

PROSPECTS OF CCS PROJECTS IMPLEMENTATION IN RUSSIA: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Pavel Tcvetkov¹, Alexey Cherepovitsyn¹

¹ National Mineral Resources University (Mining University), Vasil'evsky Ostrov, 21 liniya 2, Saint-Petersburg, 199106 Russia, e-mail: pscvetkov@yandex.ru, alekseicherepov@inbox.ru

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ABSTRACT

The urgency of environmental protection is determined by its intensive change because of human impact, which, among other things, accompanied by an increasing of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. One of the ways to reduce the emission is Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) technologies. To date, developed countries have successfully implemented a number of CCS demonstration projects. Their main purpose is to study the effectiveness of CO₂ storage. Russia is one of the world's largest producers of CO₂ emissions. However, CO₂ capture and storage issues are not studied by Russian enterprises due to the absence of environmental taxes. The experience of developed countries shows that CO₂ storage projects, in addition to the reduction of anthropogenic impact, can be commercially effective not only by reducing the tax burden. This review presents the analysis of international experience in the field of CO₂ capture and storage. Given the immaturity of technology and lack of the necessary volume of statistical data, it was an attempt to determine the minimum conditions, which permit the implementation of CCS projects in Russian oil fields. On the basis of the Russian development forecast and the fuel balance structure the volumes of CO₂ emissions in the 2016–2030 years were calculated. According to significant difference in opinions about the feasibility of CCS implementation in Russia, this review presents the main arguments for and against such projects. Evaluation of the potential effectiveness of CCS projects to enhance oil recovery factor showed that in spite of the absence of CO₂ emissions taxes, such projects could be commercially effective in Russia due to the increase in oil recovery.

Keywords: environment, CO₂ emission, sequestration, carbon capture and storage, oil recovery factor.

INTRODUCTION

For the first time the issues related to global warming and the greenhouse effect became public in 1960 in connection with the data collected by Manua Loa Observatory, Hawaii [Keeling 1978]. In 1988, under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was set up to assess the risks of global climate change [Hulme and Mahony 2010], and in 1992 the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which is aimed at global climate change controlling [Meakin

1992], was approved. In 2005 the Kyoto Protocol came into effect, which identified the need of greenhouse gas emissions reduction (from 2008 to 2012 by 5.2% compared to 1990 levels). In 2012 in Doha (Qatar), it was decided to extend the Kyoto Protocol up to 2020 [Doha Climate Change 2012].

Thus, the world community faced the problem of finding ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (primarily CO₂), not compromising industry and the standard of living. The main ways of reducing emissions of greenhouse gases are reducing energy consumption, improving the efficiency of traditional energy (Table 1), development of renewable and nuclear energy

Table 1. CO₂ emissions from fossil fuels combustion [European Commission, 2006]

Fuel	CO ₂ emissions [tons/thousand J] (g/kW•h)
Natural gas	55 (198)
Heavy oil	80 (288)
Light oil	77 (277)
Coal	95 (342)
Brown coal	110 (396)
Peat	105 (378)

[Khlebnikov et al. 2009]. These options assume profound reconstruction of energy, which is a very capital-intensive and knowledge-intensive process, and the period of its implementation, even in developed countries, takes decades. Furthermore, it cannot solve the problem of climate change completely despite the fact that such technologies as biomass pyrolysis allows to transfer up to 63% of the original carbon in the fixed form [Borodulya et al. 2004], which greatly facilitates the process of gas utilization [Burcu 2013] and opens alternative ways for its use [Tevetkov and Strizhenok 2016].

One of the proposed solutions to solve this problem is Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS). The technology involves capturing carbon dioxide and other carbon compounds, and their long-term storage in special reservoirs [Leung et al. 2014]. CCS is possible to apply to the exist-

ing energy system based on fossil fuel, which makes the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions cheaper in the short term compared to other technologies (reduction of the fossil fuels share, developing nuclear and renewable energy, etc.) [L'Orange Seigo 2014]. Despite the relative novelty of this solution, some of its units have already been used in the industry of various countries, as pilot or even commercial projects (Figure 1).

Not all sources of carbon dioxide emissions are possible to adopt with CCS technology. About half of all CO₂ emissions, mostly originating from the combustion of fossil fuels (coal, gas, oil, etc.), the production of cement, oil and gas processing, as well as in the smelting of iron and steel [CCES 2014] are potentially suitable to capture.

Top countries in terms of CO₂ emissions volume are China, US, EU, India and Russia (Figure 2), where the major part of emissions occur due to the processing of coal and petroleum products [IEA 2015].

However, if the developed countries such as the United States (the emission was reduced by 10% in 2012 compared to 2000) and the EU (by 5%) conduct research activity in the field of CCS technologies, China, India and Russia, yet do not pay enough attention to this problem and do not reduce their emissions (emission in these countries doubled).

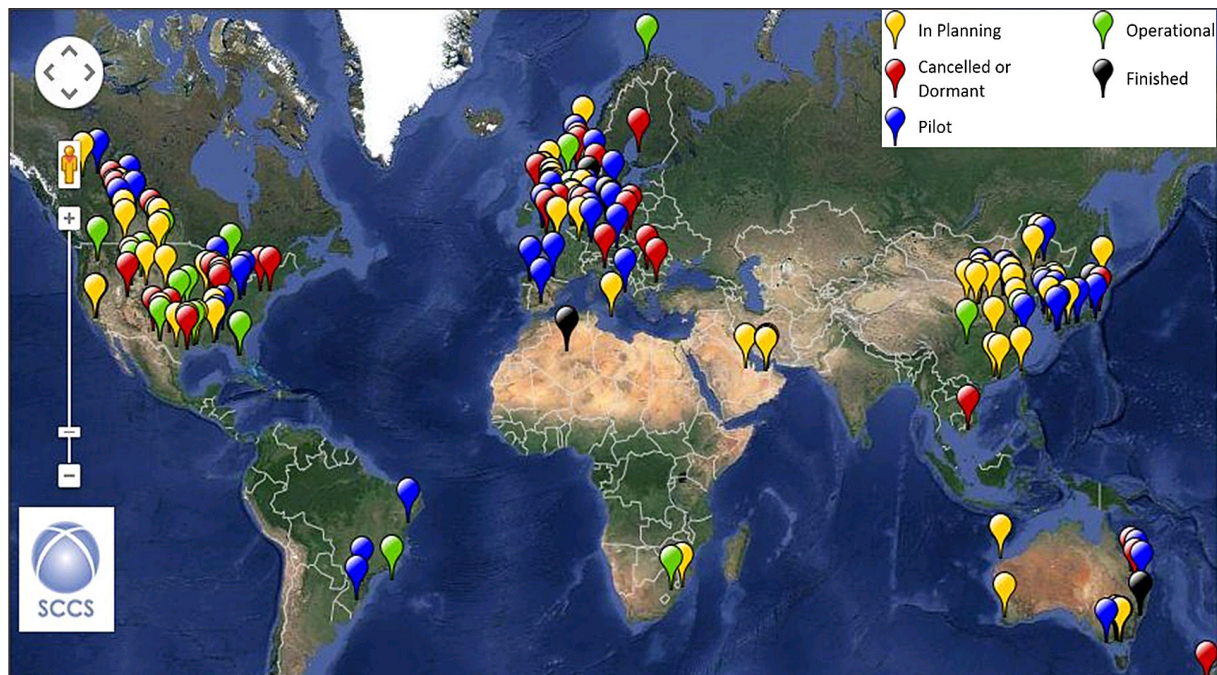


Figure 1. CSS projects map [SCCS 2016]

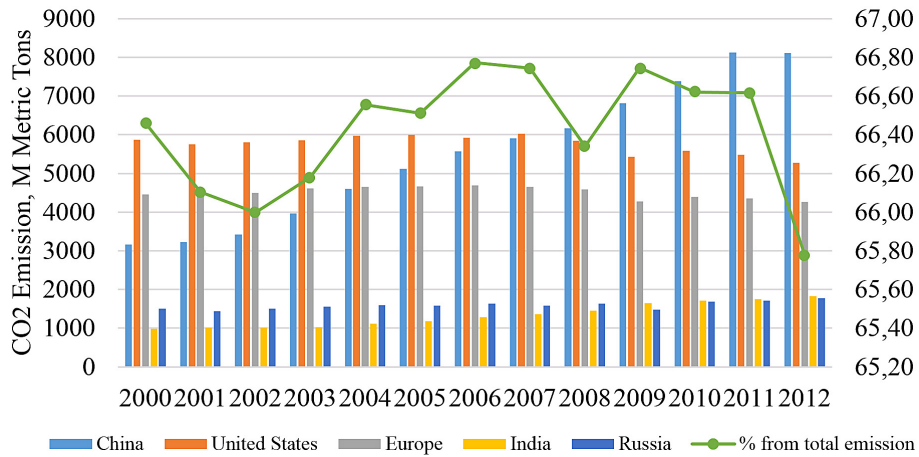


Figure 2. Top producers of CO₂ emissions [EIA 2012]

PERSPECTIVES OF CCS PROJECTS IMPLEMENTATION IN THE WORLD

CCS is a combination of separate technologies (Figure 3), which can be combined with each other to create a more flexible and efficient system in various industries [McFarland et al. 2003, Cherepovitsyn et al. 2013]. In connection with the novelty of CSS, there are various approaches to determining its value [IEA 2004, McKinsey 2008]. For example, according to the forecast of McKinsey [2008] experts, there are early stage demonstration projects (~ 2015), an early commercial stage (2020) and mature commercial stage (2030). The key differences between these phases, expressed in terms CCS unit cost per 1 tonne CO₂ (Table 2).

The most significant price reduction is expected in the CO₂ capture process due to imperfect modern technologies of traditional fuel and raw materials. However, research in the field of alternative use of raw fuel materials (for exam-

ple, coal [Maurstad et al. 2006, Holt 2003] and biomass [Rhodes and Keith 2003, Rhodes and Keith 2005, Gu and Bergman 2015] gasification), shows a high efficiency of the capture process and, therefore, lower cost technology. Thereby, today marks the launch of a number of CCS projects, which are described by Folger [2014]. However, there are no pilot projects or similar full-cycle CCS technologies in Russia.

Another important issue in the field of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and, consequently, increasing the commercial effectiveness of CSS project is the modernization of state tax policy. Morris and Mathur [2014] examine existing research focused on increasing tax rates on CO₂ emissions in the United States. The author highlights the approach [Morris 2013a], which allows to satisfy a number of sides interested in reducing the CO₂ emissions. The tax rate is proposed to be set at \$ 16 per ton of CO₂ emissions and increase it by 4% per year due to inflation.

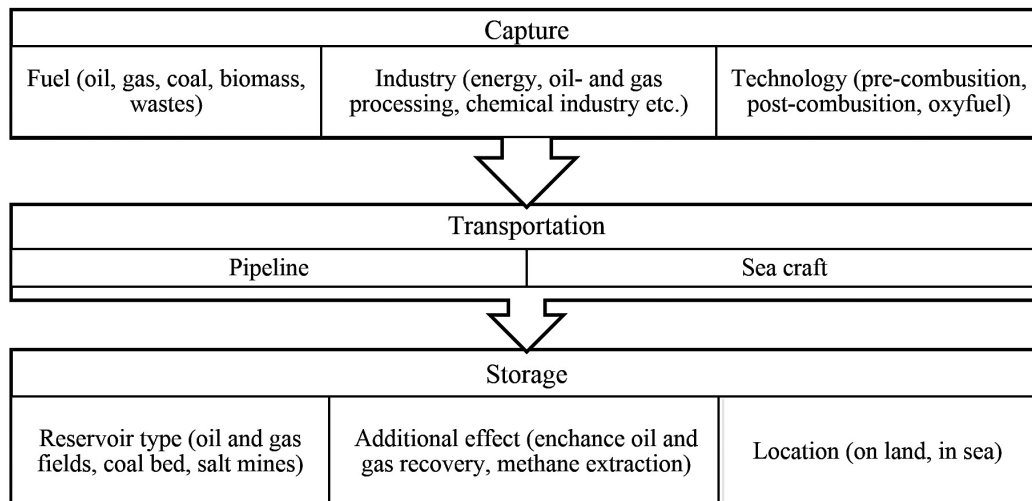


Figure 3. Scheme of CCS technology

Table 2. The forecast of CSS value at different stages, USD/t

CSS value	Demonstration projects	Early commercial stage	Mature commercial stage
Value of 1 t. emission reduction	60–90	35–50	30–45
Value of 1 t. CO ₂ capture	51–64	25–32	28–43

Withana et al. [2014] explored the existing tax system in the EU environment. The authors emphasize that the effectiveness of the tax system in European countries varies widely enough, and the average share of environmental charges in GDP amounted to 2.3% (in 2011). The highest tax rate for CO₂ emissions in all of Europe was introduced by Sweden (75 Euro/tonne CO₂) [Speck 2013].

The simulation results [Golombek et al. 2009] indicate that without the introduction of adequate tax on CO₂ emissions (at least 45\$/Metric ton CO₂) implementation of CCS projects in the energy sector in Europe (up to 2030) will be impossible.

The imperfection of modern technologies, as well as the absence of ongoing projects that implement the entire CSS process chain makes it difficult to develop common methods for their evaluation. However, some researchers [McFarland et al. 2003, Jacobson 2012, Mirfenderski 2008] obtained notable theoretical results. The authors of these studies agree on the fact that the estimate is approximate, and the fate of CCS will depend on the pace of technology development.

Thus, there is a growing interest in CCS issues in the world scientific literature. One of the exceptions is Russia, where the issues of such projects implementation are not considered yet, despite the fact that Russia is one of the top CO₂ emission producers in the world (Figure 2).

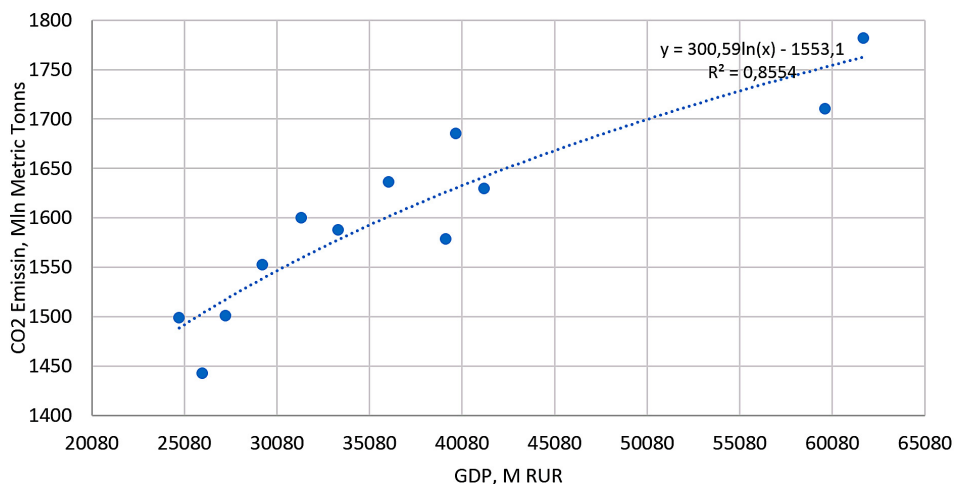
PAYBACK OF THE CCS PROJECTS

The feasibility of CCS projects is determined by the growth of industrial production [Keller et al. 2003], which can be expressed in terms of GDP (Figure 4).

As the base for Russian industry growth forecast, the data of the Ministry of the Russian Federation Economic Development was used [2013]. Based on the fact that the volume of emissions increases according to the mathematical relation indicated in Figure 4, the minimum presumptive CO₂ emissions in the range of 2016–2030 years was calculated.

Given the lack of factual data of the CCS projects functioning, the question of the effectiveness of their implementation is debatable. In this regard, a number of scientific periodicals [Greenpeace 2008, WWF 2011, IEA 2010, Van Egmond and Hekkert 2012, GCCSI 2009, IPCC 2012, Cherepovitsyn and Ilinsky 2011] were analyzed. It allowed identifying some arguments for and against the development of CCS, which are relevant for Russia.

The main driver for the development of CCS projects today is the tightening of the tax rates on CCS emissions. In addition, it is possible to store CO₂ into oil fields (the most effective direction for CO₂ use assessment according to McKinsey) that allows to increase the oil recovery factor, which can be an additional source of income

**Figure 4.** The relation between CO₂ emissions volume and GDP of Russia (2000–2012)

from the implementation of such projects. There are no taxes on CO₂ emissions in Russia, unlike in Europe and the US, moreover the structure of energy consumption to 2030 will be unchanged (Table 3). Given these facts, it was attempted to determine the required growth of oil extraction per 1 ton of injected CO₂ into the field to provide at least a break-even of the project.

The evaluation was based on information about JSC “Rosneft Oil Company” and JSC “Gazpromneft oil Company” best practice. The conversion of the ruble to the dollar was carried out at the rate of Central Bank of Russian Federation 02.06.2016 (1 USD = 77.34 RUR). The cost of oil transportation is taken equal to 5.7 USD/barrel [Gazprom oil Company 2015]. Price per 1 barrel – 34.13 USD (06/02/2016). Cost of oil production – 3 USD/barrel. [RBC 2016]. Thus, the maximum profit is 25.43 USD/barrel. The cost of 1 t. of CO₂ storage adopted on the basis of the minimum limits specified in Table 2.

ECOLOGICAL ASPECTS

The potential of CCS projects implementation is widely discussed on the world stage (Table 4). Despite the differences in opinions, there is no denying the fact that the preservation of ecology is one of basic principles of regions’ sustainable development, including the issue of CO₂ emissions raise. The relevance of this problem in Russia determines by the forecast of CO₂ emission volume (Figure 5) and by the absence of preconditions to changing of the country’s energy sources balance structure.

By 2030, CO₂ emissions in Russia will increase by 6.9–11.84%, whereas, for example, in Europe it is going to be reduced to 40% of emissions in relation to 1990 [European Commission 2014].

ECONOMICAL ASPECTS

CCS projects are capital-intensive and should not be implemented with the obligatory participa-

Table 3. Forecast of energy resources consumption in Russian Federation [Ministry of the Russian Federation Economic Development 2013]

Year	Cases	Energy sources, %				
		coal	oil	gas	hydro and nuclear energy	others
2020	1	15.1	19.2	52.2	12.5	1
	2	15.4	19–18.9	53.1–53.4	11.6–11.3	0.9–1
	3	15.4	19	54.2	10.4	1
2030	1	14.4	19.1	50.3	15.2	1
	2	14.1–13.9	18.7–18.5	52.5–52.7	13.7–13.8	1–1.1
	3	13.7	18	53.1	14.2	1

Table 4. Arguments in favor and against the implementation of CCS projects in Russia

In favor	Field	Against
There are industries without alternatives for CCS (cement manufacturing, steel industry, etc.)	Climate	CCS did not have time to reach the stage of maturity in time to solve the problem of global warming
CCS can prepare a platform for the transition to alternative energy		CCS diverts a significant amount of funds that can be directed to the development of alternative energy
Implementation of CCS will increase the life period of coal and gas energy plants	Energy	CCS significantly reduces industrial energy efficiency
CCS will reduce CO ₂ emissions without reducing industry growth	Technology	Given the huge amounts of emissions there may not be sufficient space for underground storage
All elements of CCS technologies have already been used on an industrial scale		Full CCS process is never used
There is additional effect from CCS use (enhance oil recovery, increase methane recovery, etc.).		CCS capture process is associated with the generation of waste
Russia should not miss the opportunity to trade on the carbon market	International relationship	Russia has no obligations under the second period of the Kyoto Protocol, and internal commitments to reduce emissions by 15–20% can be reached without implementation of the CCS projects
Russia has significant potential for CO ₂ storage	Economy	The cost of electricity will increase dramatically in the case of CCS implementation
Russian oil and gas infrastructure is well developed that will reduce the value of CCS projects		There is no guarantee that an additional effect (for example, enhanced oil recovery) will exceed the value of CCS projects

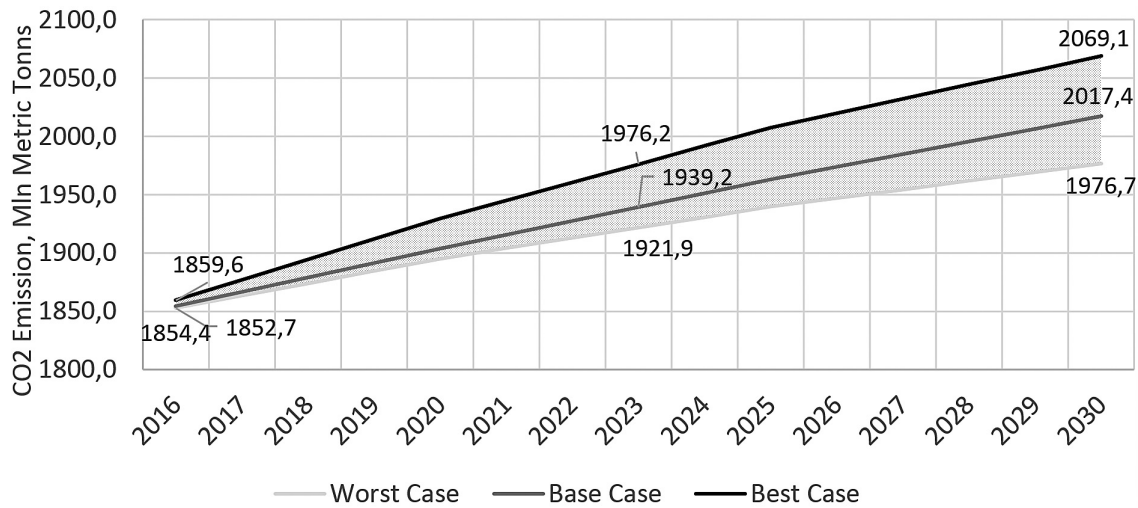


Figure 5. Forecast of Russian CO₂ emissions growth

tion of the state. This is possible only at the demonstration stage, in the future, such projects must have an economic effect. Due to this, the evaluation of such projects commercial effectiveness becomes relevant.

On the base of CCS value forecast [McKinsey 2008] and the analysis of the current situation in the oil markets an approximate estimate of the required oil production growth per 1 ton of stored into the field CO₂ was drawn (Figure 6).

The evaluation shows that the level of oil extraction required for the implementation of such projects is relatively high, but attainable. According to Shell [2016], the average amount of additional oil extraction in such projects is 1.8 barrels / 1 tonn of CO₂. For comparison, one of the most successful CCS projects to date – The Great Plains Synfuels Plant, where 1 t. CO₂ pumped into the field makes possible to extract 6.5 barrels

of oil [DGC 2008]. Lost Cabin Project – 2.117 barrels/1 t. CO₂ [ZERO 2016]. Weyburn-Midale project – 1.846 barrels/1 t. CO₂ [CCST 2016].

CONCLUSIONS

There are many discussions around the development and implementation of CCS technologies. The main arguments against CCS is inability to reduce CO₂ emissions to the required level in time and unavailability of a large-scale industrial implementation. Moreover, it is difficult to predict how large volumes of stored CO₂ will migrate in the underground space and how it will affect the global ecosystem after dozens and hundreds of years.

On the other hand, CCS technology will stimulate the growth of industrial energy efficiency

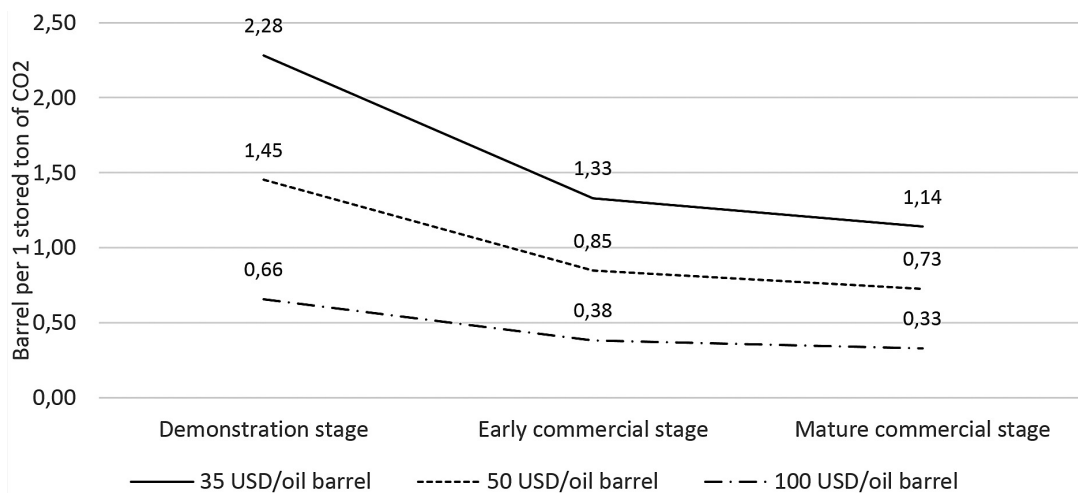


Figure 6. The required increase in barrels of oil per 1 ton of the stored CO₂

and increase the oil and gas recovery factor. Thus, it is possible to agree that CCS technology is the way to effective resource-saving. CCS is a kind of nature-like technology, which allows to reduce human pressure on the environment. The existence of successful demonstration projects in the world should also be noted.

Russia is one of the largest CO₂ emissions producers in the world. However, there are no CCS demonstration projects, no effective system of state support, no research supported by the real sector of economy, no adequate system of CO₂ emissions taxes. Current and forecasted CCS value makes it potentially effective when used for enhance Russian oil fields. In addition, studies in the field of biomass and coal gasification show the possibility of a significant increase in the efficiency of CO₂ capture process – the most expensive stage of the CCS projects. However, a need to take into account the fact that the implementation of CCS projects will lead to a substantial rise in the cost of electricity in Russia [Rubin 2005].

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