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CCS: faltering while Rome burns

THE IDEA OF CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE (CCS) AS A MEANS OF MITIGATING THE CO₂ EMISSIONS FROM BURNING FOSSIL FUELS HAS BEEN AROUND FOR A LONG TIME, AND REMAINS A CORNERSTONE OF IEA AND IPCC CARBON REDUCTION SCENARIOS. MEANWHILE A RECENT REPORT BY THE OXFORD INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY STUDIES (OIES) HAS HIGHLIGHTED CCS AS A KEY TECHNOLOGY TO SUPPORT A CONTINUING ROLE FOR NATURAL GAS IN A DECARBONISING WORLD. CCS TECHNOLOGY IS WELL KNOWN, BUT PROGRESS IMPLEMENTING IT IN THE POWER SECTOR HAS BEEN SLOW. THERE ARE ONLY TWO OPERATING POWER PLANTS USING CCS AND THE LACK OF REAL PROGRESS IS STARTING TO CALL INTO QUESTION THE IDEA THAT THE TECHNOLOGY WILL MAKE ANY MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTION TO THE SECTOR'S CARBON EMISSION REDUCTIONS FOR THE FORSEEABLE FUTURE. GAS MATTERS LOOKS AT THE OBSTACLES FACING CCS IN THE POWER SECTOR AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR GAS.

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