

Fact Sheet



Final 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 finalizing amendments to the Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems source category (subpart W) of the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program (GHGRP). This final rule adds 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 final 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 finalizes confidentiality determinations for new data elements contained in this final rulemaking.

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.
- These revisions will further enhance the quality of reported data from petroleum and natural gas systems, and allow the GHGRP to continue to serve as an important tool for the Agency and the public to understand emissions from this sector.

Revisions

Final revisions include:

- Adding a new Onshore Petroleum and Natural Gas Gathering and Boosting segment, which will 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 will 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, automatic use of best available monitoring methods (BAMM) for any newly added sources to provide flexibility to new reporters.

Confidentiality Determinations

- The EPA is finalizing confidentiality determinations for new data reporting elements in these amendments as proposed.

More Information

- For more information on the GHGRP and a prepublication version of this action, please visit our Web site: <http://www2.epa.gov/ghgreporting/rulemaking-notice-ghg-reporting>.
- For more information on Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems in the GHGRP, see: <http://www2.epa.gov/ghgreporting/subpart-w-petroleum-and-natural-gas-systems>.