

Comment to CAC by Karen Feridun, October 8, 2024

October is PA Energy Month. The Better Path and No False Solutions PA coalitions have joined forces on a campaign to provide information and actions people can take on a different topic each week – Carbon Capture and Storage, Hydrogen, LNG, Advanced Plastics Recycling, and Fracking.

Last week, we asked people to share a brief on CCS I wrote on behalf of our coalitions last month. It was presented to our legislators when they returned to Harrisburg. Prior to the passage of SB 831 in July, we'd expressed concerns about how little is known about CCS. Our brief, [*Too Infrequently Asked Questions About Carbon Capture and Storage*](#), took a different slant and looks at how much *is* known. The brief answers ten questions. The answers raise additional concerns about opening the state to CCS. We reminded legislators that passing a bill doesn't compel them to act on it and once again urged them to take the time to consider what is and isn't known before moving forward with CCS.

One quick example from the brief has to do with how much carbon is in the atmosphere and how much of that CCS can address. From 2022 to 2023, CO₂ emissions rose 1.1% or 410 million tons. If all of the CCS planned, in development, or in operation in 2023 was operational, it would purportedly be able to capture 361 million tons, or 49 million tons less than just the 1.1% year to year increase.

The brief was revised at the last minute to include breaking news from the Archer Daniels Midland CCS operation in Decatur, Illinois. It's one of only two CCS operations that actually does CCS and not Enhanced Oil Recovery. The other facility is fairly new, so the model for CCS has always been ADM.

Three weeks ago, news broke that 8,000 metric tons of liquid CO₂ had leaked from one of two monitoring wells at their facility. There wasn't and still isn't a lot of information about that leak. Then, just last week, news broke that the other monitoring well was leaking. We have even fewer details about that incident. Since our brief came out, we *did* learn about an important footnote to the story of the first leak, though.

ADM has been aware of the corrosion in the first monitoring well since last October. The company says it became aware of the leak in March. They notified EPA in August and the public was finally told in September. However, ADM was hammering out a pore space deal with the city of Decatur for several months and finally reached an agreement in May, two months after the leak was detected. The city wasn't informed of the leak until August.

We are still in the enviable position of being able to say no to carbon capture and storage. We should take advantage of that opportunity.