



CoEE INVESTOR SPOTLIGHT: SANTEE COOPER



In 2007, South Carolina's largest producer of electricity, Santee Cooper, announced a major investment in the state's Centers of Economic Excellence (CoEE) Program. Together with the Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina, the utility is providing \$5 million for the Strategic Environmental Approaches to Electricity Production from Coal Center at the University

of South Carolina. At this Center, scientists are finding new, environmentally friendly ways to produce electricity from coal.

Why would a major utility invest millions in the CoEE Program? Below, Santee Cooper Senior Vice President Jim Brogdon weighs in on some of the reasons.



Jim Brogdon

Why did Santee Cooper invest in the CoEE Program?

Jim Brogdon: As the state's leading electricity provider, Santee Cooper takes seriously our responsibility to spearhead initiatives to help us balance the demand for electricity with our environmental responsibilities. Approximately half of our country's electrical needs are met by coal-fired generation, and we must find a way to continue utilizing this affordable domestic energy resource with minimal impact on our environment. Carbon sequestration or removal technology will be essential as we move forward. Santee Cooper wants to be a part of the solution.

As a state agency, Santee Cooper is equally committed to a better South Carolina, and we appreciate the ability to invest in a CoEE Program and perform cutting-edge research that could also create new jobs and other opportunities within our state.

How do you believe Santee Cooper will benefit from this investment?

Brogdon: Santee Cooper doesn't have its own research and development department, and investing in a CoEE Program allowed us the opportunity to maximize our resources by partnering with similarly focused experts who are charged with discovering new technologies that will be critical as we prepare to meet South Carolina's future energy needs. We are looking at the carbon emission questions, and we are looking at efficiencies that can help us use less coal per megawatt-hour, such as improvements in the units and transmission systems.

Like many Southeastern utilities, Santee Cooper is heavily invested in coal-fired generation. The increasing likelihood of expensive carbon regulation only underscores how important this research is for us, and ultimately for all of our customers.

What do you see as the potential long-term advantages of investing in the CoEE Program?

Brogdon: We expect this investment to accelerate research in environmental control technology that will maximize the economic benefits of coal-generated electricity and ensure the continued availability of low-cost, reliable power to current and new industrial, commercial, and residential customers. That is a win for our entire country.

Additionally, the CoEE's work should be a catalyst for spin-off economic development. Santee Cooper's mission is to be the state's leading resource for improving the lives of all South Carolinians, and this investment will help us achieve that goal.



About the CoEE Program

Established by the S.C. General Assembly in 2002, the South Carolina Centers of Economic Excellence Program receives an appropriation from S.C. Education Lottery funds to help Clemson University, the Medical University of South Carolina, and the University of South Carolina create Centers of Economic Excellence (CoEE) in research areas that will advance South Carolina's economy and lead to high-paying jobs. The program also provides funding for CoEE endowed chairs, world-renowned scientists recruited to South Carolina to lead the Centers. Every dollar the state invests must be matched dollar-for-dollar with non-state funds from companies, philanthropies, or federal agencies.

For details on how your company can benefit by investing in the CoEE Program, please use the following contact information:

Clemson University

Dr. Chris Przirembel

Vice President for Research and Economic Development

864.656.7701 or cprzmb1@clemson.edu

University of South Carolina

Dr. Christine W. Curtis

Senior Vice Provost

803.777.2808 or curtisch@mailbox.sc.edu

Medical University of South Carolina

Dr. John Raymond

Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

843.792.3031 or raymondj@musc.edu

www.sccoee.org