

SUBCHAPTER B—CLIMATE CHANGE

PART 300—VOLUNTARY GREENHOUSE GAS REPORTING PROGRAM: GENERAL GUIDELINES

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AUTHORITY: 42 U.S.C. 7101, *et seq.*, and 42 U.S.C. 13385(b).

SOURCE: 70 FR 15182, Mar. 24, 2005, unless otherwise noted.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 70 FR 15182, Mar. 24, 2005, Subchapter B, Part 300 was added, effective Sept. 20, 2005. At 70 FR 54835, Sept. 19, 2005, the effective date was delayed until June 1, 2006.

§ 300.1 General.

(a) *Purpose.* This part and the Technical Guidelines referenced in paragraph (c) of this section govern the Voluntary Reporting of Greenhouse Gases Program authorized by section 1605(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13385(b)). The purpose of the Guidelines is to establish the procedures and requirements for filing voluntary reports, and to encourage corporations, government agencies, non-profit organizations, households and other private and public entities to submit annual reports of their greenhouse gas emissions, emission reductions, and sequestration activities that are complete, reliable and consistent. Over time, it is anticipated that these reports will provide a reliable record of the contributions reporting entities have made toward reducing their greenhouse gas emissions.

(b) *Registration option.* An entity may request to have its emission reductions

registered under § 300.12(b) of this part if it complies with all of the requirements of this part, including the entity-wide reporting standards set forth in §§ 300.6 and 300.7. The requirements for registration, as distinguished from other reporting, are clearly stated in the provisions of these General Guidelines.

(c) *Technical Guidelines.* Further guidance on the interpretation and application of these General Guidelines is provided in the Draft Technical Guidelines for the Voluntary Reporting of Greenhouse Gases Program (hereafter “Draft Technical Guidelines”) (incorporated by reference, see § 300.13).

(d) *Forms.* Annual reports of greenhouse gas emissions, emission reductions, and sequestration must be made on forms or software that are available from the Energy Information Administration of the Department of Energy (EIA).

(e) *Status of reports under previous Guidelines.* EIA continues to maintain in its Voluntary Reporting of Greenhouse Gases database all reports received pursuant to DOE’s October 1994 Guidelines. Those Guidelines are available from the EIA at <http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/1605/guidelns.html>.

(f) *Periodic review and updating of General and Technical Guidelines.* DOE intends periodically to review the General Guidelines and the Technical Guidelines to determine whether any changes are warranted; DOE anticipates these reviews will occur approximately once every three years. These reviews will consider any new developments in climate science or policy, the participation rates of large and small emitters in the 1605(b) program, the general quality of the data submitted by different participants, and any changes to other emissions reporting protocols. Possible changes could include, but are not limited to:

(1) The addition of greenhouse gases that have been demonstrated to have significant, quantifiable climate forcing effects when released to the atmosphere in significant quantities;

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(2) Changes to the minimum, quantity-weighted quality rating for emission inventories;

(3) Modifications to the benchmarks or emission conversion factors used to calculate avoided and indirect emissions; and

(4) Changes in the minimum requirements for registered emission reductions.

§ 300.2 Definitions.

This section provides definitions for commonly used terms in this part.

Activity means any single category of economic production or consumption that produces measurable emissions of greenhouse gases or sequestration, the annual changes of which can be assessed generally by using a single calculation method.

Aggregator means an entity that reports to the 1605(b) program on behalf of non-reporting third parties, usually small emitters.

Avoided emissions means the emissions displaced by increases in the generation and sale of electricity, steam, hot water or chilled water produced from energy sources that emit fewer greenhouse gases per unit than other competing sources of these forms of distributed energy.

Base period means a period of 1-4 years used to derive the average annual base emissions, emissions intensity or other values from which emission reductions are calculated.

Base value means the value from which emission reductions are calculated for an entity or subentity. The value may be annual emissions, emissions intensity, kilowatt-hours generated, or other value specified in the 1605(b) guidelines. It is usually derived from actual emissions and/or activity data derived from the Base Period.

Biogenic emissions mean emissions that are naturally occurring and are not significantly affected by human actions or activity.

Carbon stocks are the quantity of carbon stored in biological and physical systems including: trees, plants, wood products and other terrestrial biosphere sinks, soils, oceans, sedimentary and geological sinks, and the atmosphere.

De minimis emissions means emissions from one or more sources and of one or more greenhouse gases that, in aggregate, are less than or equal to 3 percent of the total annual carbon dioxide (CO₂) equivalent emissions of a reporting entity.

Department or DOE means the U. S. Department of Energy.

Direct emissions means greenhouse gas emissions resulting from stationary or mobile sources within the organizational boundary of an entity, including but not limited to emissions resulting from combustion of fuels, process emissions, and fugitive emissions.

EIA means the Energy Information Administration within the U.S. Department of Energy.

Emissions mean direct release of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere from any anthropogenic (human induced) source and certain indirect emissions (releases) specified in this part.

Emissions intensity means emissions per unit of output, where output is defined as the quantity of physical output, or a non-physical indicator of an entity's or subentity's productive activity.

Entity or reporting entity means the whole or part of any business, institution, organization or household that:

(1) Is recognized as an entity under any U.S. Federal, State or local law that applies to it;

(2) Is located, at least in part, in the United States; and

(3) Whose operations affect U.S. emissions of greenhouse gases.

First reduction year means the first year for which an entity intends to register emission reductions; it is the year that immediately follows the start year.

Fugitive emissions means uncontrolled releases to the atmosphere of greenhouse gases from the processing, transmission, and/or transportation of fossil fuels or other materials, such as HFC leaks from refrigeration, SF₆ from electrical power distributors, and methane from solid waste landfills, among others, that are not emitted via an exhaust pipe(s) or stack(s).

Greenhouse gases means:

(1) Carbon dioxide (CO₂)

(2) Methane (CH₄)