

Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program Update

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Abstract: EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program (GHGRP) will provide a better understanding of where GHGs are coming from and will guide development of sound policies and programs to reduce emissions. The GHGRP implements the mandatory reporting of greenhouse gases rule as issued under 74 FR 56260 published as final in October of 2009. Under the rule, certain suppliers of fossil fuels or industrial GHGs, manufacturers of vehicles and engines (outside of the light-duty sector), and facilities that emit 25,000 metric tons or more per year of GHG emissions are required to submit annual reports to EPA beginning in 2011 for the 2010 reporting year. This action included reporting requirements for 31 of the 42 emission sources listed in the April 10, 2009 proposed rule, and is generally referred to as 40 CFR Part 98 (or Part 98).

On May 27, 2010, the Administrator signed a proposed rule that includes technical corrections and clarifying and other amendments to Part 98. In general, the proposed updates would not change the overall requirements of Part 98 but would improve clarity and ensure consistency across the calculation, monitoring and data reporting requirements. In addition, on July 20, 2010, EPA signed proposed revisions to certain provisions of the rule. These proposed amendments primarily make clarifying and technical changes to specific sections of the final rule that were either not clear, or did not have the intended effect. On September 16, 2010, the Administrator signed a final rule that amends 40 CFR Part 98 to require reporting of corporate parent information, NAICS codes and cogeneration, beginning in the 2010 reporting year.

In addition to changes that affect the rule for the 2010 reporting year, EPA initiated actions that would become effective for the 2011 reporting year. On April 12, 2010, EPA issued four new proposed rules that amend Part 98. These proposals would require reporting of emissions data from petroleum and natural gas systems, industries that emit fluorinated GHGs, and facilities that inject and store carbon dioxide (CO₂) underground for the purposes of geologic sequestration or enhanced oil and gas recovery. EPA plans to finalize these proposals in 2010.

The GHGRP is the one of the first programs that relies solely on electronic reporting of information. EPA has been working over the past year to develop and test an electronic greenhouse gas reporting tool (e-GGRT) to handle reporting under the program. With the exception of Suppliers of Coal-based Liquid Fuels (subpart LL) and Suppliers of Petroleum Products (subpart MM), the electronic tool will serve as the sole mechanism for facilities to submit their annual GHG reports to EPA. e-GGRT will support both web form and bulk file submissions. The tool will be "self-guided" with step-by-step instructions and user-friendly screens to assist reporters. Reporters using the bulk upload feature will do so via an extensible mark-up language (XML) reporting schema that has been released in draft. User support will be available through the web, by email, via online tutorials and phone lines.

This presentation will cover key elements of the GHGRP including reporting through e-GGRT, outreach support to the reporting community, and how the GHGRP will be integrated into state and regional reporting programs.