

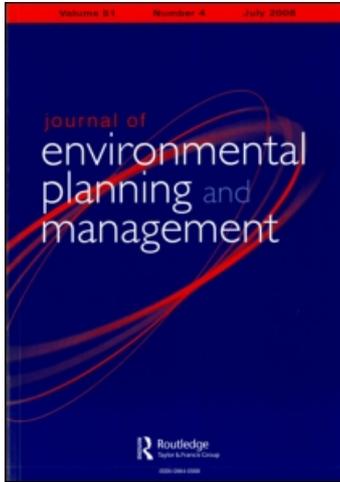
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### An economic and environmental assessment of carbon capture and storage (CCS) power plants: a case study for the City of Kiel

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## An economic and environmental assessment of carbon capture and storage (CCS) power plants: a case study for the City of Kiel

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In the not too distant future several power plants throughout Europe will have to be replaced and the decision has to be made whether to build coal-fired power plants with carbon capture and storage (CCS). In a study for the city of Kiel in northern Germany only an 800 MW coal power plant reaches a required minimum for rentability. This study looks at an additional economic and environmental evaluation of a coal plant with CCS. We find that in two out of three carbon and energy price scenarios integrated gasification combined cycle (IGCC) plants with CCS have the greatest rentability. Pulverised coal (PC) plants with CCS can only compete with other options under very favourable assumptions. Life-cycle emissions from CCS are less than 70% of a coal plant – compared with at least more than 80% when only considering direct emissions from plants. However, life-cycle emissions are lower than in any other assessed option.

**Keywords:** coal-fired power plants; carbon capture and storage (CCS); cash flow analysis; life cycle analysis

### 1. Introduction

In the past few years the emerging technology of carbon capture and storage (CCS) – that is capture of CO<sub>2</sub> before or after the combustion of fossil fuels and its subsequent storage in geological formations or the ocean – has received increasing attention as one means to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and to mitigate global warming.

CCS is seen not only as a potentially cheap option with high reduction potentials. It would also allow the continued use of coal, which is the most abundant and cheap fossil fuel, currently providing approximately 40% of global electricity generation (IEA 2008). CCS could be applied to coal-fired power plants, and thus be integrated into the existing fossil fuel infrastructure relatively quickly and serve as a mitigation option with an immediate impact (Lackner and Sachs 2005). In many studies (e.g. Lecoq and Chomitz 2001, Gerlagh and van der Zwaan 2006, IPCC 2007, Stern 2007, Narita 2008, van der Zwaan and Gerlagh 2008) analysing pathways to reach a

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stabilisation of GHG concentrations in the atmosphere, CCS plays an important role – either as an interim solution until other options become economically and technological available, or also in the longer term. At the same time, there are concerns about the risks associated with CCS (see e.g. IPCC 2007 for an overview) and about the overall sustainability of this technology. Integration of CCS in the energy sector could decelerate the transition process towards an energy mix based solely on renewable resources. Furthermore, power plants with CCS have a higher energy demand than plants without CCS, and when considering the entire lifecycle of a CCS plant the emission reductions are less pronounced.

With the negotiations for an international climate regime as a follow-up of the Kyoto Protocol that expires in 2012, and with the increased public awareness of the potential effects of global warming as a result of recent flood events, heat spells and hurricanes, the debate about the role of CCS and necessary policy support has gained momentum. In addition, there are an increasing number of R&D activities, pilot and demonstration plants and storage projects evolving, as well as activities to develop congruent regulatory frameworks worldwide (see e.g. Praetorius and Schumacher 2008). Besides the necessary technological knowledge and a regulatory framework, strong economic incentives are needed to bring CCS to the market. At present, major institutional impulses for CCS originate from the EU Commission (European Commission 2008). CCS is also increasingly on the agenda of power companies and local politicians because in the next few years several power plants throughout Europe have to be replaced. For power companies and plant owners the main question is the likely rentability of a new power plant that depends on many – partially highly uncertain – variables with regard to cost and revenue. Assumptions on investment costs, carbon prices, fuel prices, electricity demand and their future development strongly affect the optimal plant type and size.

A typical case where currently a decision has to be made about a new power plant is the city of Kiel in northern Germany, where a coal-fired power plant is coming close to the end of its life span. In 2007, external experts were assigned to evaluate options for a new power plant with regard to profitability and the impact on the environment. Out of the evaluated six options that include coal-fired power plants of different capacities (800MW and 360 MW, respectively), a combined gas and steam power plant, a multi-fuel power plant and a decentralised option, only the large 800 MW coal power plant reached the minimum rentability set by the municipality (see Freischlad *et al.* 2008). After a somewhat heated discussion, the recommendation was to postpone the decision until the uncertainties about CCS have decreased and then to seriously consider building a coal-fired power plant with CCS. However, the profitability of such a plant was not assessed. Meanwhile, it has emerged that the political will may be against the option of a coal power plant.

In this paper we use the study by Freischlad *et al.* (2008) for an additional economic and environmental evaluation of a coal power plant with CCS. Comparing the profitability and emissions of the different options for a coal power plant with CCS with the options already evaluated in Freischlad *et al.* will shed light on the current incentives and the relevant trade-offs. For (inter)national policy makers concerned with the role of CCS in climate policy, the study provides information on whether current climate policies and anticipated carbon prices are already sufficient for CCS plants to be built, or whether additional incentives and regulations are needed if CCS should be considered to play an important role in order to reach

ambitious climate targets. For local policy makers, the study helps to identify the trade-offs between profitability and environmental friendliness in a broader setting.

Our main results show that integrated gasification combined cycle (IGCC) plants equipped with CCS in all scenarios are either the first or the second choice when maximising the net present value (NPV). Even in the first scenario where the 800 MW coal-fired power plant has the highest NPV, an IGCC plant reaches the minimum profitability. These results are mostly not affected by the cost uncertainties for building an IGCC plant. Only very unfavourable cost assumptions lead to a small negative NPV. The life cycle assessment shows that an IGCC plant with CCS is also an option that leads to low life-cycle CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, even though emission reductions are less than for direct emissions. Finally, building a CCS plant from the start is clearly preferable to retrofitting a plant, with regard to profitability as well as life-cycle emissions.

The study proceeds as follows. Sections 2 to 4 summarise background information about relevant literature, the situation in Kiel and the CCS technology. Sections 5 and 6 contain the economic and environmental analysis of different options of coal-fired power plants with CCS in Kiel. The economic analysis is based on a cash flow analysis and focuses on the NPV. The environmental assessment contains a life cycle analysis for different environmental impact categories. Section 7 concludes.

## **2. Literature review**

Several authors have addressed the potential role of CCS for achieving specific GHG reduction obligations. The majority of them start from a certain reduction target. For example, Gerlagh and van der Zwaan (2006) and van der Zwaan and Gerlagh (2008) see CCS as a suitable option to achieve quick emission reductions in the first half of the twenty-first century when coal will continue to be the dominant form of energy supply worldwide. In order to reach a stabilisation target of 450ppmv, however, at least half of the energy system should consist of renewable sources by the year 2100. Lecoq and Chomitz (2001) stress the importance of the permanency of carbon sequestration. If storage is shown to be non-permanent, then CCS would be a cost-effective option only if energy abatement costs are high, and the damage of climate change is significant (see Lecoq and Chomitz 2001, p. 23). Carbon sequestration would then pose a solution to bridge the time until energy from renewable resources becomes affordable.

In his extensive review on the economics of climate change, Stern (2007) argues that carbon storage could increase up to 6 Gt CO<sub>2</sub> in 2050, and pose an important element together with energy efficiency improvements, biofuels and solar-, wind- and hydropower. The IPCC has estimated that CCS has the potential for sequestering up to 2000 Gt CO<sub>2</sub>, an amount representing the total global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of several decades (IPCC 2005). Narita (2008) analyses the optimal use of CCS under two sets of assumptions. In one parameterisation CCS implementation would occur only by the middle of the century, while in the other, CCS should be implemented immediately. The implication for policy making is that if CCS becomes cost-effective rather late in time, the technology will remain a niche technology, while the latter assumptions support a strong policy for the wide implementation of CCS immediately. The Wuppertal Institute (2008) analyses the role of CCS technology reaching a 75% GHG emissions reduction by 2050 (compared to the 1990s level) in the German energy sector by developing three scenarios. In the first scenario with

CCS as the main instrument, the technology would run towards a capacity limit. In the second scenario, improvements in energy efficiency and the extension of renewable energy would play the dominant role. In the third scenario, CCS is used as a support tool for improved efficiency and renewable energy. Energy efficiency and infrastructure for renewable energy could be improved until the year 2020, while at the same time the opportunity is given to explore the development and cost potentials of CCS thoroughly and without pressure of time.

Studies similar to ours are those by Rubin *et al.* (2005), Sekar *et al.* (2007) and Bohm (2006). Rubin *et al.* (2005) evaluate the cost and performance of power plants equipped with CCS using the Integrated Environmental Control Model (IECM) to estimate costs and emissions, as well as the efficiency and resource requirement of current CCS technologies. The analysis is for pulverised coal (PC) plants, natural gas combined cycle (NGCC) plants, and integrated gasification combined cycle (IGCC) plants using coal. In particular, the effect of increases in capital cost for these three plant types, as well as variations in plant sizes, are examined. Rubin *et al.* (2005) conclude that cost of electricity is lower for PC plants without capture, while the cost of current IGCC plants with CCS are lowest: total capital requirements for PC plants with CCS are calculated at 2345 \$/kw, while IGCC plants with CCS have a capital requirement of 2076 \$/kw, showing that IGCC plants could be an attractive option for the investor, if CCS technology becomes mandatory. Output loss (capacity derating) is significantly higher with PC plants (23.9%) than with IGCC plants (13.4%).

Sekar *et al.* (2007) calculate the NPV of IGCC and PC plants in different carbon tax scenarios for the United States. Power plants are due to be constructed in 2010, and retrofitted with a capture unit four years later. Cost assumptions are similar to Rubin *et al.* (2005): Capital cost requirements of an IGCC plant with CCS are only US\$987 million, compared to US\$1258 million for a PC plant with CCS. The latter shows annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of 0.38 million tonnes, and IGCC plant emissions of 0.31 million tonnes. Without carbon taxation the NPV for the PC plant is US\$2000.4 million and for the IGCC plant it is US\$1679.5 million. If the carbon tax rate is growing at less than 4% per year, IGCC plants become more profitable once the tax exceeds US\$23.27/t CO<sub>2</sub>. If the tax rate grows at a higher rate, the switch point occurs earlier, at approximately US\$13.71/tCO<sub>2</sub>.

Bohm (2006) and Bohm *et al.* (2007) estimate the NPV of PC and IGCC plants with differing levels of pre-investment for CO<sub>2</sub> capture in different carbon tax scenarios and determine the optimal year for a retrofit. They find that PC plants have the highest NPV under low carbon prices, and IGCC plants have the highest NPV at higher CO<sub>2</sub> prices (initial price of about US\$22/t CO<sub>2</sub>, growth rate of 2%). A retrofit for PC plants would only occur if the initial CO<sub>2</sub> price was US\$35/t CO<sub>2</sub>, whereas for IGCC plants a retrofit could be economical at an initial price of US\$20/t CO<sub>2</sub>.

Our study uses the results of the cost estimates of these existing studies to assess the net present value of a coal plants with capture technology in Kiel. While the studies by Bohm *et al.* (2007) and Sekar *et al.* (2007) focus only on CCS plants and assess the optimality of different plant types under different carbon prices, this study takes a wider approach. Besides the cost for carbon capture we also consider transport and storage costs. Furthermore, CCS plants are also compared to other options, and finally, the evaluation is intended to be an integrated environmental and economic evaluation with a stronger focus on environmental impacts.

### 3. The situation in Kiel

This study discusses the replacement of an ageing coal-fired power plant in the city of Kiel, and carbon capture and storage technology is used as a supporting argument for building a coal-fired power plant again. The existing plant has a net output capacity of 323 mega watts (MW) and covers 35% of Kiel's heat energy demand. In 2007, the local municipality initiated a report to evaluate options for a possible replacement of the power plant. Potential successors were assessed by their profitability and environmental impact. Profitability for the plant owner was analysed in three scenarios, each underlying different assumptions for future trajectories of CO<sub>2</sub> permit prices, fuel prices and power revenues. As requested by the municipality, six plant options were evaluated: an 800 MW, as well as a 360 MW power plant fired with black coal; a 400 MW natural gas and steam power plant combined or not combined with a 360 MW coal power plant; a 280 MW multi-fuel power plant, consisting of coal and biomass-firing (hay) plus a 70 MW gas turbine; and finally, a decentralised option consisting of a 100 MW natural gas and steam power plant, a 4 MW block heat and power plant (BHPP), 30 MW geothermal energy and a 40 MW biomass power plant.

The final report (Freischlad *et al.* 2008) finds that the 800 MW coal-fired plant is the most economical choice in all scenarios. The municipality defined an internal return of investment or internal rate of return of 6.5% as the minimum level of profitability. The coal options exceed this level in all scenarios. Returns of the other options fall below this level, except for the scenario with high permit prices and high fuel prices (for a detailed overview see Freischlad *et al.* 2008, p. 150). On the downside, total greenhouse gas emissions of the coal-fired plant are between 20% and 40% higher compared to the other options. Here, the natural gas and steam power plant solution shows the lowest overall greenhouse gases emissions, followed by the decentralised option.

CCS is mentioned in the report as a possible option for a newly-built coal-fired power plant in the expected starting year of 2014. The retrofit of a plant with CCS will probably play a key role in Kiel, which could become attractive for the plant owner in case of very stringent climate policies implying a high permit price. Investment costs for retrofitting are calculated at 300–400 \$/kW (Freischlad *et al.* 2008). The recommendation of Freischlad *et al.* (2008) included a delay in the decision over a plant successor for another three to five years. It is assumed that by then more reliable assumptions could be made about technological progress in CCS, the cost of the technology, fuel and permit prices, as well as about the implementation of relevant political decisions.

### 4. CCS technologies

Carbon dioxide capture and storage (CCS) is a greenhouse gas mitigation option in which CO<sub>2</sub>, released from the combustion of fossil- or biomass-based fuel, is captured and sequestered in suitable storage sites. During the capture of the flue gas, CO<sub>2</sub> must be separated from other gases present and can then be transported to the site where it is stored away from the atmosphere (IPCC 2005).

CO<sub>2</sub> can be captured from fossil-fuelled streams using three basic systems: post-combustion capture, pre-combustion capture and capture via oxyfuel combustion. Important characteristics of the different options are summarised in Table 1. A plant

owner has the option to build a power plant with the capture system already installed, or to first erect a power plant and install the capture system at a later date. This is referred to as 'retrofitting' a plant (Bohm *et al.* 2007). Technically, all capture systems can be retrofitted. In addition, the plant owner has the option to invest in pre-designing certain components of the power plant so that a retrofit later saves costs and improves the overall performance of the retrofitted plant.

At present, the primary focus in research and development of CCS is on a cost reduction of the technology and an improvement of the feasibility of the entire process chain from capture to storage. There is a great deal of uncertainty when CCS will be applicable on a large scale and will become commercially viable. While the majority of studies assume CCS to be commercially viable no earlier than 2020 (IPCC 2005, Wuppertal Institute 2008), the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) is less optimistic and does not see CCS being viable before the year 2030 (WBCSD 2006). In contrast, many leading power companies have a more optimistic stance on this issue and assume the technology will be available as early as 2015.

Concerning transportation, CO<sub>2</sub> is primarily transported via pipelines, but could also be moved by tank trucks, ships or even on railroad systems. For our case study transportation via pipelines is considered. For this purpose, CO<sub>2</sub> is required to be in a gaseous state, dried and under high pressure. A great deal of experience exists regarding the transport of carbon dioxide via this method.

A summary of opportunities to store carbon dioxide is given in Table 2. The indicated storage depth presents a range in which storage has been shown to be most feasible (IPCC 2005). The global capacity range reflects a summary of several assessment studies. Results shown are based on assessment methods that decrease in accuracy with increasing size and number of storage basins.

Table 1. Comparison of capture options.

	Post-combustion capture	Pre-combustion capture	Oxyfuel combustion capture
Energy demand	medium	low	high
Experience with CCS	few pilot plants exist	low, pilot plants planned	not existing in context with CCS
CO <sub>2</sub> capture efficiency	low	medium	high
possibility to retrofit	generally possible	generally possible	generally possible

Table 2. Geological storage options (after IPCC, 2005).

Geological storage options for	Storage depth (km)	On-/offshore	Global capacity (Gt CO <sub>2</sub> )
Depleted oil and gas reservoirs	0.8–2	both	675–900
Use in enhanced oil recovery	0.6–2	both	61–123
Saline aquifers	0.8–2	both	1.000–10.000
Deep unmineable coal seams	0.6–1	onshore	3–200
Use in enhanced coal bed methane recovery	0.4–0.8	onshore	not assessed
Storage in basalts, oil shales, cavities	0.6–1	onshore	not assessed

Based on calculations from depth, pressure and temperature of fields, storage potential for north-west Europe is estimated at 40 Gt CO<sub>2</sub> (Wildenborg *et al.* 2005). For Germany, May *et al.* (2005) assessed the storage capacity in saline aquifers and found it ranged from 12–28 Gt CO<sub>2</sub>.

In the case of the power plant in Kiel, we assume a pipeline construction of 100–150 km to a sediment basin located in north-west Schleswig-Holstein (Nordfriesland). The basin shows characteristics of a saline aquifer and could potentially serve as a suitable storage site. A research group at the University of Kiel is currently investigating the feasibility for sequestering CO<sub>2</sub> (Dahmke 2008).

## 5. Economic evaluation of a CCS plant

The economic and also the following environmental evaluation is undertaken for three plant types: an IGCC plant with pre-combustion, a pulverised coal plant with post-combustion and a pulverised coal plant with oxy-fuel combustion capture technology. For the first two plant types the retrofitting of capture technologies is also possible and therefore evaluated.

### 5.1. Methodology and cost assumptions

As in Bohm (2006), Bohm *et al.* (2007), Sekar *et al.* (2007) and Freischlad *et al.* (2008), we perform a cash flow and net present value (NPV) analysis for the different plant types. For all plant types we assume a lifetime of 45 years. The calculations are based on the cash flow analysis of Freischlad *et al.* for an 800 MW coal-fired power plant in different scenarios. The assumptions for this base plant are summarised in Table 3. As a first step, the analysis is extended to the described CCS plants. In a second step, the option to retrofit a PC or IGCC plant is analysed. We calculate the earliest year for the installation of a capture unit such that the NPV is positive, and analyse how the NVP develops for later retrofit dates. The earliest year for which we analyse a retrofit is 2020.

To derive the costs of an IGCC plant we assume a 5% increase in investment costs between the PC base plants and the IGCC plants based on a survey by Sekar *et al.* (2007). Cost assumptions for plants equipped with post-combustion, pre-combustion or oxyfuel capture technology are derived from studies discussed in the IPCC Special Report on CCS (2005). Capture technologies affect certain key cost components of plants described in Table 3.

The analysis of cost differences between coal-fired plants and CCS plants can be concentrated on investment costs required for the capture unit, increased fuel costs due to a higher energy demand, plant derating and related decrease of power revenue, as well as annual costs for transport and storage. We derive average values for the additional costs from Gray and Tomlinson (2002), IEA GHG (2004), IPCC (2005), Rubin *et al.* (2005), and Parsons (2002). Costs for retrofitting are adopted from Bohm *et al.* (2007) and Sekar *et al.* (2007). Retrofitting power plants with capture units decreases the performance of plants more than capture units that are integrated from the start. In particular, Bohm finds that fuel requirements increase approximately 29% after retrofitting PC coal plants, and 22% after retrofitting IGCC plants, as opposed to 25% and 20% respectively for plants with a capture unit installed initially (Bohm 2006, p. 79).

Table 3. Economic parameters of base plant used in this study.

Parameter	Value
Investment costs base plant	1040 M€
Specific investment costs Kiel	112.5 M€
Lifetime of plant	45 a
Depreciation	35 a
Variable production costs	technology specific
Staff costs	95 employees a 75 t€
Administration and overhead costs	1.6 M€/a
Escalation factor staff	0.5%/a real
Escalation factor others	1%/a real
Revenues, other	1.6 M€ /a
Maintenance costs	1.5% of investment cost
Insurance costs	0.5% of investment costs
Discount rate	6.5%

Source: Freischlad *et al.* (2008).

In addition, plants experience a stronger derating after the retrofit. For PC power plants a derating of 30% of the output capacity of the base plants can be expected, respectively 18% for IGCC plants.

Investment costs for the capture unit are, however, similar regardless of whether they are retrofitted, or installed initially. For a plant retrofit we assume that during the necessary construction the existing plant is shut down for one year. The loss in heat revenue during that year is made up by the other available plant options in the region around Kiel.

Costs for transport and storage can be separated into one-time investment costs and annual (variable) costs. We assume transportation of CO<sub>2</sub> by pipeline for 100 km to a storage site in Nordfriesland. Hendricks *et al.* (2004) show that transport costs vary depending on the diameter and length of the pipe, as well as the mass flow rate. We assume medium values. Average investment costs from the studies by Hendricks *et al.* (2003), Chandler (2000) and IEA GHG (2002) are 0.44 M€/km. Annual transportation costs are, following IEA GHG (2002), assumed to be 1.2 M€ for a post-combustion plant, 1.9 M€ for an IGCC plant, and 1.6 M€ for an oxy-fuel plant. True transportation costs will probably deviate slightly, because of region specific cost factors that might affect the pipeline route, such as highways, proximity to property etc. Costs are also expected to increase if protests cause a delay in construction.

Storage costs are region specific, increase with increasing storage depth and vary with the geological storage medium. We assume storage in a saline aquifer in Nordfriesland. Costs are adopted from Hendricks *et al.* (2004), who propose a range of storage costs from US\$1.9/tCO<sub>2</sub> to US\$6.2/tCO<sub>2</sub>, with a mid range value of US\$2.8/tCO<sub>2</sub> in Europe. One time investment costs for storage are assumed to be 12.4 M€. Again, these numbers are most likely to differ slightly due to region specific issues. Annual storage costs are estimated to be 11 M€ for a PC coal-fired plant.

Table 4 summarises the assumptions for the cash flow analysis. Values in brackets give the range of values in the different studies, i.e. minimum and maximum values found in the literature.

## 5.2. Scenarios and sensitivity analysis

Costs of power plants are evaluated for three scenarios with different paths of relevant variables. We use the same three scenarios as described by Freischlad *et al.* (2008) which assume that the key parameters CO<sub>2</sub> permit price, fuel price and power revenue to the plant owner behave as described in Table 5 and rise more or less linearly from 2015 to 2050. The paths for power revenues are dependent on the spot market development for electricity prices, which again are influenced by the future groupings of the energy portfolio in Germany. Permit prices for carbon

Table 4. Investment costs, revenues, variable and fixed costs of all CCS plant options.

	PC-fired plant Post-combustion	PC-fired plant Oxyfuel technology	IGCC plant Pre-combustion
Capacity after derating (MW)	709 (640–720)	624 (584–648)	750 (728–760)
Investment costs New plant (M€)	1040	1396.6 (1211–1653.5)	1092 (1040–1144)
Capture unit (M€)	530.4 (495.2–565.6)	655 (647–663)	404 (385.2–423.8)
Transport costs (M€)	44 41–48	44 41–48	44 41–48
Storage costs (M€)	12.4 (9.8–15)	12.4 (9.8–15)	12.4 (9.8–15)
Revenues (% of BP)			
Power revenue	88	77	93
Heat revenue	88 (80–90)	77 (73–81)	93 (91–95)
Variable costs (% of BP)			
Fuel (black coal)	125 (120–130)	125 (120–130)	120 (113.4–126.6)
Operating costs	151	151	132
Fixed costs			
Annual transport (M€)	1.2 (1.1–1.3)	1.9 (1.78–2.02)	1.6 (1.44–1.76)
Annual storage (M€)	11 (9.6–12.4)	12.48 (9.2–15.8)	11.6 (10.2–13)
CO <sub>2</sub> reduction (% of BP)	84 (80–88)	95 (90–100)	90 (85–95)

Table 5. Price range of scenario indicators used throughout this study.

Indicator Unit	CO <sub>2</sub> permit price (€/tCO <sub>2</sub> )	Fuel price (€/Mwh)	Power revenue (€/Mwh)
Scenario 1 (reference)	23–30.5	7.5–11.33	62–77
Scenario 2	28–85	7.5–11.33	65–90
Scenario 3	28–85	22.5–34	120–201

dioxide are influenced by the applied mitigation strategy in Germany. Scenarios 2 and 3 represent an ambitious mitigation strategy, in which the total allowable emissions are reduced accordingly. The grouping in scenario 3 of high fuel prices and high permit prices results in an increase in power revenues (Freischlad *et al.* 2008).

In addition to varying CO<sub>2</sub> and fuel prices and power revenues, we also undertake a sensitivity analysis with respect to our cost assumptions for CCS plants. For this, we calculate the NPV under two extreme assumptions where we either always take the highest costs and derating that we could find in literature or the lowest. This sheds some light on the effects of the large cost uncertainties of CCS plants.

### 5.3. Results

Our initial enquiry was to compare the different CCS technologies to other power generating options discussed for the city of Kiel in the three scenarios. Figure 1 shows a comparison of the NPV for all options. The values for options 1 (800 MW coal plant) and 5–9 are taken from Freischlad *et al.* (2008). Options 2, 3 and 4 are the different types of CCS plants. The bar shows the NPV for our best-guess cost assumptions. The lines show the variation in the sensitivity analysis.

A number of conclusions can be drawn regarding the optimality of CCS plants. Among the different available technologies for carbon capture, pre-combustion capture applied to an IGCC plant is the most economical choice in scenarios 1–3. IGCC plants with a capture unit experience the lowest decrease in efficiency factors compared to the other two capture technologies. They thus need the least fuel. This is particularly shown in scenario 3, which includes a fuel price trajectory about three

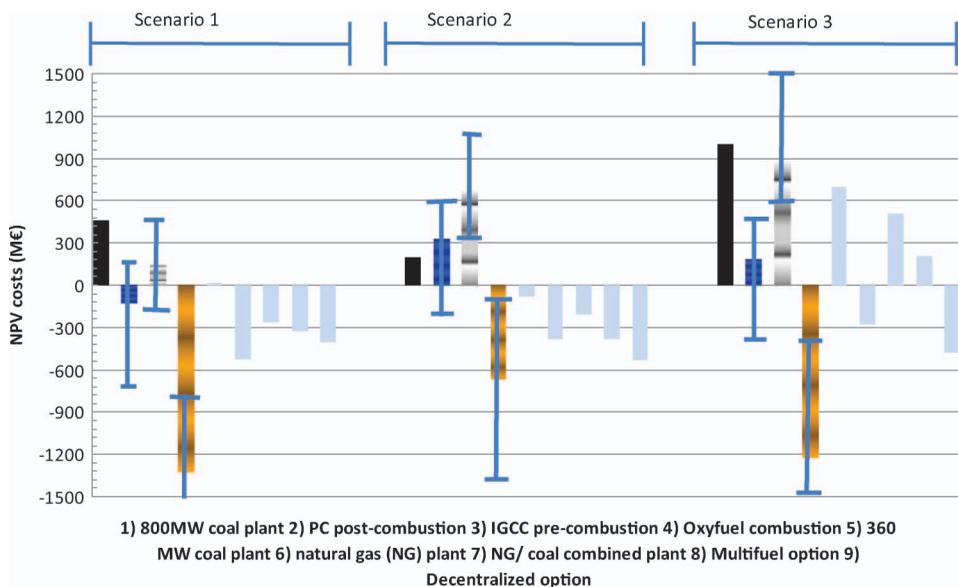


Figure 1. NPV of all plant options in scenario 1–3.

times higher than in scenario 1. In contrast, a capture plant with oxyfuel technology burdens the strongest capacity derating and is the most expensive CCS plant.

A coal-fired plant equipped with oxyfuel capture is not only always the least profitable option among the three capture plants but even among all non-CCS options. Even under the most favourable cost assumptions the NPV of such a plant is negative in all scenarios. Only in scenario 2 with very favourable conditions for CCS in general (high carbon prices, low fuel prices) is such a plant getting close to an internal rate of return of 6.5%. The IGCC plant is the preferable option for maximising the NPV in scenario 2 where it clearly outperforms all other options, even when taking into account the cost uncertainty. In scenario 3 with high carbon and fuel prices, an IGCC plant still has the second highest NPV of all options. Only an 800 MW coal-fired plant has a higher NPV. Yet, under favourable cost assumptions the IGCC plant has the highest NPV in this scenario as well. This is also true for scenario 1, but here only the lowest cost assumptions lead to an NPV for the IGCC plant that is higher than the NPV of the 800 MW coal-fired plant. However, there is also the possibility that an IGCC plant does not reach the minimum internal rate of return of 6.5%.

The non-coal options all have a negative NPV in scenarios 1, 2 and with one exception also in 3 and do not reach the minimum required rate of return. Only the natural gas plant has a small positive NPV in scenario 3. Thus, it must be noted that even a higher permit price reaching 85 €/tCO<sub>2</sub> in 2050 is not effective enough to put plant options that are low in carbon dioxide emissions in a position where they are attractive alternatives to coal-fired options for the plant owner. For carbon capture plants however, the price increase has a high enough impact to make an investment profitable.

Our second major question concerned the optimality of retrofitted CCS plants. To analyse this we calculated the NPV for the two plant types in the three scenarios, assuming a retrofit in different years. The results are shown in Figure 2. The dotted lines show the level of the plants with CCS from the start.

The earliest year where retrofitting leads to a positive NPV is in 2022 for the IGCC plant in scenario 3, seven years after the initial construction of the plant. Retrofitting of a pulverised coal plant leads to a positive NPV only 14 or even 18 years after construction. In scenarios 2 and 3 retrofitting of IGCC plants with pre-combustion technology could occur between 5 and 7 years earlier than post-combustion technology for pulverised coal plants. A price increase for carbon emissions clearly sets back the year to retrofit. In scenario 1, retrofitting occurs only 19 or 23 years after the initial construction of the base plant, respectively. This late, no plant owner is likely to feel the need to retrofit, as the amortisation period for the plant is set to 35 years.

In terms of profitability, a later retrofit is preferable and the NPV rises with longer run-times without the retrofit. The same investment costs are discounted more, the further they appear in the future. A CCS plant also leads to lower costs under high permit prices, which are assumed to grow over time. The one exception in this case is the IGCC plant in the very favourable CCS scenario 2, where the permit prices are rather high and fuel prices are rather low so that the variable costs of the IGCC plant are already considerably lower than for a coal-plant without CCS, so that this effect dominates the less-discounted investment cost at some point in time. As a result the NPV starts to fall after 2035 and becomes negative for a very late retrofit after 2048.

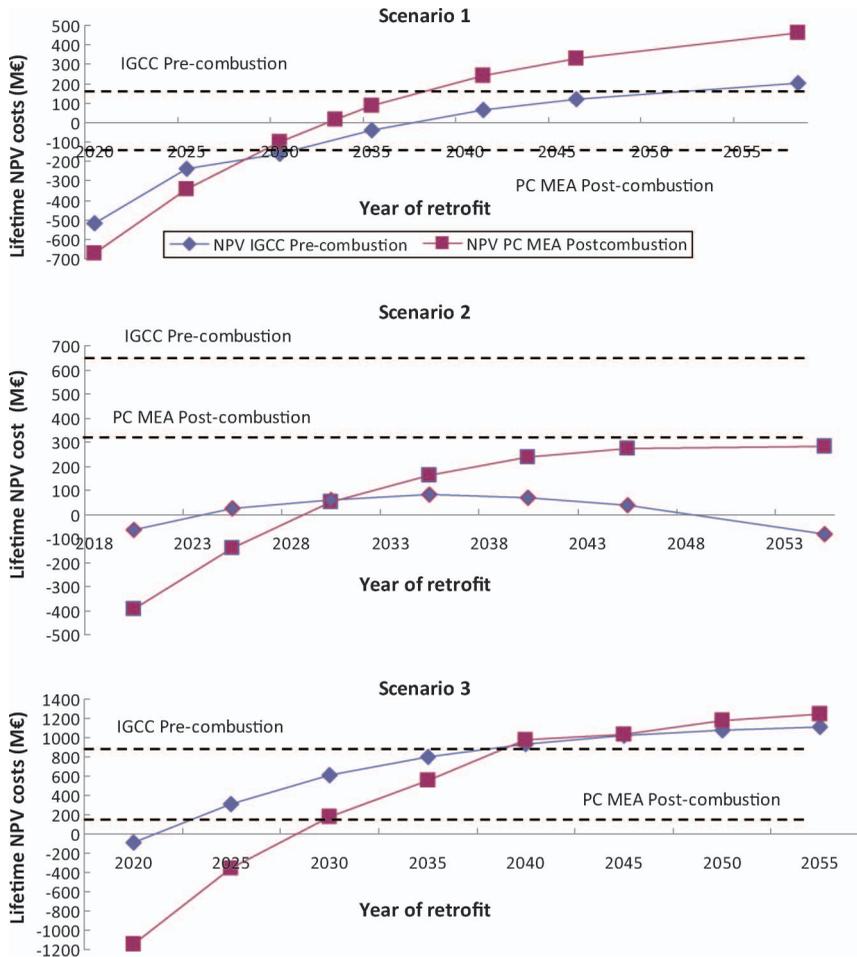


Figure 2. Lifetime NPV vs. year of retrofit.

Retrofitting an IGCC plant is never preferable to investing in an IGCC plant with CCS from the start. The NPV of a retrofitted plant is always lower and it only reaches the NPV of the IGCC plant with CCS from the start for a retrofit close to the end of the lifetime in scenario 3. Retrofitting a PC plant is also less preferable than building an IGCC plant with CCS from the start in the scenarios 2 and 3. Only in scenario 1 does retrofitting a PC plant after the year 2035 lead to the same or even higher NPV as the IGCC plant with CCS from the start.

As a final comment, our results are also in line with Bohm (2006). Our carbon price in scenario 1 is already in a range where Bohm finds that IGCC plants are preferable to PC plants. Our results for early retrofit years are also in line with his findings.

## 6. Environmental evaluation of a CCS plant

In this section we assess potential environmental impacts of all relevant power generating technologies considering the whole process chain of materials based on

Freischlad *et al.* (2008), the Wuppertal Institute (2008) and Viebahn and Nitsch (2007).

### 6.1. Life cycle analysis

A life cycle assessment means a holistic approach to analyse a full range of environmental impacts of products and services (Guinee 2002). It encompasses all specific steps a product undergoes from manufacture to disposal. The sum of all steps (phases) is considered to be the life cycle of the product. The LCA analysis is part of the ISO 14000 environmental management standards. In the case of modelling life cycles of plants that are built in the future, as in this study, a so-called prospective LCA is performed.

Inventory and modelling of life cycles are commonly done using software packages. The Wuppertal Institute (2008) and Viebahn and Nitsch (2007) used the software Umberto to model life cycles of power plants, while Freischlad *et al.* used the model GEMIS for their analysis (IFEU 2007, Eco Institute 2008).

An entire life cycle assessment for CCS plants is beyond the scope of this paper. We thus compare existing results from studies of the third phase of an LCA (the environmental impact assessment) and attempt to draw conclusions about environmental impacts of CCS plant options for Kiel. The analysis encompasses the entire impact chain associated with power plants: starting from the initial mining of coal (in the case of coal-fired power plants), transport to the power plant, impacts related to the burning of fuel and transport of carbon dioxide to storage sites (in the case of CCS plants). In particular we choose the following six impact categories:

- Global Warming Potential in MtCO<sub>2</sub> eq.
- Energy Demand in GWh/a
- Photooxidant Formation in g Ethen-eq/kWhel
- Eutrophication in g PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-3</sup> eq/kWh
- Acidification in 10. g SO<sub>2</sub> eq/kWh el
- Particulate Matter in 10g PM 10-eq/kWhel.

We compare all power plants (including CCS plants) in these six environmental impact categories, with the exception of the energy demand category, where we only compare the 800 MW coal-fired base plant with the different CCS plants.

Small adjustments and assumptions are necessary to match our specific situation. First, we assume that all plants run at full capacity throughout the entire year. In reality, it is possible that power plants are running low for a set time, which would have an impact on the emissions of the plant. Second, it is assumed that the magnitude of all impacts increases linearly with increased output capacity of plants. This relationship is stated by Viebahn and Nitsch (2007). The Wuppertal Institute (2008) analysed plants with a standardised 500 MW capacity. Results are adjusted to fit the capacity of plants discussed in this paper.

### 6.2. Results

The most important impact category is the global warming potential of plant options, which describes the amount of specific emissions released to the air that contribute to the greenhouse gas effect. Table 6 shows a comparison of emissions

Table 6. Environmental impacts of different plants.

Power plant option for Kiel	Emissions (Mt CO <sub>2</sub> eq.)		Annual demand of black coal (Gwh/a)
	Direct	Entire process chain	
800 MW PC power plant	4.9	5.6	13270
360 MW PC power plant	2.1	4.6	
400 MW NG/steam power plant	1.0	3.2	
360 MW PC plant & 400 MW NG plant	3.0	4.0	
Multifuel power plant option	1.4	4.1	
Decentralised power plant	0.3	3.5	
CCS PC MEA post combustion plant	0.68	1.85	16985.6
CCS IGCC pre-combustion plant	0.72	1.79	16454.8
Oxyfuel combustion	0.05	0.56	17914.5
Retrofit IGCC pre-combustion plant (2024)	1.57	2.57	15798.1
Retrofit PC MEA post-combustion (2029)	2.02		15735.3

Sources: Freischlad *et al.* (2008), Wuppertal Institute (2008), Viebahn and Nitsch (2007), own calculations.

originating from power plants and the summary of emissions from the entire process chain, including upstream emissions. The last column shows the increased resource consumption expressed in energy demand of carbon capture plants, compared to an 800 MW base plant with coal combustion.

The 800 MW coal option emits the most CO<sub>2</sub>. Clearly, CCS plants show the lowest amount of emissions. Literature focusing on CCS commonly mentions a CO<sub>2</sub> reduction potential of CCS plants in the range of 80–99% compared to the base plant, depending on the capture technology. These values are clearly only applicable to the plant emissions. Life cycle analysis reveals that emissions of the entire process chain are in fact significantly higher. Sources of additional CO<sub>2</sub> emissions can be found in the production process of chemicals for a flue gas scrubber, as well as those associated with the increased fuel extraction at the mining site. Thus, the relative emission reduction potential compared to the base plant without CCS decreases significantly once the entire process chain is considered. GHG emissions of the life cycle of CCS plants make up approximately 32% of emissions from the base plant (5.6 MT CO<sub>2</sub> compared to 1.8 MT CO<sub>2</sub>). In contrast, emissions from direct CCS power station operation are between 10% and 14% of those from the base plant. It follows that approximately 1.15 MT of additional emissions occur during the transportation and storage processes.

Plants retrofitted between 9 and 14 years after the initial base plant construction in fact have higher plant emissions than some of the other options, i.e. the multifuel option, the gas and steam plant, and the decentralised option. The situation improves slightly in favour of retrofitted plants when looking at the entire process chain. However, every year the retrofit is postponed, lifetime emissions increase as well. A pulverised coal plant retrofitted in 2029 would emit similar quantities as a natural gas and steam power plant. If the retrofit occurs in the year 2024 or 2029, GHG emissions are only 48% or 27% lower than they are for the two discussed coal-fired options, respectively.

With regard to resource consumption, energy demand for CCS plants increases between 20% and 40% compared to the reference plant without CCS. Oxyfuel capture requires the largest energy demand but is also able to capture the most carbon dioxide among all capture technologies. Energy demand for retrofitted plants strongly depends on the year of the retrofit. Given this example of a retrofit in 2024 for an IGCC plant and a PC post-combustion retrofit in 2029, both plants show similar energy demand.

We now turn to the remaining impact categories. Photo-oxidant formation, eutrophication, acidification and dust and particles emissions increase because CCS requires increased energy consumption, and also because of extensive usage of other materials like substances for capture. On the other hand, some parameters are reduced when the solvent reacts with the captured flue gas. For example, SO<sub>2</sub> is completely eliminated by monoethanolamine and selexol, the two reagents for post-combustion and pre-combustion. Then again, other processes such as those associated with transport and storage cause emissions of SO<sub>2</sub>. It is therefore important to consider the entire process chain of products and substances in order to determine the overall emissions.

Photo-oxidants, such as hydroxyl radicals, are very reactive with trace gases such as hydrogen, carbon and oxygen. They promote the formation of ozone in the atmosphere. During the process of producing the chemical solvent monoethanolamine, photo-oxidants are primarily formed as a by-product (Viebahn and Nitsch 2007). Other chemicals promote eutrophication. Those are also formed during production of the flue gas scrubber. The overall increase of pollutants is somewhat balanced by the reduction of NO<sub>x</sub> during the capture of carbon dioxide from flue gas.

## 7. Summary and conclusions

In this paper we have undertaken an economic and environmental analysis for different technological options of coal-fired power plants with carbon capture and storage (CCS) to be built in the city of Kiel. Our starting point was a study of Freischlad *et al.* (2008) that evaluated six options for a plant replacing the current ageing coal-fired plant. The options included a coal-fired power plant with either 800MW or 360 MW capacity, a combined gas and steam power plant, a multi-fuel power plant and a decentralised option. The recommendation of Freischlad *et al.* (2008) to the municipality was to postpone the decision until the uncertainties about CCS have decreased and then to seriously consider building a coal-fired power plant with CCS. However, the profitability of such a plant was not assessed. Meanwhile, discussions have emerged and there are some signs that the political will is to not consider the option of a coal power plant at all. However, the final decision has not yet been taken and the aim of this paper is to see whether there is a justification to opt for a CCS plant.

For the economic analysis we undertook a cash flow analysis by modifying and extending Freischlad *et al.*'s assumptions of costs and revenues to account for differences in fuel use, output and necessary investments of CCS plants. The indicator used for the economic evaluation was the net present value (NPV). The environmental assessment contained a life cycle analysis for different environmental impact categories with the main focus on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

The economic evaluations show that integrated gasification combined cycle (IGCC) plants equipped with CCS in all scenarios are either the first or the second

choice when maximising the NPV. Even in the reference scenarios where the 800 MW coal-fired power plant has the highest NPV, an IGCC plant has a positive NPV and reaches the minimum rentability. These results are mostly not affected by the cost uncertainties about building an IGCC plant. It is only in the reference scenario that very unfavourable cost assumptions lead to a profitability that is slightly below the set level. According to our analysis, an IGCC plant with CCS is in this sense indeed an option that can be accepted by the operators. Yet, there is very little experience with the IGCC technology and only 4 GW of IGCC power plants have been installed in the world so far. Even though it should be possible to build an IGCC plant with CCS in Kiel there is clearly some uncertainty associated with commercialising this technology that goes beyond the cost uncertainties that are covered by our sensitivity analysis.

The picture changes if investors want to rely on a technology where experiences are greater. A pulverised coal (PC) plant with oxyfuel combustion is clearly not a real choice since it has a large negative NPV in all scenarios. A PC plant with post-combustion does not reach the minimal rentability in the reference scenario where it has a small negative NPV. In the two alternative scenarios the NPV is positive, but under unfavourable cost assumptions it might also turn out to be negative. In the reference scenario and in scenario 2 the PC plant with post-combustion is the third choice after the large coal plant without CCS and the IGCC with CCS. However, in scenario 3 it is more or less clearly outperformed by a small coal power plant without CCS, by a natural gas plant and by a combined coal/natural gas plant.

Retrofitting an existing coal power plant with CCS in the future leads to a lower profitability than building a CCS plant initially. A mandatory retrofit, for example in 2020, would lead to a negative NPV. Only for a retrofit after the year 2025 or even later, depending on the scenario, does the NPV become positive. Only in scenario 1 retrofitting after 2030 (PC plant) respectively 2047 (IGCC plant) leads to a higher NPV than building a CCS plant initially. However, in this case the emission savings become minimal.

Overall, the economic evaluation has shown that there are already incentives to build CCS plants given the current expectations of costs and revenues. Yet, if politicians believe in this technology, support for demonstration projects of IGCC plants with CCS and additional R&D to reduce the technological uncertainties of this technology would be helpful. In addition, a decision about whether and when retrofitting plants with CCS technology becomes mandatory is important for the choice of technology and the decisions of plant owners.

The discussion about the results derived from the comparison of the performed life cycle assessment can focus on the impact categories: 'Global Warming Potential' and 'Energy Demand'. The retrieved data for the other impact categories does not support the decision process as the overall increase of pollutants caused by CCS plants can be seen as balanced by the reduction of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions.

Results clearly show that the 800 MW coal plant has the highest GHG emissions; this holds true for emissions from the plant only, as well as the entire life-cycle. Calculating life-cycle emissions from CCS plants reveals that CCS saves far less GHG emissions than commonly stated in the literature. Compared to the coal-fired plant, overall greenhouse gas emissions are only reduced by 67% for a pulverised coal (PC) plant with CCS post-combustion. Yet, life cycle emissions are the lowest for CCS plants. Plant retrofit has a significant impact on lifetime emissions, i.e. the later a retrofit occurs, the higher are the total emissions of the plant. A PC-plant, retrofitted

15 years after the base plant installation, would reduce total greenhouse gas emissions by 27%, compared with a PC plant with no CCS. All retrofit plants discussed in this paper showed either similar (best case), or higher GHG emissions (worst case) than the multi-fuel plant option, the gas plant or the decentralised plant option.

The overall goal of the economic and the life cycle analysis is to support the decision-making process. Both instruments presented allow ruling out non-sustainable options, in this case to replace the existing power plant in Kiel, and to allow a focus on the discussion about the most promising options in economic and ecological terms. This strategy allows decision makers to focus their discussion on normative elements such as the evaluation of acceptable risks. While the study by Freischlad *et al.* (2008) proved the economic viability of a power plant without any measures to reduce GHG emissions, the economic analysis in this study shows that an IGCC plant could be an economic viable option as well – provided that the community of Kiel and the power company are willing to invest in a technology which has not been previously applied to a power plant with the requested capacity. Decision makers might be encouraged to take this risk based on the results of the Life Cycle Analysis, which clearly show that an IGCC plant with CCS is an option that is leading to low life-cycle CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. However, at this stage it should not be neglected that the long-term security and environmental integrity of CCS is not yet fully proven. Hence the decision concerning an IGCC plant in Kiel requires the acceptance of ecological risks as well. However, our analysis shows that an IGCC plant with CCS is an option that has an acceptable, although not maximal, profitability and leads to low life-cycle CO<sub>2</sub> emissions at the same time.

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## Appendix

### Sample cash flow calculation

Table A1. IGCC-plant, pre-combustion capture, Scenario 1.

	Inf.	2014	2015	2016	2058	2059	2060
<i>Variable costs</i>							
fuel costs	Mio. €	0.0	155.4	157.3	203.3	203.3	0.0
operating costs	Mio. €		133.2	134.9	176.5	176.5	
CO(2)-permit costs	Mio. €		12.0	12.1	14.0	14.0	
<i>Fixed costs</i>							
maintenance cost	0.50%	0.0	10.2	10.3	12.8	12.8	0.0
insurance cost	0.50%		42.0	42.3	51.0	51.0	
labour costs	1.00%		25.0	25.1	29.6	29.6	
overhead costs	0.50%		8.3	8.4	9.9	9.9	
			7.1	7.2	10.0	10.0	
			1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	
<i>Other costs</i>							
abandonment costs		0.0	13.6	13.6	13.6	13.6	16.6
Transport Costs	Mio. €		2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	16.6
Storage Costs	Mio. €		11.6	11.6	11.6	11.6	
<i>total costs</i>		0.0	211.0	213.1	267.9	267.9	16.6
<i>Amount</i>							
Power generation	GWh		5579.5	5570.8	5527.3	5527.3	
Heat	GWh		1067.5	1106.1	1287.8	1287.8	
Fuel	GWh		15924.0	15924.0	15924.0	15924.0	
CO2	Mio. t	20.3	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0
<i>Power revenue</i>							
Electricity revenue	Mio. €	0.0	350.9	353.7	386.4	386.4	0.0
Regulating energy			349.4	352.2	384.6	384.6	
<i>Heat revenue</i>							
Heat revenue		0.0	1.5	1.5	1.8	1.8	0.0
			12.8	13.4	17.4	17.4	
			12.8	13.4	17.4	17.4	
<i>Total revenues</i>		0	363.7	367.1	403.7	403.7	0.0
<i>EBIT margin</i>		0.0	102.5	103.8	135.8	135.8	-16.6
EBIT margin cumul.		0.0	102.5	206.3	5409.3	5545.2	4170.2

(continued)

Table A1. (Continued).

	Infl.	2014	2015	2016	2058	2059	2060
Tax expenditure	-	0.0	-30.8	-31.1	-40.7	-40.7	5.0
EBIT after tax		0.0	71.8	72.7	95.1	95.1	-11.7
Amortisation	+	0.0	50.2	50.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Working Capital Change	+	0.0	-12.7	-0.1	0.0	0.0	12.7
Sum working capital		0.0	12.7	12.8	11.3	11.3	-1.4
Allowances L&L		0.0	30.3	30.6	33.6	33.6	0.0
Liabilities L&L		0.0	17.6	17.8	22.3	22.3	1.4
CF oper. activities	=	0.0	109.2	122.7	95.1	95.1	1.1
CF invest. activities	+	-1755.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Free cashflow		-1755.6	109.2	122.7	95.1	95.1	1.1
Discount rate		1.0650	1.0000	0.9390	0.0667	0.0626	0.0588
Present value		-1869.7	109.2	115.2	6.3	6.0	0.1