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Tenaska Tri-State CCS Hub Expected to Create Just 4 Permanent Jobs

Long-term employment impacts would be negligible in Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia economies

JOHNSTOWN, Pa. – Despite \$55 million in federal support and likely billions more in tax credits, the [Tenaska Tri-State CCS Hub](#) is expected to permanently employ a total of four people, according to an economic impact study commissioned and funded by the company and prepared by West Virginia University’s Bureau of Business and Economic Research.

Parent company Tenaska intends to develop, construct and operate 22 carbon injection well sites across six counties: Carroll, Jefferson, and Harrison Counties in Ohio; Greene and Washington Counties, Pennsylvania; and Hancock and Marshall Counties in West Virginia. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, Tenaska [submitted](#) two applications for carbon injection wells in Hancock County, West Virginia earlier this year. The agency is expected to issue its decisions on these wells by May 2026.

West Virginia University’s Bureau of Business and Economic Research report models the hub’s projected employment impacts using data provided by Tenaska. A fact sheet [published](#) by Tenaska in December 2023 claims that it will create “nearly 53 jobs” in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. However, this figure fails to distinguish between direct and indirect job creation, obscuring the fact that the economic report prepared for Tenaska estimates that the Tri-State CCS Hub is expected to permanently employ just four workers: two in Ohio and one each in Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

The Department of Energy allocated [\\$55 million](#) to the Tri-State CCS Hub in 2023, meaning that the public cost for this project already amounts to \$14 million a job. This figure does not account for the lucrative [\\$85 per metric ton](#) carbon storage tax credit available to Tenaska for operating these wells. Tenaska plans to store 5 million metric tons of carbon annually for thirty years, meaning that this project could receive \$425 million in tax credits annually and more than \$12 billion over the lifetime of the project. Nationally, the Department of Treasury [estimates](#) that companies could claim \$36.15 billion in carbon storage tax credits between 2024 and 2033, demonstrating the immense cost these storage projects could impose on taxpayers.

“The 52 total permanent direct and indirect jobs Tenaska’s economic impact study says the Tri-State CCS Hub will support across the three-state region could fit on a school bus,” explains **Sean O’Leary, Senior Researcher with the Ohio River Valley Institute**. And the four direct jobs the hub is expected to create barely amount to a blip in a three-state region that [employed more than 12 million people in 2023](#), according to the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages. It’s a reminder that this and many of the projects that are touted as key components of a new hydrogen and carbon capture economy have at best minimal economic development value.”

Table 8: Annual Operating Impact, Ohio Statewide

Impact Type	Direct Impact	Indirect & Induced Impact	Total Economic Impact
Output (\$, millions)	6.5	5.1	11.6
Employment (jobs)	2.0	24.5	26.5
Labor Income (\$, million)	0.3	1.7	2.0
Select Tax Revenue (\$, thousands)	-	-	875.1

Notes: Output, labor income, and tax revenue are presented in 2023 dollars. Tax revenue impact includes sales, personal income, corporation net income, and property taxes.

Table 10: Annual Operating Impact, Pennsylvania Statewide

Impact Type	Direct Impact	Indirect & Induced Impact	Total Economic Impact
Output (\$, millions)	1.6	1.4	3.1
Employment (jobs)	1.0	6.7	7.7
Labor Income (\$, millions)	0.2	0.6	0.8
Select Tax Revenue (\$, thousands)	-	-	276.4

Notes: Output, labor income, and tax revenue are presented in 2023 dollars. Tax revenue impact includes sales, personal income, corporation net income, and property taxes.

Table 12: Annual Operating Impact, West Virginia Statewide

Impact Type	Direct Impact	Indirect & Induced Impact	Total Economic Impact
Output (\$, millions)	3.8	2.5	6.3
Employment (jobs)	1.0	13.2	14.2
Labor Income (\$, millions)	0.2	0.8	1.0
Select Tax Revenue (\$, millions)	-	-	438.2

Notes: Output, labor income, and tax revenue are presented in 2023 dollars. Tax revenue impact includes sales, personal income, corporation net income, and property taxes.

Source: *The Economic Impact of the Tri-State Carbon Capture and Storage Hub in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia*

During the construction phase, Tenaska is expected to directly employ an annual average of 1,080 short-term construction workers. The report notes that “not all of these workers will be employed on site for the entire year, as is the nature of the construction industry.”

In southwestern Pennsylvania, [alternative investments](#) in energy efficiency and distributed generation would generate thousands of jobs and curb power sector emissions by 97% by midcentury at a total cost 13% lower than investment in blue hydrogen and carbon capture technologies, modeling shows. The technology used to capture carbon for injection is [inordinately expensive](#) and [has yet to be commercially demonstrated](#) at scale, and carbon injection and storage poses “material ongoing risks that may ultimately negate some or all the benefits it seeks to create,” [according](#) to the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis.

Difficulties with [industry-leading carbon storage pilot projects in Norway](#) “cast doubt on whether the world has the technical prowess, strength of regulatory oversight, and unwavering multi-decade commitment of capital and resources needed to keep carbon dioxide permanently sequestered underground.”

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