

What happens if the CO₂ does leak?

An extensive monitoring programme will play an important role during the life of a CO₂ storage project. The monitoring programme will monitor the CO₂ movement, detect any leakage and implement the remediation plans well before it can reach the surface and cause any potential harm. If CO₂ leakage were to be detected the site must be closed down, sealed with cement, which is a long established practice in the oil and gas industry. In order to prepare for the very unlikely event that some CO₂ does escape from the geological formation, extensive remediation plans will be developed and approved prior to injection, that detail how a leak will be stopped and how the impacts of the leak will be kept at a minimum.

Globally it has been proven that it is possible to store CO₂, other gases and fluid deep underground over a period of time spanning millions of years and this provides us with a good understanding of geologic conditions needed for secure storage for CCS. It however must be emphasized that to date, no instances of CO₂ leakage after injection into the storage formation, has been reported.