

# What's up in Region 6: The Policy & Implementation of Methane Capture Programs

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# **EPA's Landfill Methane Outreach Program (LMOP)**

- The LMOP was created in 1994 as part of the U.S. Climate Change Action Plan
- LMOP is a voluntary assistance program
- LMOP's Mission: To reduce methane emissions by lowering barriers to and promoting the development of cost-effective and environmentally beneficial landfill gas-to-energy projects

# Today's Presentation

- Why does EPA-R6 care about Methane Capture Programs?
  - LF's, CAFO's, POTW's, Coal,...
- Forces Driving the Industry and Future Trends
  - NG & Utility Dereg, New EPA Reg's, Voluntary GW efforts .
- New Memorandum of Agreement between EPA-Dallas and DOE-Denver is supporting cross-ties with states and local governments.

# LFG Projects in Region 6 - Developing Partnerships

- Flaring is no longer the best way to eliminate the harmful emissions in many areas under the SIP's- Reduces Local Air Pollution!
- In general, each 1 MW of generation = ~ 6,100 cars off the road for a year, planting 8,300 acres of trees, and prevents the use of 93,000 barrels of oil each year!
- Methane from many sources is a viable economic gas and landfills are the largest human-made source.

# State of the Industry

- The LFG Industry Potential in R6
  - 300 LFG Projects
  - Voluntary Project Discussions with Utilities, State and Local Government
  - R6 is aware of at least six new discussions on projects.
- Methane to energy projects could be economically developed using a variety of funding sources.

# Voluntary and Regulatory Trends

- Administration's Global Warming Initiative is a voluntary program that will utilize technology to stimulate change.
- Federal Contracts is being extended to all forms of renewable energy such as POTW's and CAFO's.
- Evolution of Energy Bill and Production Tax Credits
- R6 Compliance Assistance Incentives
- Development of Methane point source approaches to eliminate ground water contamination by old landfills and Air Monitoring at the request of citizens.

# Development Potential in R6

A few Examples of Methane Point Sources have the equivalent of

LF's powering more than 250,000 homes for a year, while still providing LFG for boiler fuel.

- One 280,000 Swine CAFO reported it could power more than 105,000 homes for a year.
- Planting millions of acres of trees.

# Alternative Methane Program Implications?

Arkansas – 74 bcf (CAFO)

Louisiana – 1 bcf (CAFO)

New Mexico – 8 bcf (CAFO)

Oklahoma – 17 bcf (CAFO), 0.5 bcf (LF - 1999  
MSW small and large data - Sept 2002 GHG  
Report\*)

Texas – 40 bcf (CAFO), 122 mmscf/d

\* Methodology from Emission Inventory  
Improvement Program - October 1999.

# Outcome and Trends

Developing contacts with private companies in R6 who take the steps toward voluntary in initiatives in R6. Developing State and Local Government along with Private Company initiatives.

Creation of dialogue to support proactive steps to eliminate serious environmental impacts using economics. Supporting activities that lead to cross-ties using the interagency agreements.

# EPA's LMOP Revisited

- LMOP divided the U.S. into 3 territories
- Partner Programs in Texas Region 3
  - 11 Industry Partners
  - 6 Community Partners
  - 14 Energy Candidates looking a little more seriously
  - 31 reporting methane emissions reductions

# LMOP Services

- Technical information and support
- Networking and information exchange
- Public recognition/communications support
- Marketing information and Web Site
- New Green Power and Climate Leaders initiatives
- Upcoming Renewable Energy Workshops and Conferences

# The LMOP Database

- Operational, under construction, planned projects and candidate landfills
  - Over 2000 landfills
- How We Collect Data
  - Dialogue with Industry, Landfills, etc.
  - Annual Questionnaire
  - We Need YOUR Help!
  - We are here to help you!

# EPA's Commitment

- EPA will continue to work with industry to
  - Identify new technologies
  - Help promote demonstration projects
  - Overcome project barriers
  - Provide tools and assistance to support development efforts
    - ◆ Financial Assistance Opportunities

# Conclusions...

- The future of the Methane Industry looks bright!
  - Pilots projects and discussions with many sectors and groups.
- New technologies will continue to evolve and open opportunities for Methane projects
- Emerging trends is positively affecting change.

# Thank YOU!

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