



STAPPA/ALAPCO Global Warming Committee

Update on DOE's 1605b Revision Process

January 14, 2004



President's February 14th, 2002 Directive

1. Established U.S Goal to reduce GHG intensity by 18% by 2012.
2. Directed improvements to the DOE GHG Voluntary Emissions Registry.
 - The registry program was established as a voluntary program by section 1605(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992.
 - Currently about 220 reporters provide data on emissions and emissions reductions.
3. Challenged businesses to take action (Climate VISION, Climate Leaders).
4. Sought recommendations on protecting real reductions against future climate policy and on giving transferable credits.



Actions to Date

- Issued a public Notice of Inquiry, May 2002.
- Led extensive interagency staff level and policy level consultations to draft General Guidelines, which were published November 26, 2003.
- Established website to distribute information and receive comments.
- Held six public workshops (DOE hosted 4, USDA hosted 2).
- Met and continue to meet with numerous stakeholder groups.
- Interagency groups working on Technical Guidelines for reductions and inventories.
- Working with EIA on reporting forms and instructions.



Key Features of Proposed Revisions

- Emphasis is on entity-wide inventories. Entity definition is flexible.
- Entities may *register* reductions if they provide entity-wide emissions data and can demonstrate they achieved entity-wide emission reductions after 2002.
- Small entities - those without significant greenhouse gas emissions - are eligible to register reductions for actions taken without filing full entity-wide reports, although other reporting requirements apply.
- Reporters not seeking to register reductions can continue to report on emissions and emission reductions without having to provide and an entity-wide inventory and account for entity-wide emissions.
- Companies are encouraged to report at the highest level but may report at a subsidiary or affiliate level. Registered reductions, if applicable, always accrue to the reporting unit.
- CEOs are required to sign reports, maintain records for three years. Independent verification is encouraged, but not required.



Objectives

- Recognize entities that contribute to the President's goal of reducing the emissions intensity of the U.S. economy;
- Encourage reporters – particularly those with large emissions – to provide a more accurate, consistent, and complete record of emissions and emission reductions;
- Create a central program for recording achievements associated with voluntary emission reduction programs, such as Climate Leaders and Climate VISION.
- Ensure that reported emissions data are transparent to reviewers.



Core Principles

- Strive for accuracy, transparency, consistency, completeness.
- Balance rigor with practicality; stringency with flexibility.
- Support President's goal (18% intensity reduction).
- Balance confidentiality with verifiability.
- Build on current 1605(b) and other voluntary reporting protocols and programs.



Current Timeline

- General Guidelines in public review until February 3, 2004 (now considering an extension).
- Review comments, revise General Guidelines, as needed, continue drafting Technical Guidelines (3 parts: Core Reporting Requirements; Calculating GHG Reductions; GHG Inventories).
- Issue revised General Guidelines and Technical Guidelines for combined review in late spring/early summer.
- EIA will go through public comment period for revised forms and instructions, summer 2004.
- Initiate this new program in 2005.



Relationship with Voluntary Programs

- DOE, EPA, and other Federal agencies established programs (Climate VISION, Climate Leaders) to encourage voluntary actions to reduce, sequester, or avoid greenhouse gas emissions.
- The Administration intends to use 1605(b) to document, where possible, the progress of participants in these voluntary Federal programs.
- These programs are likely to require additional types of reporting as well.



Web Addresses & Points of Contact

<http://www.pi.energy.gov/enhancingGHGregistry>

1605bgeneralguidelines.comments@hq.doe.gov