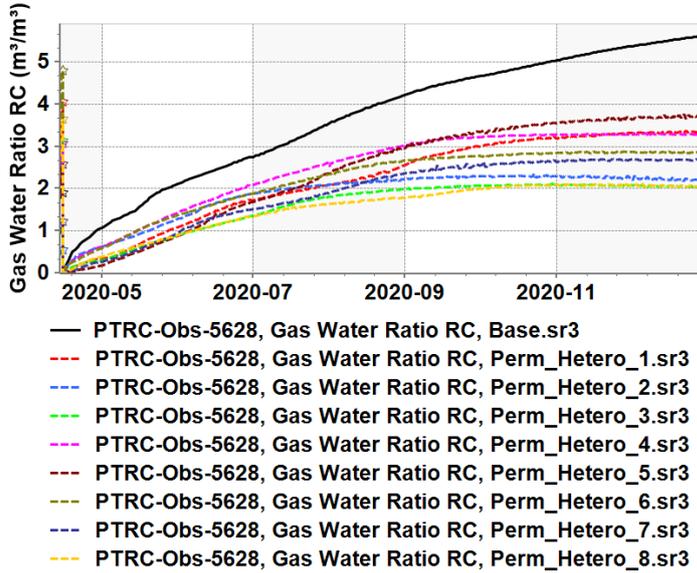


## Plots related to permeability of the sector model

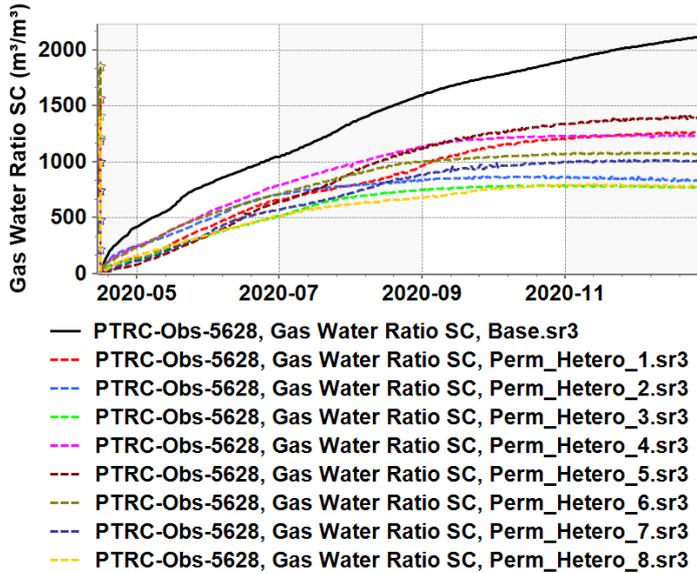




Gas Water Ratio RC - PTRC-Obs-5628

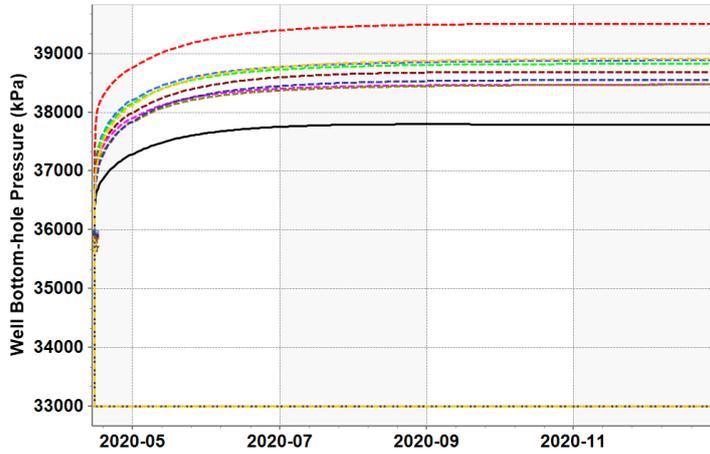


Gas Water Ratio SC - PTRC-Obs-5628

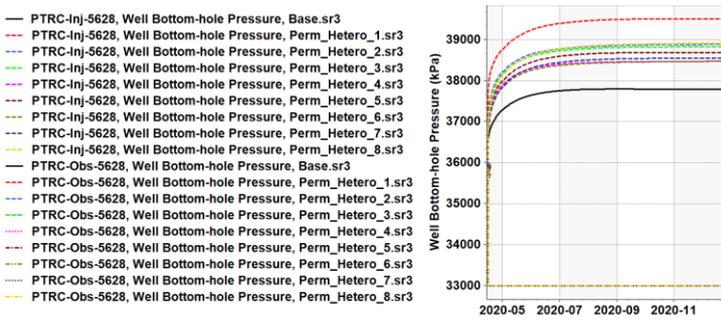




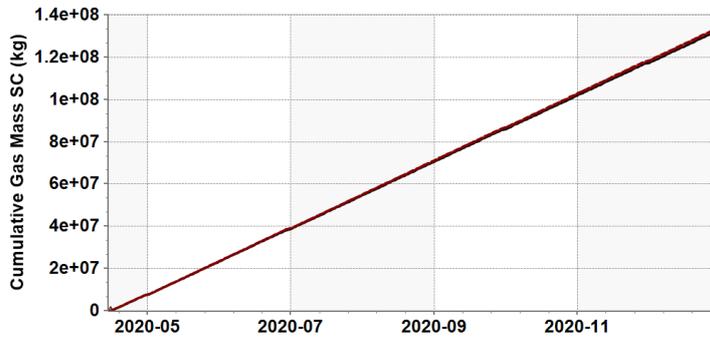
Well Bottom-hole Pressure - PTRC-Inj-5628,PTRC-Obs-5628



Well Bottom-hole Pressure - PTRC-Inj-5628,PTRC-Obs-5628

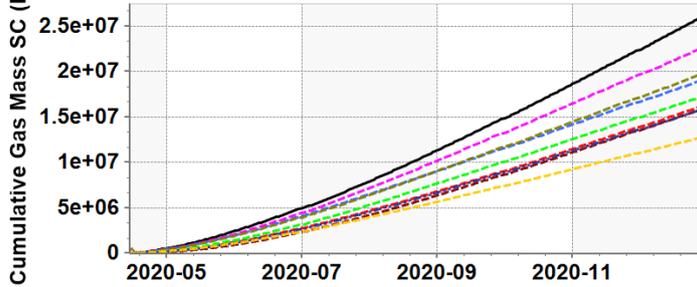


Cumulative Gas Mass SC - PTRC-Inj-5628



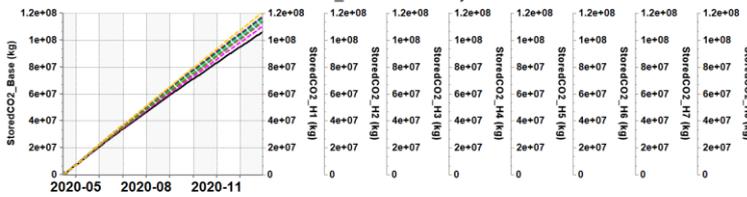


Cumulative Gas Mass SC - PTRC-Obs-5628



- PTRC-Obs-5628, Cumulative Gas Mass(CO2) SC, Base.sr3
- - PTRC-Obs-5628, Cumulative Gas Mass(CO2) SC, Perm\_Hetero\_1.sr3
- - PTRC-Obs-5628, Cumulative Gas Mass(CO2) SC, Perm\_Hetero\_2.sr3
- - PTRC-Obs-5628, Cumulative Gas Mass(CO2) SC, Perm\_Hetero\_3.sr3
- - PTRC-Obs-5628, Cumulative Gas Mass(CO2) SC, Perm\_Hetero\_4.sr3
- - PTRC-Obs-5628, Cumulative Gas Mass(CO2) SC, Perm\_Hetero\_5.sr3
- - PTRC-Obs-5628, Cumulative Gas Mass(CO2) SC, Perm\_Hetero\_6.sr3
- - PTRC-Obs-5628, Cumulative Gas Mass(CO2) SC, Perm\_Hetero\_7.sr3
- - PTRC-Obs-5628, Cumulative Gas Mass(CO2) SC, Perm\_Hetero\_8.sr3

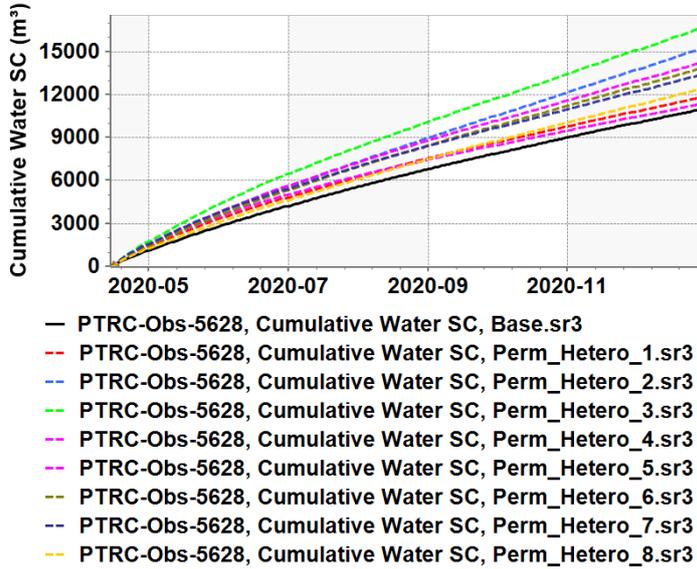
StoredCO2\_Base - PTRC-Inj-5628



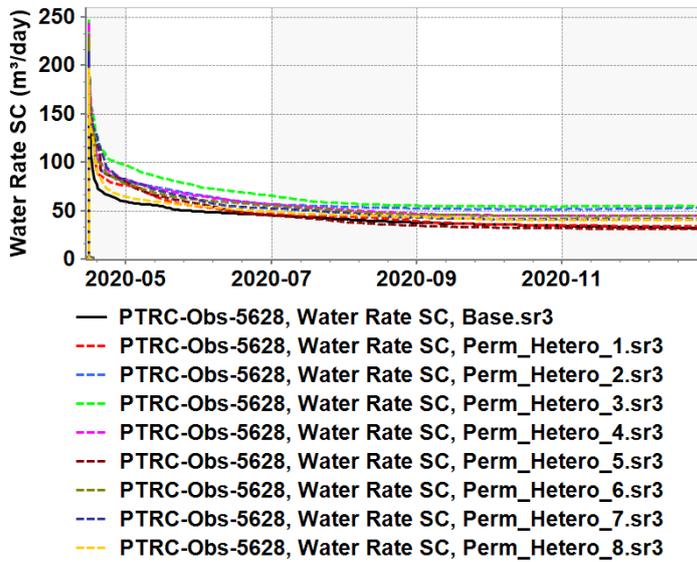
- PTRC-Inj-5628, StoredCO2\_Base, Base.sr3
- - PTRC-Inj-5628, StoredCO2\_H1, Perm\_Hetero\_1.sr3
- - PTRC-Inj-5628, StoredCO2\_H2, Perm\_Hetero\_2.sr3
- - PTRC-Inj-5628, StoredCO2\_H3, Perm\_Hetero\_3.sr3
- - PTRC-Inj-5628, StoredCO2\_H4, Perm\_Hetero\_4.sr3
- - PTRC-Inj-5628, StoredCO2\_H5, Perm\_Hetero\_5.sr3
- - PTRC-Inj-5628, StoredCO2\_H6, Perm\_Hetero\_6.sr3
- - PTRC-Inj-5628, StoredCO2\_H7, Perm\_Hetero\_7.sr3
- - PTRC-Inj-5628, StoredCO2\_H8, Perm\_Hetero\_8.sr3



Cumulative Water SC - PTRC-Obs-5628



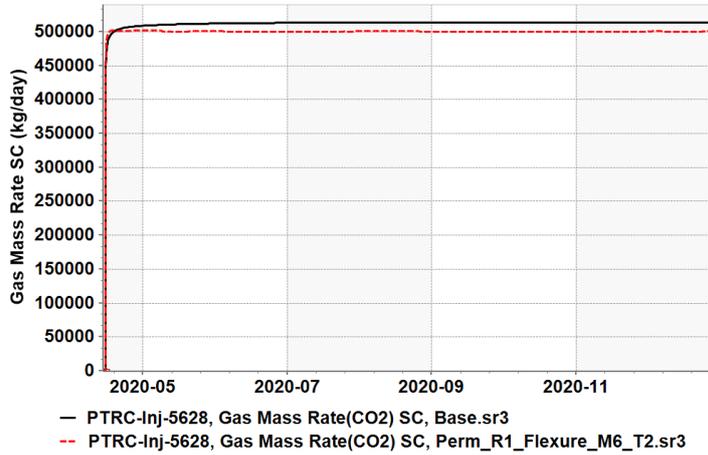
Water Rate SC - PTRC-Obs-5628



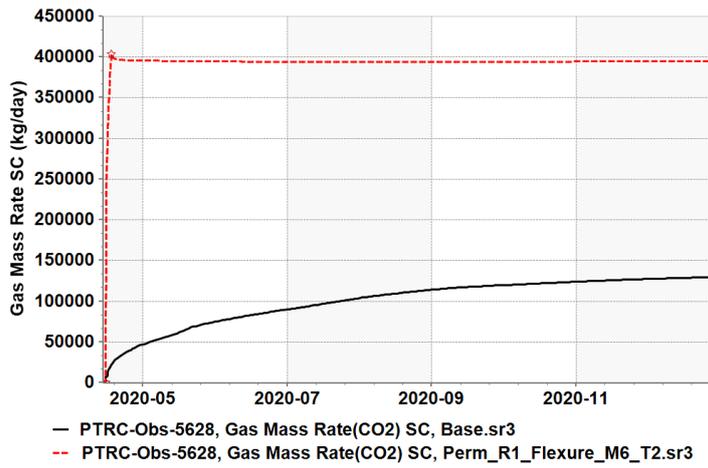


## Plots related to post-workover permeability enhancement

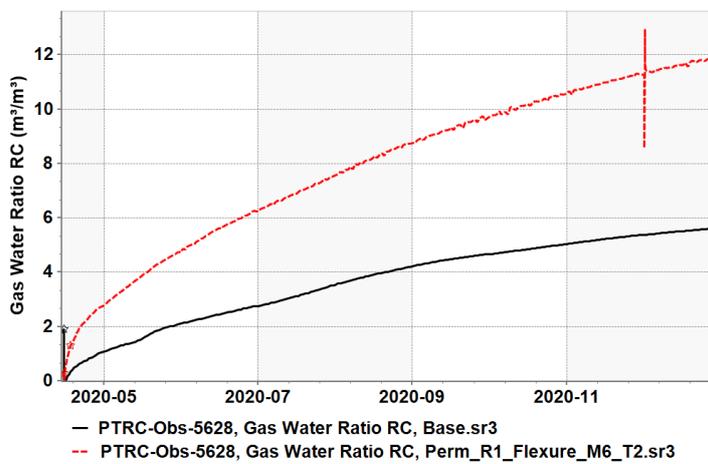
Gas Mass Rate SC - PTRC-Inj-5628,PTRC-Obs-5628



Gas Mass Rate SC - PTRC-Inj-5628,PTRC-Obs-5628

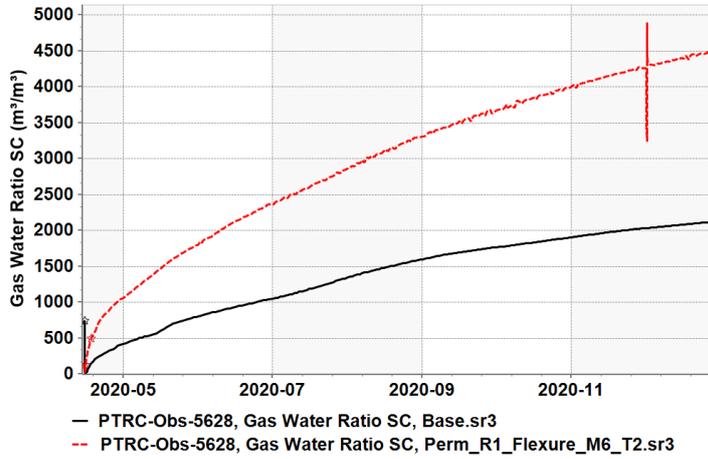


Gas Water Ratio RC - PTRC-Obs-5628

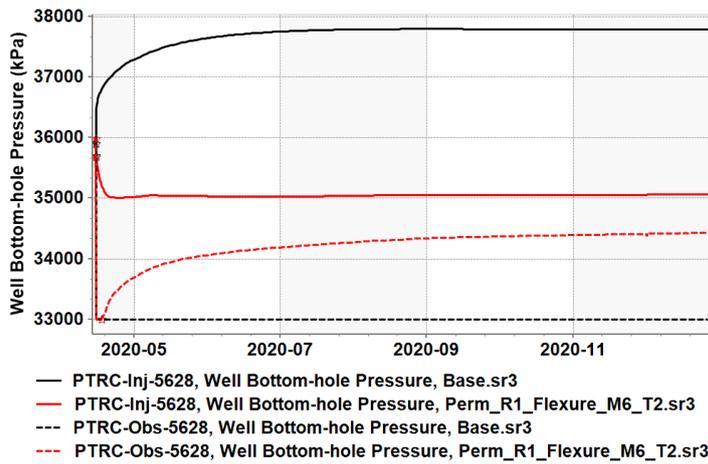




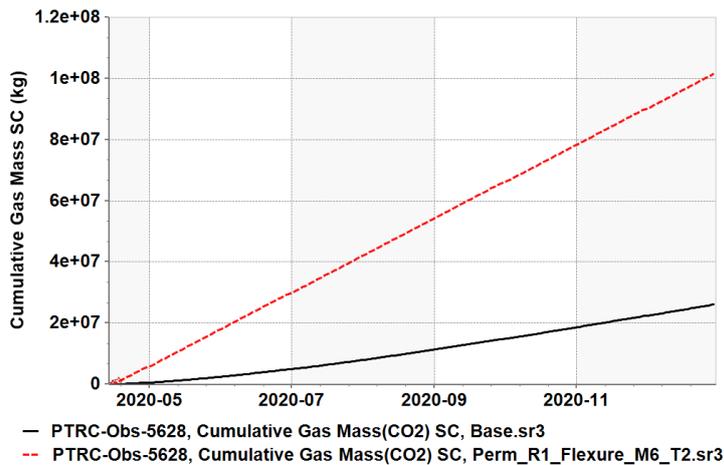
Gas Water Ratio SC - PTRC-Obs-5628



Well Bottom-hole Pressure - PTRC-Inj-5628, PTRC-Obs-5628

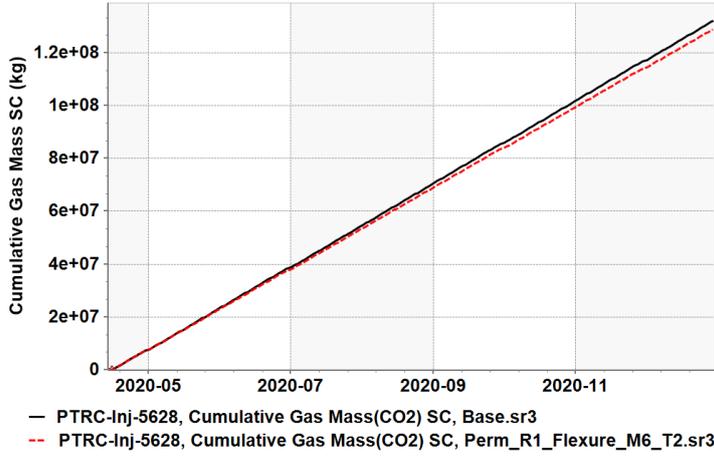


Cumulative Gas Mass SC - PTRC-Inj-5628, PTRC-Obs-5628

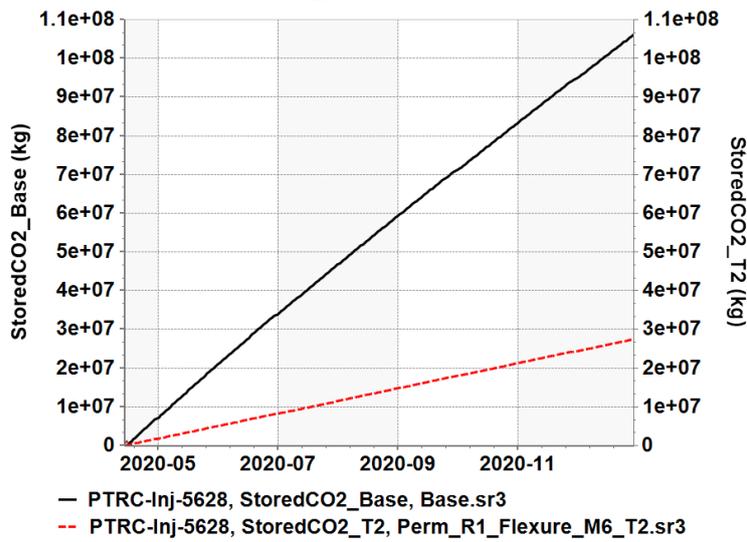




Cumulative Gas Mass SC - PTRC-Inj-5628,PTRC-Obs-5628

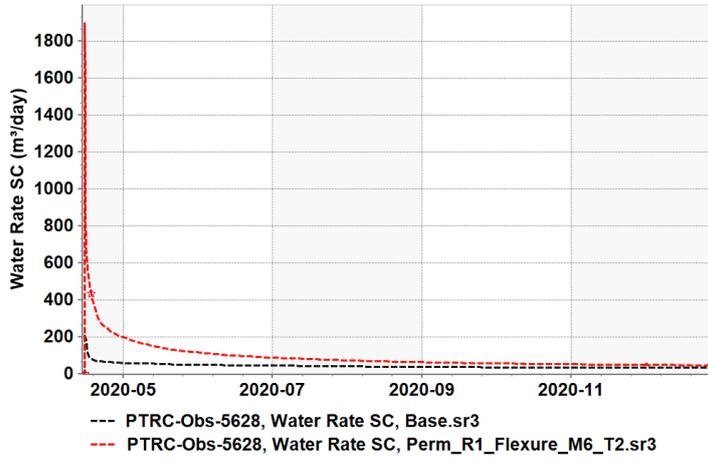


StoredCO2\_Base - PTRC-Inj-5628





Water Rate SC - PTRC-Obs-5628



Cumulative Water SC - PTRC-Obs-5628

