

Proposed Rule: 2011 Revisions to Greenhouse Gas Rule Affecting Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems (Subpart W) and Electronics Manufacturing (Subpart I)

Action

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to amend specific provisions in 40 CFR part 98 to clarify certain terms and definitions within Subpart W (Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems) and Subpart I (Electronics Manufacturing).
- For Subpart W, EPA is proposing amendments to assist facilities with meeting reporting requirements, such as providing additional information on where measurements must be taken and where emission factors should be applied. EPA is also proposing to provide greater specificity on applicability and reporting thresholds, and clarifying the term *Designated Representative*.
- For Subpart I, EPA is clarifying the definition of heat transfer fluids.
- These proposed amendments are not expected to add additional requirements for reporters. The anticipated net effect of proposed changes would be to improve accuracy of the data while maintaining or reducing in some cases the burden for those required to report for both Subparts, while having no appreciable effect on the total amount of GHG emissions covered by this program.
- This action would not affect the reporting deadline under either Subpart.

Proposed Rule Overview

In general, this proposal does not significantly change the overall requirements of the final rule. It does clarify the requirements and ensures consistency across the calculations, monitoring and data reporting requirements for the rule. EPA has also identified certain cases where it is appropriate to revise 40 CFR part 98 to reflect facility-specific circumstances and clarify implementation of the reporting rule as originally intended.

- EPA is proposing technical revisions to the following Subparts:

Subpart A	General Provisions
Subpart I	Electronics Manufacturing
Subpart W	Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems

SUBPART A (General Provisions)

Proposed amendment includes:

- Clarifying the definition of “owner or operator” for onshore petroleum and natural gas production reporters and other administrative changes for consistency with Subpart W.

SUBPART I (Electronic Manufacturing)

Proposed amendment includes:

- Clarifying the definition of heat transfer fluid.

SUBPART W (Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems)

Proposed amendments include:

- Clarifying definitions for onshore petroleum and natural gas production, onshore natural gas processing, and onshore natural gas transmission compression to assist in determining applicability.
- For the onshore petroleum and natural gas segment measurement requirements, replacing the “field” designation with “sub-basin category” consisting of counties and major formation types. “Representative measurement” would take into account parameters including horizontal wells, vertical wells, and five pressure categories.
- Seeking comments on establishing a threshold for portable equipment.
- Defining and clarifying key terms such as blowdown vent stacks, well venting and flaring, well completion and well workover event boundaries, and sonic and subsonic flowrates in pipelines.
- Proposing a default natural gas composition of 95% methane that is consistent with other parts of 40 CFR part 98.
- Clarifying that company records may be used for flow meter calibration.
- Refining some equations and variables to correct inaccuracies, errors or inconsistencies.

Next Steps and Implementation

- A pre-publication version of the preamble and proposed regulatory text, including a redline/strike-out version of the proposed amendments to the regulatory text, is available on EPA’s website at: <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/proposedrule.html>.

More Information

- The preamble and proposed regulatory text will be published in the Federal Register and will be made available at www.regulations.gov, EPA’s electronic public docket and comment system. Other information will also be made available at this website. The Docket ID number is: EPA-HQ-OAR-2011-0512. Information is also available at the EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC) Public Reading Room. For more information, please call 202-566-1744 between the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time.
- The public comment period will be open for 30 days after publication in the Federal Register. If requested, a public hearing will be held in the Washington, DC area.

- For more information on other provisions of the GHG Mandatory Reporting Rule finalized in October 2009 and the subsequent amendments during 2010, including implementation information and a schedule of training opportunities, and instructions on submitting comments on the proposed rule amendments, visit the EPA web site: www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ghgrulemaking.html. Public comments may be submitted by e-mail to: GHG_Reporting_Rule_Oil_And_Natural_Gas@epa.gov.
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