KN1

Subsurface Spatial Planning

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SUMMARY

This talk will concentrate on the decision making process around development options in the subsurface. For instance: should an empty gasfield be utilised for gas storage or CO₂ storage? Government regulators are facing such decisions more and more as technical capabilities expand and the market seeks new opportunities for utilisation of subsurface resources. At the same time we observe especially in densely populated areas like Northwest Europe that public support for subsurface activities is not a given. Hence in the permitry process, risks, rewards, sense of necessity and reversibility play a role which is almost just as important as the technical feasibility of the activity. The regulator needs to be transparent about the choices and decisions made. At the same time the energy market needs to take more elements into account than technology and profitability. In this talk I will address some of these issues, illustrated with real life examples, and propose a transparent decision making model which can contribute to a sustainable and responsible utilisation of subsurface resources.