

Proposed Rule: 2015 Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule Revisions and Confidentiality Determinations for Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems

Action

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to amend the Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems source category (subpart W) of the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program (GHGRP). This proposed rule would add reporting of greenhouse gas emissions from gathering and boosting systems, completions and workovers of oil wells using hydraulic fracturing, and blowdowns of natural gas transmission pipelines. These sources represent areas where greenhouse gas emissions data are currently limited.
- The proposed rule also adds new reporting requirements for certain emission sources to improve EPA's ability to verify reported data and enhance transparency.
- Additionally, this rule proposes confidentiality determinations for new data elements contained in this proposal.

Background

- The GHGRP, mandated by Congress in the FY2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act, requires reporting of GHG data from large emission sources and suppliers across a range of industry sectors.
- The GHGRP collects greenhouse gas data from facilities that conduct Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems activities, including production, processing, transmission, and distribution. For the 2013 calendar year, the EPA received annual reports from over 2,100 facilities with Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems activities. The total reported GHG emissions for 2013 was 224 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent.
- The EPA has been working to enhance the quality of data from petroleum and natural gas systems because the GHGRP has been an important tool for the Agency and the public to analyze emissions, identify opportunities for improving the data, and understand emissions trends. These proposed changes build on EPA's experience and success with electronic reporting and verification during the first three years of the GHGRP.

Proposed Revisions

Proposed revisions include:

- Adding a new Onshore Petroleum and Natural Gas Gathering and Boosting segment, which would include greenhouse gas emissions from equipment and sources within petroleum and natural gas gathering and boosting systems.
- Including completions and workovers of oil wells with hydraulic fracturing in the existing Onshore Petroleum and Natural Gas Production segment.

- Adding a new Onshore Natural Gas Transmission Pipelines segment, which would cover emissions from blowdowns of natural gas transmission pipelines.
- Requiring the reporting of well identification numbers for Onshore Petroleum and Natural Gas production facilities.
- Allowing the temporary use of best available monitoring methods (BAMM) for any newly added sources to provide flexibility to new reporters.

Proposed Confidentiality Determinations

- The EPA is proposing confidentiality determinations for new data reporting elements in the proposed amendments. The EPA is proposing to determine that none of these new data reporting elements are entitled to confidential protection.

More Information

- For more information on the GHGRP and a prepublication version of this action, please visit our Web site: <http://www.epa.gov/ghgreporting/reporters/rules/index.html>.
- The public comment period is open for 60 days after publication in the *Federal Register*. Detailed instructions on how to provide comments are located in the preamble of the proposed rule.
- For more information on Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems in the GHGRP, see: <http://www.epa.gov/ghgreporting/reporters/subpart/w.html>.