Fact Sheet

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Final Rule: Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule Leak Detection Methodology 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 new monitoring methods for detecting leaks from oil and gas equipment in the petroleum and natural gas systems source category consistent with the leak detection methods in the New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for the oil and gas industry that were recently finalized at 40 CFR part 60, subpart OOOOa, at 81 FR 35824.
- The action also adds emission factors for leaking equipment to be used in conjunction with these monitoring methods to calculate and report greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions resulting from equipment leaks.
- Additionally, the EPA is finalizing confidentiality determinations for new or substantially revised data reporting elements contained in this action.

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 2015 calendar year, the EPA received annual reports from over 2,400 facilities with Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems activities. The total reported GHG emissions for 2015 was 231 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.

Final Revisions

- Following the finalization of the NSPS subpart OOOOa for the oil and gas industry and the associated leak detection requirements, the EPA is aligning the subpart W leak detection methods with those in the NSPS subpart OOOOa.
- The finalized subpart W leak detection methods are required for those components that are subject to NSPS subpart OOOOa. This reduces burden for reporters that need to comply with both EPA programs and further advances the ability of the GHGRP to provide access to high quality data on GHG emissions by adding the ability for reporters to use data collected during equipment leak surveys and to perform site-specific equipment leak calculations.

- The finalized subpart W leak detection methods may be used for other components on a voluntary basis. This provides flexibility for companies that are undertaking voluntary leak detection activities by allowing them to use subpart W methods and data to show the results of their leak detection programs in their greenhouse gas reporting.

Final revisions include:

- Adding new monitoring methods for detecting leaks from oil and gas equipment in the petroleum and natural gas systems source category consistent with the leak detection methods in the recently finalized NSPS OOOOa for the oil and gas industry.

- Including emission factors for leaking equipment to be used in conjunction with the new monitoring methods to calculate and report GHG emissions resulting from equipment leaks.

Confidentiality Determinations

- The EPA is finalizing confidentiality determinations for new or substantially revised data reporting elements in these amendments.

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/rulemaking-notices-ghg-reporting.

- For more information on Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems in the GHGRP, see: http://www.epa.gov/ghgreporting/subpart-w-petroleum-and-natural-gas-systems.