



Geological storage of hydrogen as a large-scale energy storage solution

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80 Year History of Turning Raw Technology into Practical Energy Solutions





 **400+**
EMPLOYEES



World-class piloting facilities headquartered in Chicago area





























Collaborative Organizations and Programs

Working with utilities to address critical challenges

 <p>OTD Operations Technology Development</p>	 <p>UTD Utilization Technology Development</p>	 <p>ETP Emerging Technology Program</p>	 <p>LCRI LOW-CARBON RESOURCES INITIATIVE</p>
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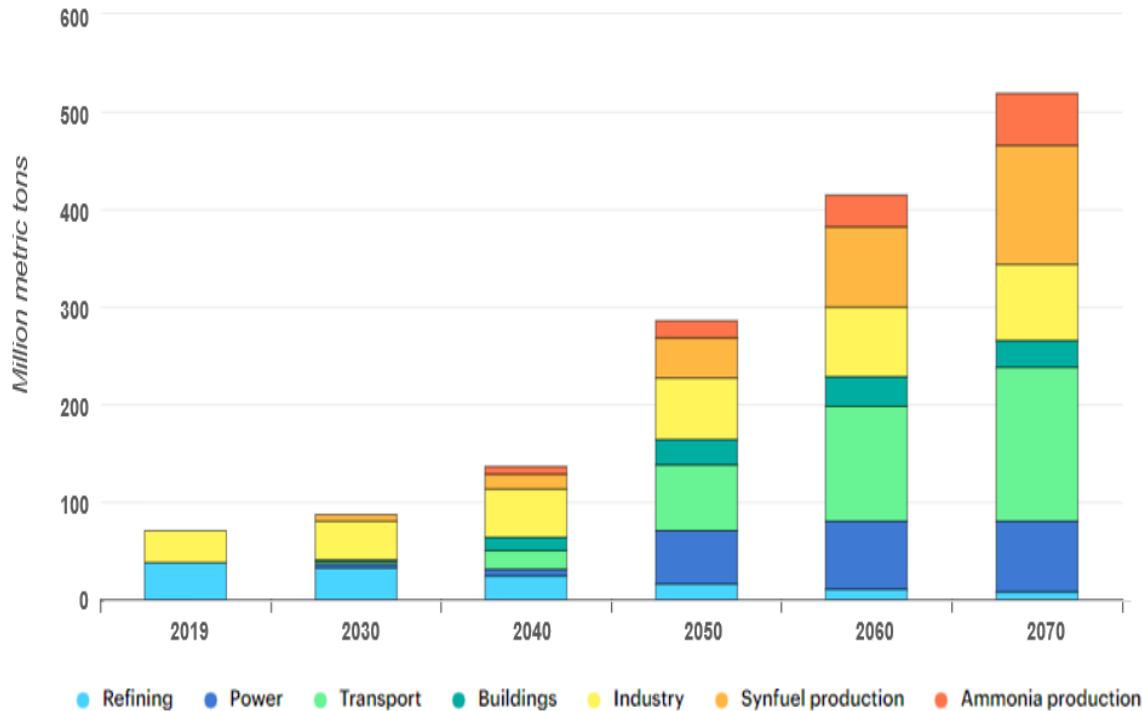
OTD Members

Serving 50 million gas consumers in the U.S., Canada and France

Growing demand for hydrogen

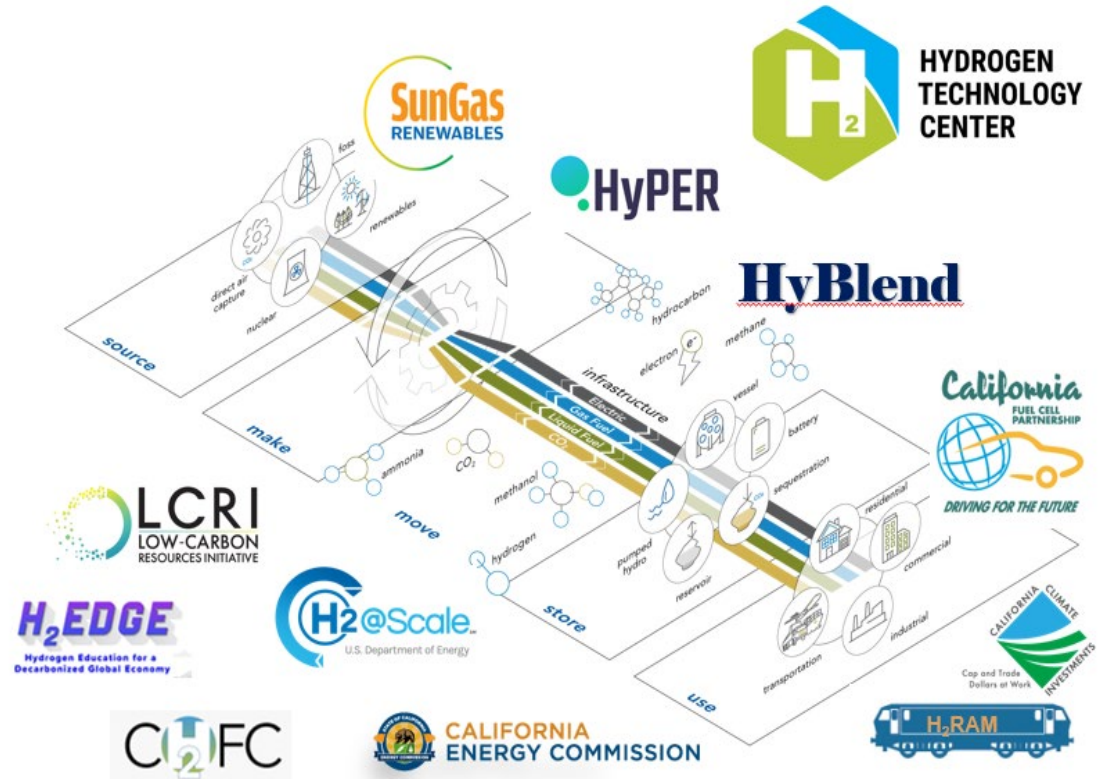
Global hydrogen demand by sector in the Sustainable Development Scenario, 2019-2070



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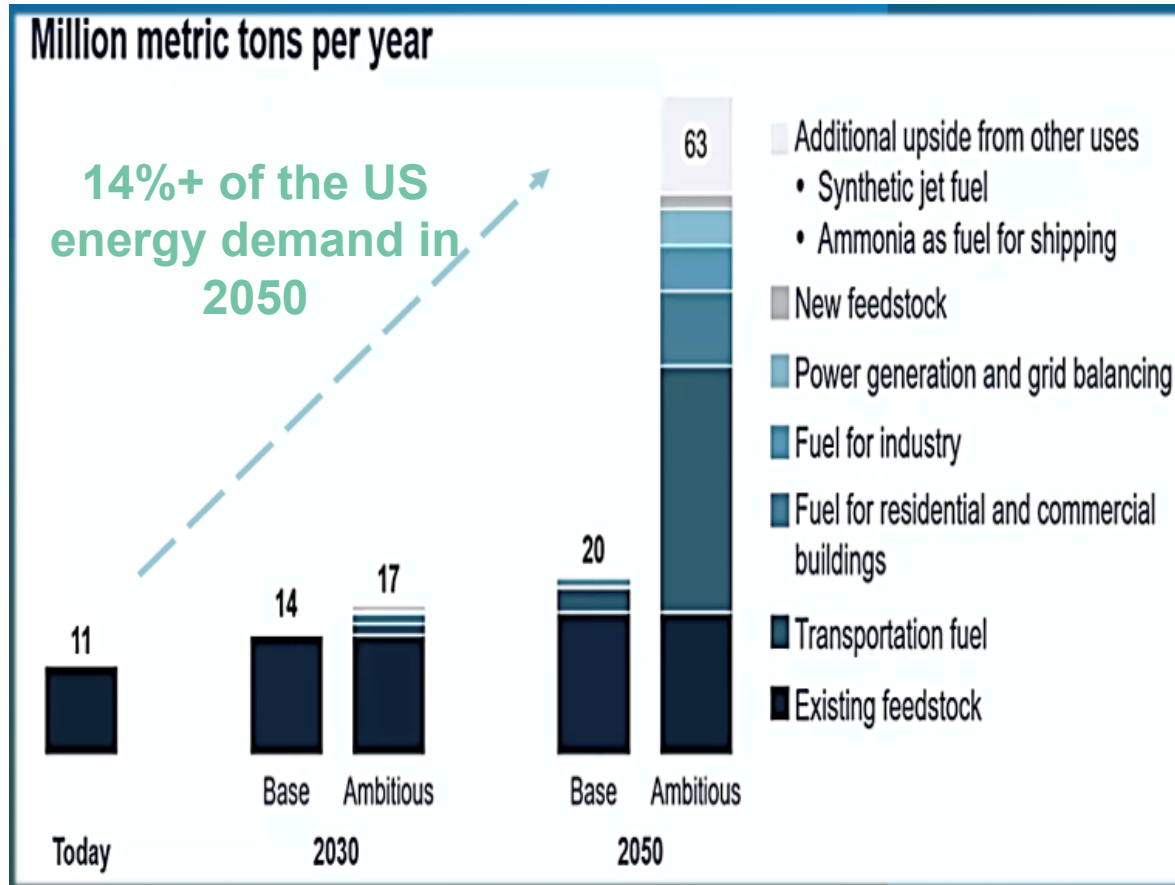
Source: [IEA Data & Statistics](https://www.iea.org/data-and-statistics)

Low-Carbon, Low-Cost Hydrogen Energy Systems



<https://www.gti.energy/hydrogen-technology-center/>

The need for storage

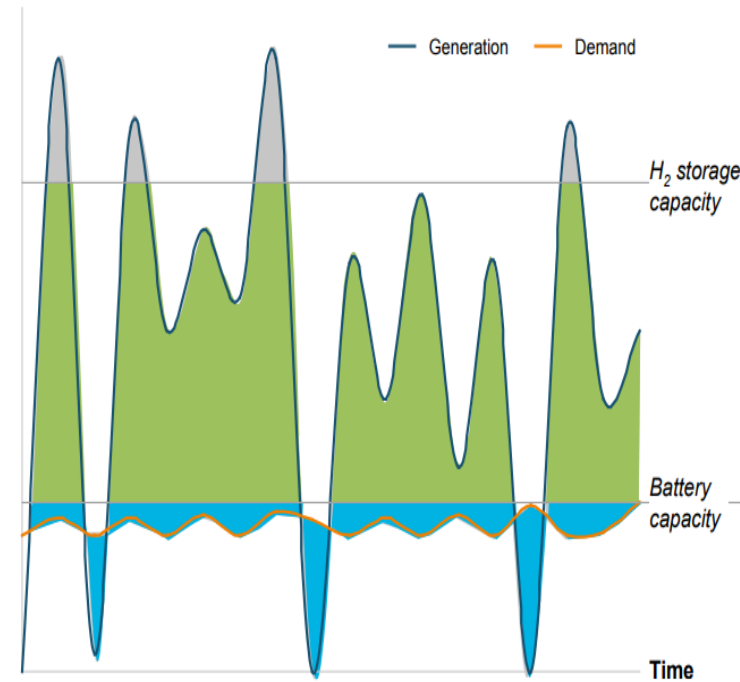


Source: Road Map to a US Hydrogen Economy [ushydrogenstudy.org](https://www.ushydrogenstudy.org)

Hydrogen storage bridges gaps in supply and demand

Electricity supply and demand, TWh

ILLUSTRATIVE



Means of balancing

Curtailement of extreme peaks

Hydrogen used for

- Long-term storage to balance across weeks and seasons
- Transfer of renewable energy to other sectors
- Transfer to other regions where electricity transmission is not sufficient/ not cost efficient

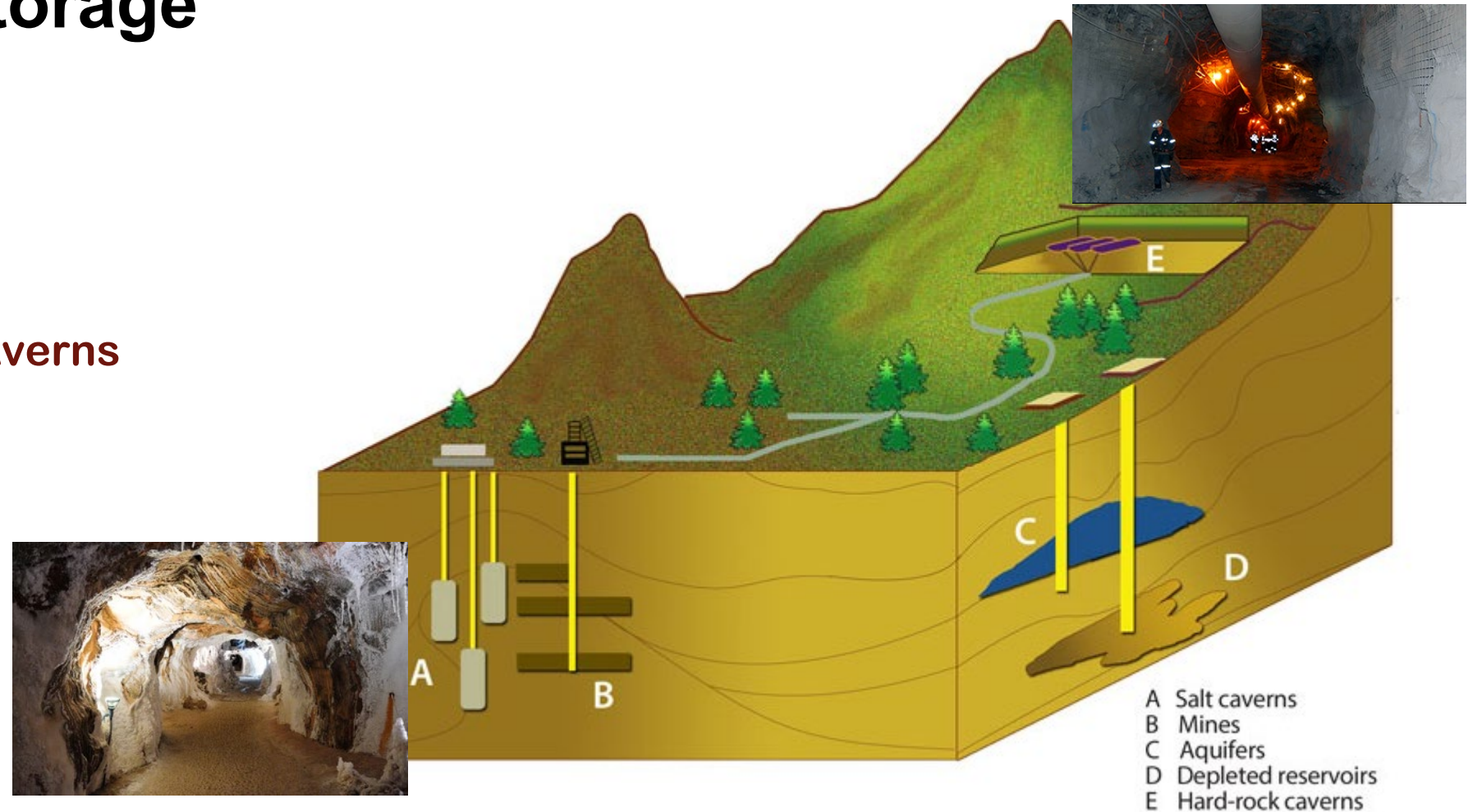
Batteries and power balancing¹: short-term storage to balance within hour/day

¹ Demand-side load balancing, etc.

Source: [Hydrogen Council, 2017](#)

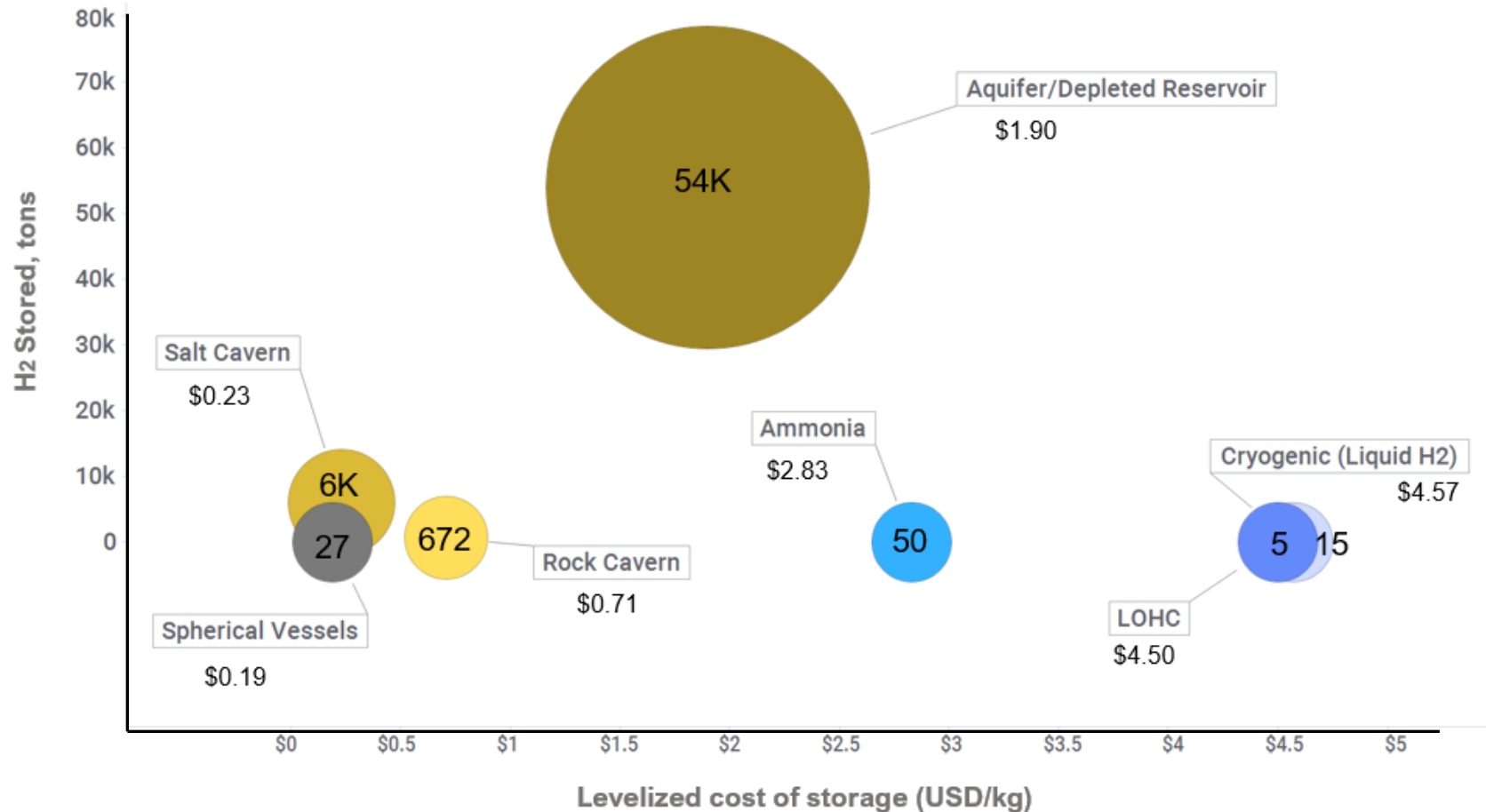
Geological storage

- Salt caverns
- Depleted reservoirs
- Deep Saline aquifers
- Mines & hard rock caverns



Source: [EIA](#)

Hydrogen storage options



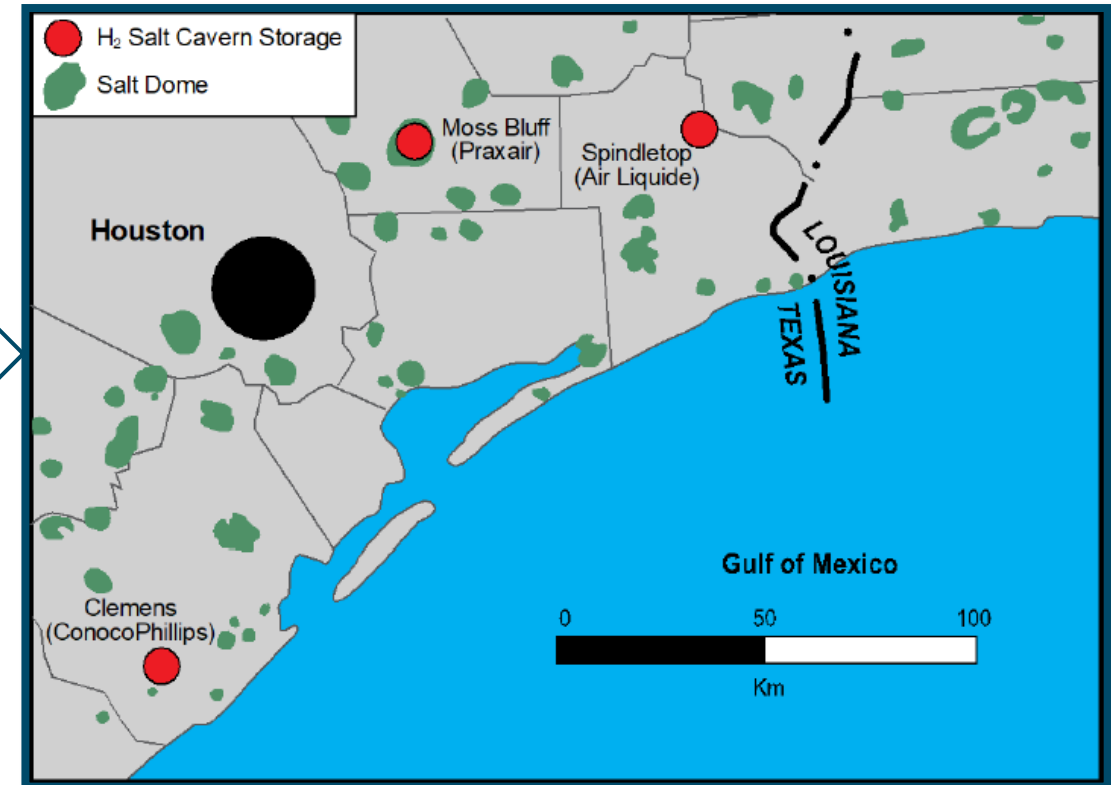
Geological storage:

- salt caverns preferred method to date – efficiency, purity, high pressure operation
- Aquifers and depleted oil fields require further research

Source(s): [U.S. DOE Hydrogen and Fuel Cells Program](#), [NREL & GTI](#), [Bloomberg New Energy Finance](#)

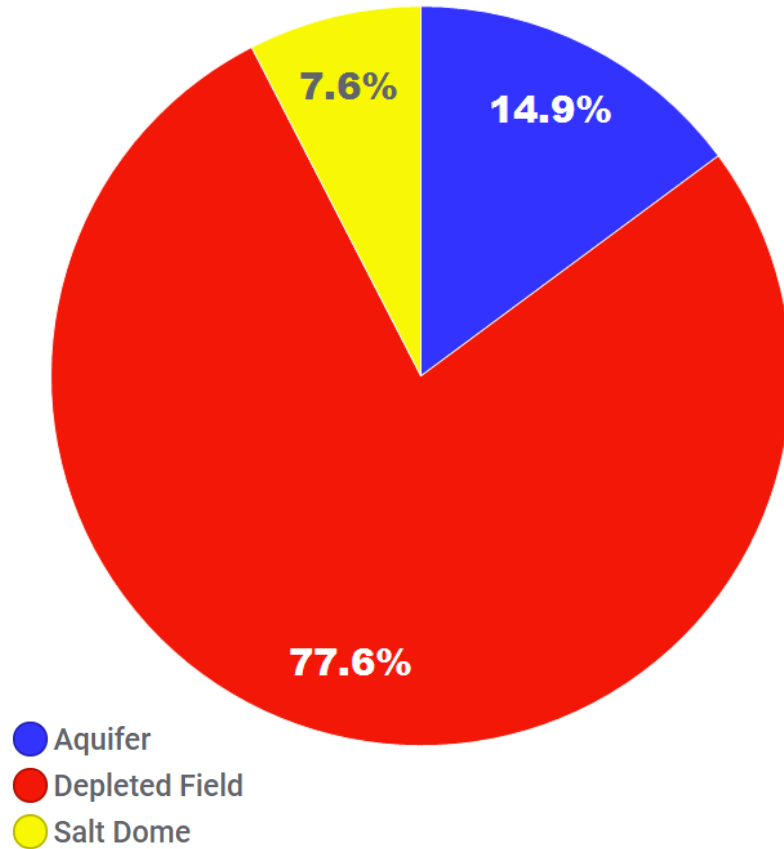
Geological storage of hydrogen- Experience

	Type	Gas (%)	p/T	Volume (m ³)	Capacity (sm ³)	Depth (m)	Start-up	Status
Germany								
Ketzin	Aquifer	CO ₂ 62 % H ₂	-	-	-	200-250	-	closed
Kiel	Salt cavern	62 % H ₂	80-100 bar	32,000	-	-	-	operating with natural gas
United Kingdom								
Teesside	Salt cavern	95 % H ₂ 3-4 % CO ₂	50 bar	-	1,000,000	400	1959	operating
USA								
Spindletop	Salt cavern	95 % H ₂	-	-	-	-	-	operating
Clemens Dome	Salt cavern	95 % H ₂	70-135 bar	580,000	30,000,000	850	1980s	operating
Moss Bluff	Salt cavern	-	-	-	-	-	-	operating
France								
Beynes	Aquifer	50 % H ₂	-	-	385,000,000	430	1956 - 1972	operating with natural gas
Czech Republic								
Lobodice	Aquifer	50 % H ₂ 25 % CH ₄	90 bar / 34°C	-	-	430	1965	operating
Argentina								
Diadema (Hychico)	Depleted gas reservoir	10 % H ₂	10 bar / 50°C	-	-	600	2009	-
Austria								
Underground Sun Storage	Depleted gas reservoir	10% H ₂	78 bar / 40 °C	-	1,150,000	1000	2015 - 2017	operating

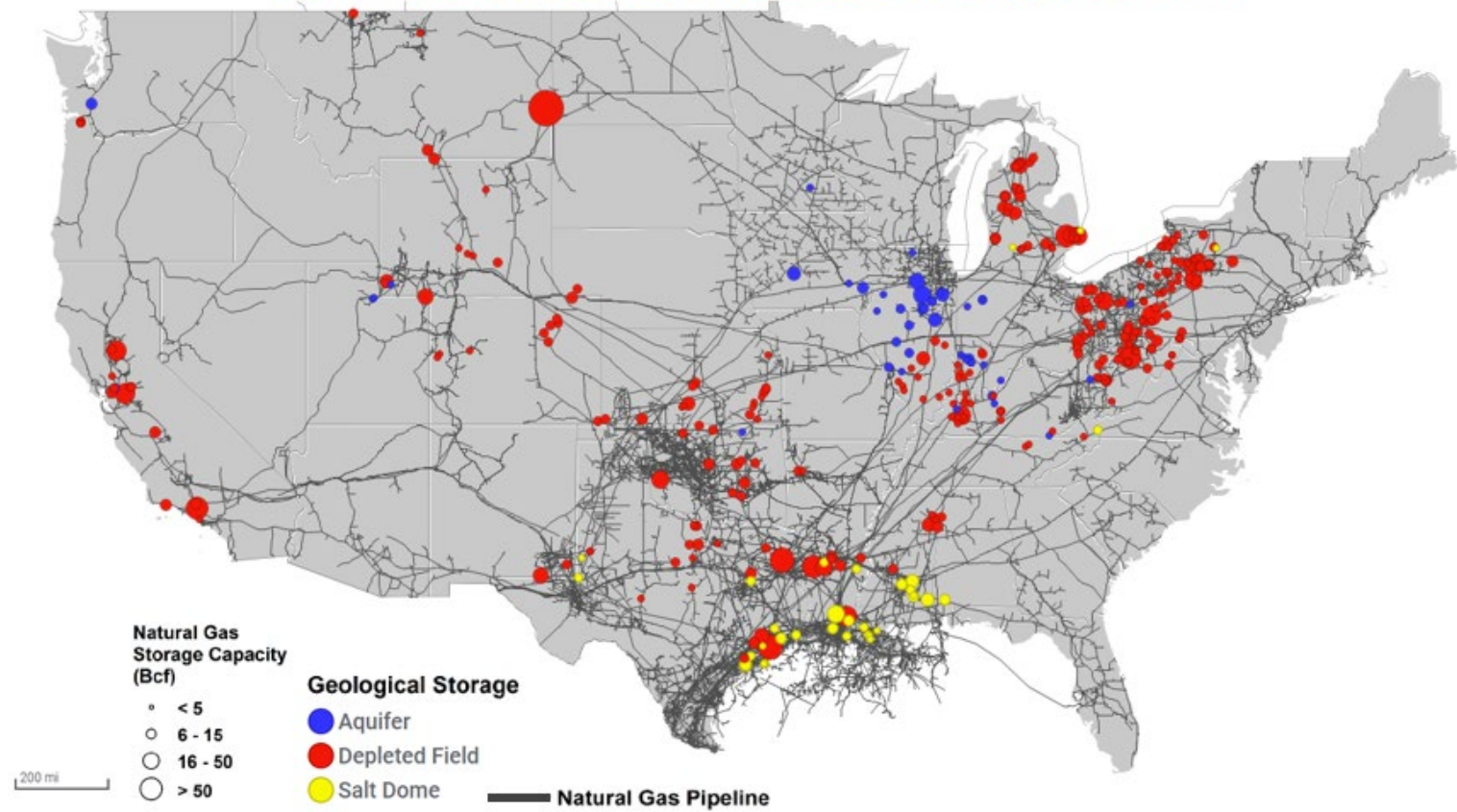


Natural Gas storage- The United States

Total storage capacity distribution



US natural gas pipeline and underground storage sites



Source: EIA

Comparison

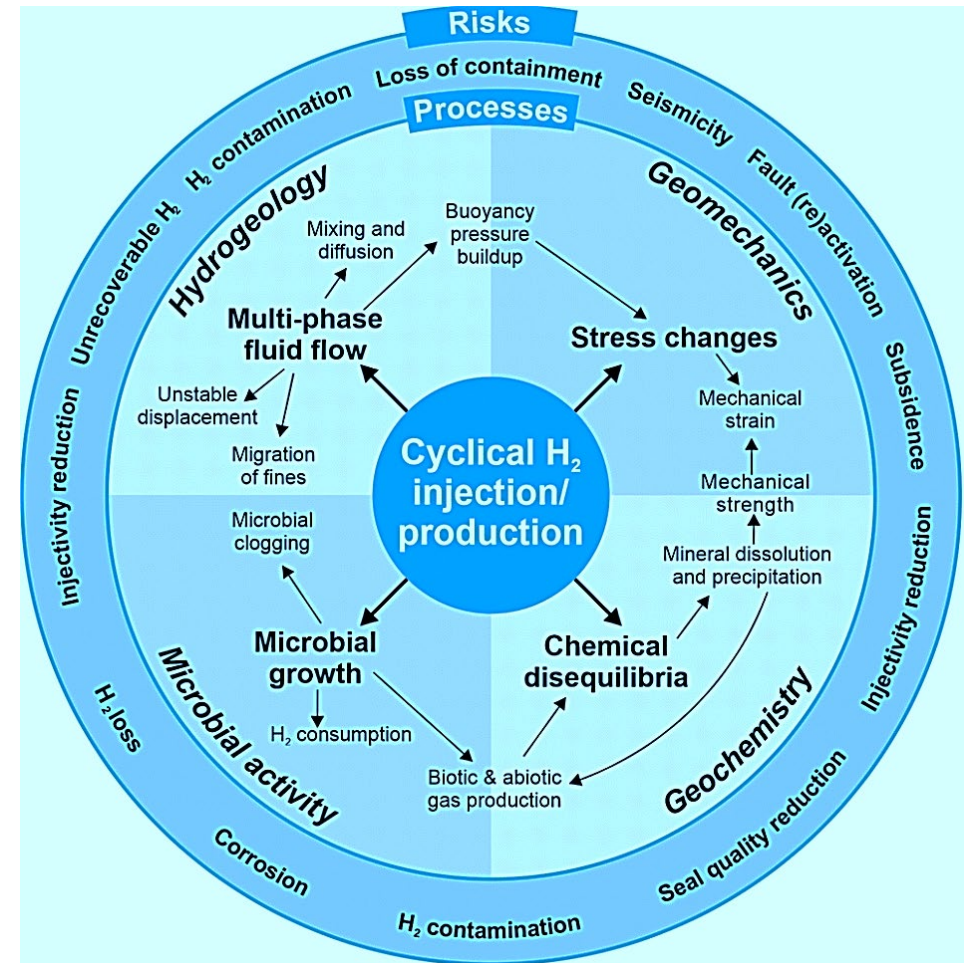
Natural Gas Storage Experience

Advantages	Disadvantages
Depleted Reservoirs	
Use of existing reservoir	Low deliverability per well
Geographical availability, knowledge of reservoir (geology, performance)	Maximum (0.5–1)% daily withdrawal of total capacity
Low investment costs for conversion	Maximum 1–2 turnovers per year. low deliverability and injectivity
Possibility of reusing existing wells	High percentage of cushion gas
Aquifer	
Use of existing reservoirs	Need extensive, costly, and time-consuming exploration phase
No hydrocarbon residues in reservoir to cause contamination	Low deliverability per well
	Maximum (0.5–1)% daily withdrawal of total capacity
	Maximum 1–2 turnovers per year
	Low deliverability and injectivity
	High percentage of cushion gas
Salt Caverns	
High safety due to only one well per storage cavern	Need for exploration phase
Low geological risk	Limited geography, limited volume
High flexibility, maximum 10–12 turnovers per year	Several years construction time
High deliverability and injectivity/high rates	Need to dispose large quantities of salt brine
Low percentage of cushion gas	
No reactions between storage gas and rock salt	

Research needs

- Caprock sealing and containments
- Geochemical reactions
- Biological reactions
- Multi-phase flow/Geomechanical

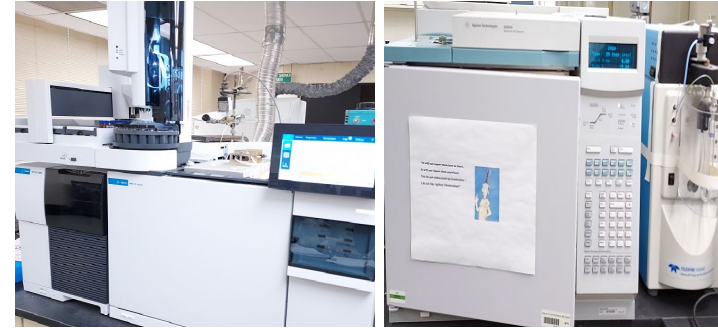
Site Screening Workflow



Source: [Heinemann et al., 2021](#)

Ongoing Research and Development

1. Select best environments with undesirable conditions for microbial activities and analyze injected fluids
2. Regular monitoring of changes in microbial composition
3. Microbial inhibitory compounds
 - Metabolic inhibitors (nitrate application)
 - Biocides (needs to be screened based on reservoir characteristics)



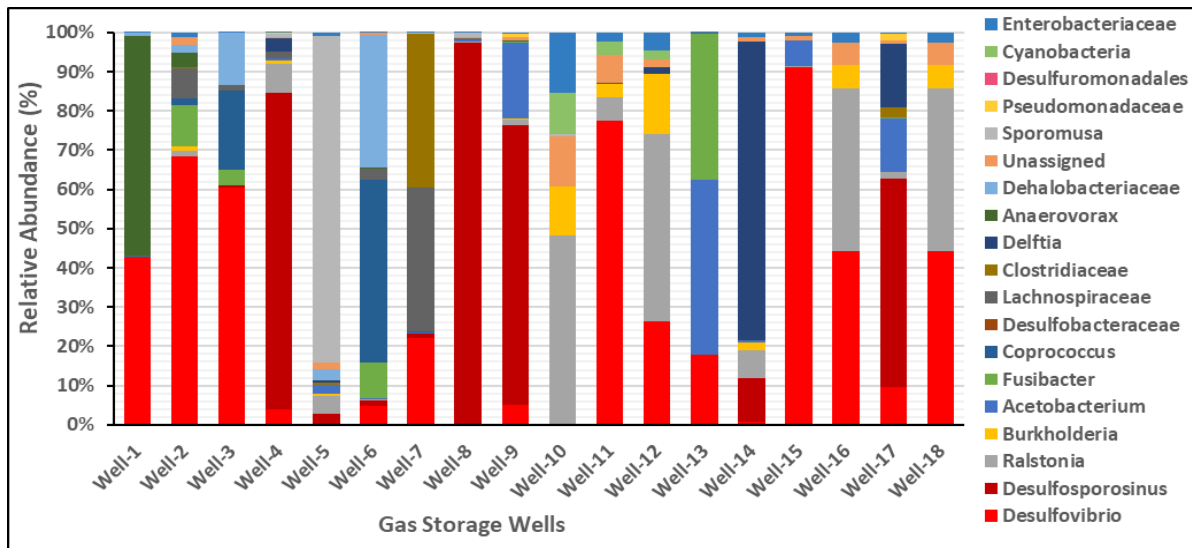
Geochemical analysis

- Gas analysis
- Hydrocarbon analysis
- Fluid/wet chemistry
- Fuels analysis



Biological analysis

- qPCR
- 16S sequencing
- Metagenome sequencing
- Microscopic counting



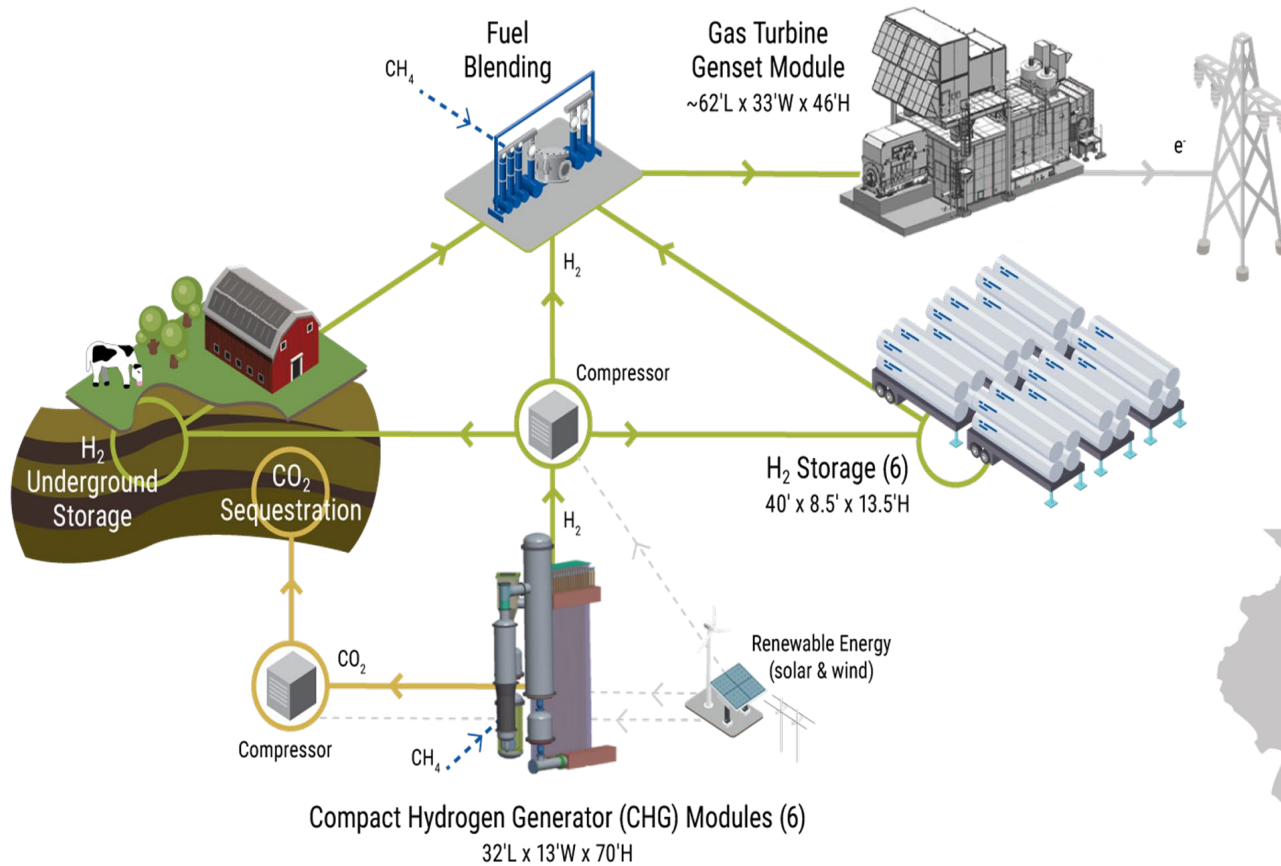
Distribution of microbial communities in different gas storage wells: source GTI's OTD report (22227)



Biocorrosion analysis

- Bioreactors(high temperature and pressure)
- Coupon weight loss
- Microscopic analysis
- Biofilm analysis

Non-salt storage pilot



The energy storage and production system provides the platform to further test, perfect and integrate the components for larger commercial deployment in support of zero-carbon, centralized power production



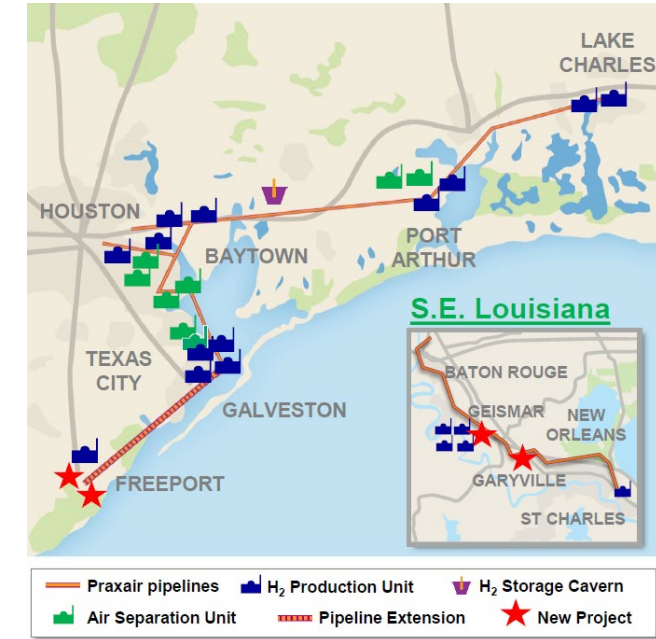
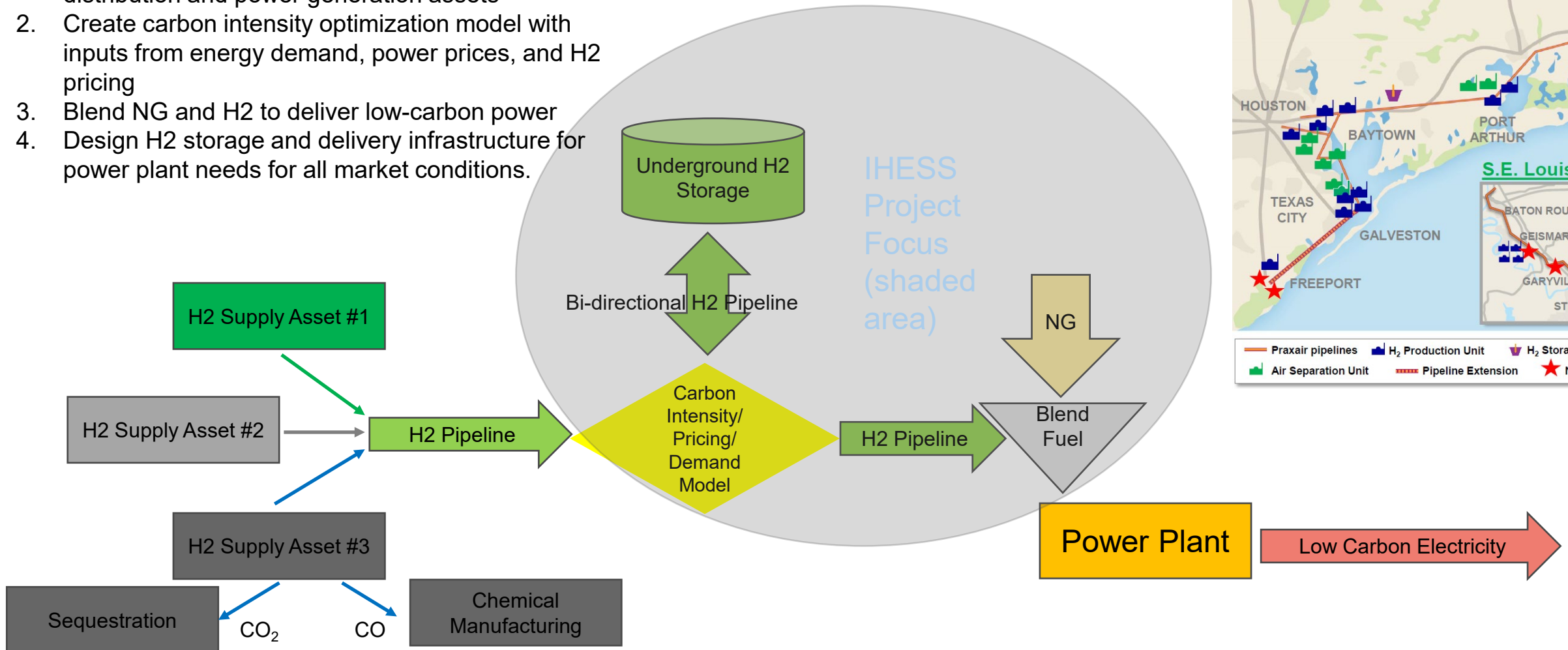
Zero-Carbon Power & Hydrogen for Illinois' Energy Future

ZERO CARBON POWER • CLEAN HYDROGEN PRODUCTION • UTILIZING LOCAL GEOLOGY



Integrated Hydrogen Energy Storage System (IHESS)

1. Leverage existing/planned H₂ production, distribution and power generation assets
2. Create carbon intensity optimization model with inputs from energy demand, power prices, and H₂ pricing
3. Blend NG and H₂ to deliver low-carbon power
4. Design H₂ storage and delivery infrastructure for power plant needs for all market conditions.



Concluding remarks

- ✓ How can underground gas storage reservoirs adapt or evolve to meet 2050 Net Zero goals?
- ✓ How could existing infrastructure be retrofitted to enable the energy transition at low costs?
 - Fundamental research
 - Capabilities establishment
 - Recommended practices
 - Field demonstrations**

Thank you!

Contact

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