Dear Sir or Madame:

As an innovative clean energy company, Calera Corporation welcomes the opportunity to comment on DOE's QTR. Our comments are very simple: we urge the Department to use a technology-neutral approach to clean energy technologies, particularly carbon capture technologies.

Founded in 2007, Calera Corporation is a privately held company that is bringing to scale innovative carbon capture and conversion technology. In short, the Calera process uses raw flue gas from stationary sources including coal and natural gas-fired electric generating units, captures carbon dioxide and converts it into stable, solid or liquid carbonate forms. These carbonates can, in turn, be combined with abundant minerals such as calcium and magnesium to create marketable products, such as cementitious materials. As such, Calera technology holds promise not only as a carbon capture and storage technology, but as a means of providing a lower-emissions pathway to the production of industrial products such as cement. Finally, the Calera process captures not only carbon dioxide, but other regulated pollutants such as sulfur dioxide, acid gases, mercury and other metals.

The conventional wisdom assumes that the best means of reducing carbon dioxide emissions from power plants and other major stationary sources is to separate CO2 from the flue gas, transport it in a liquid form, and store it in geological formations. While DOE should support the continued development this method of carbon capture, it should not do so at the exclusion of other, more promising approaches, such as technologies that could convert the carbon to other more stable forms and/or utilize the carbon for a functional purpose or to make marketable products. If DOE's support of carbon capture technology is explicitly neutral as to the means of capturing emissions, then all viable innovation will be given a chance, and a suite of worthy technologies could be developed and applied in appropriate scenarios.

Another challenge to CCS deployment is demonstrating CO2 storage. This will require comprehensive characterization and monitoring of geologic CO2 storage sites and the ability to predict underground behavior, migration, and trapping of CO2 as well as a legal regime that addresses allocation of long term potential liabilities associated with storage. Injection of CO2 has long been used to enhance oil recovery.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to your worthy effort to assess and improve the Department's approach to technology development. Please contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Best regards,

Tom Carter
Vice President of Government Affairs
Calera Corporation
14600 Winchester Blvd.
Los Gatos CA 95032

Washington office: 202-210-2079