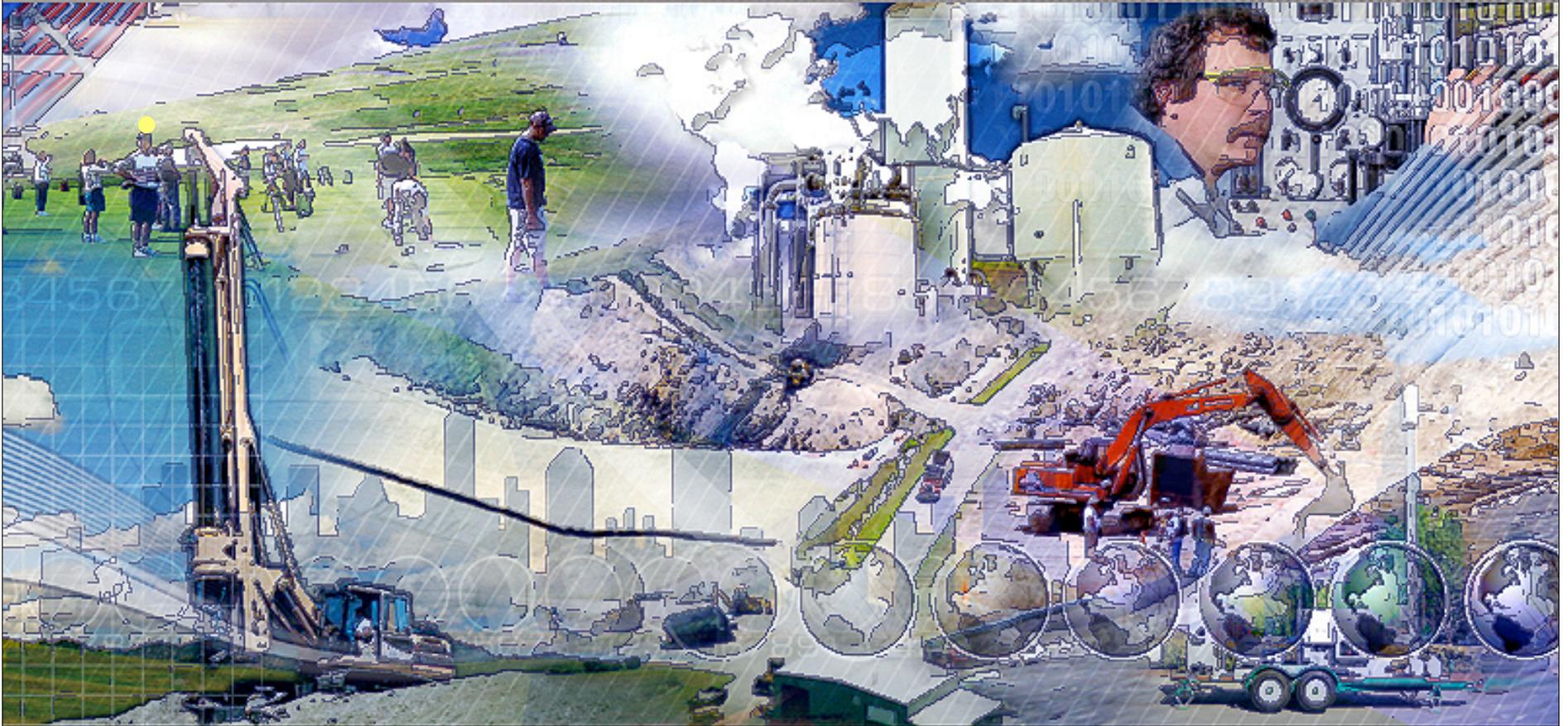


# Greenhouse Gas Issues and Policy



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**Comments At the start of The LMOP Session on  
“The Emission Credits Market for LFGE Projects”**

**Bruce K Maillet**

**7 January 2003**

- **The United states does not have as vigorous a program as other countries in the global warming discussion**
- **There are however few large companies, especially those that emit CO<sub>2</sub>, which are not looking very hard at GHG issues and trying to “hedge their bets” on the final outcome**
- **The US action will be based on some science and lots of politics; and with an election coming up in two years.....**
- **Methane is 23 times as potent a global warming gas as CO<sub>2</sub>**
- **Landfills can produce credits**
- **The speakers will describe various issues related to carbon credits and landfills**
- **But, under no circumstances should you lose site of the potential for revenue from GHG credits**



# Greenhouse Gases

- Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)
- Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>)
- Nitrous Oxide
- HFCs
- PFCs
- SF<sub>6</sub>



# Global Warming Potential As Established by the IPCC

- Carbon Dioxide: 1
- Methane: 23
- Nitrous Oxide: 310
- HFCs: 6500 to 9200
- PFCs: 140-12,100
- SF<sub>6</sub>: 23,900



# Current Situation

- The Earth continues to warm
- President Bush has chosen a voluntary approach that seeks to “reduce the rate of GHG emissions per GDP”
- The rest of the developed world is moving to reduce GHG emissions despite the US position



# Clear Skies

- The “Presidents” bill
- Recently amended by Imhofe (R-OK) and Voinovich (R-Ohio)
- Includes standards for Hg, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>
- Tied to energy bill ??
- CO<sub>2</sub>: Probably won’t pass without something on GHG



# Additional Pressure

- Europe is already going down the “CO2 reduction” road; due in 1995
- COP 9 meeting in Milan early December 2003
- “G8” meeting coming up; expect pressure from Europe on the US to move on “Kyoto” reductions



# State Efforts

- Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative:
  - Northeast states (to be discussed later)
  - California, Oregon, and Washington have stated they will press forward with a reduction plan.
  - Massachusetts has a requirement to have rireduction rules in place by 2008
  - California has a Climate Action Registry set up for GHG reductions; a model for the rest of the US
  - Greenpower and RPS issues also play into GHG reduction strategies



# RGGI

- Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative
- Called “RGGI” (reggy)
- Pertinent Parts:
  - Draft rule by: April 2005
  - Registry: NESCAUM
  - Public Participation: ???: **VERY IMPORTANT**



# The Western Approach

- Three western governors announced their intention to reduce GHG emissions:
  - Gary Locke, Washington
  - Theodore Kulongoski, Oregon
    - Oregon Climate Trust is following the Northeast efforts closely
  - Gray Davis, California: (what will Arnold do?)
    - California Climate Action Registry is being viewed by the Northeast States as a very good option potential



## Important Parts of the Western Governors Initiative

- the Governors have directed their staffs to work together during the next year to develop joint policy recommendations focused on activities that require regional cooperation and action;
- Present them to the Governors no later than September 1, 2004.



## The Western Governors' Plan

- Develop consistent and coordinated greenhouse gas emission inventories, protocols for standard reporting, and accounting methods for greenhouse gas emissions;.
- Remove barriers to and encourage the development of renewable electricity generation resources and technologies.



# Current Situation

- Massachusetts has law on the books requiring CO2 reductions from power plants in 2008.
- Due to the recent CO2 reduction initiative begun by NY Governor Pataki, **Massachusetts is rethinking the strategy** and may move to tie this action to the Mass law.



# The **CURRENT** reggy Plan

- Only will apply to electric generating plants;
- Will not allow cross sector trading of credits: i.e.: a landfill with credits will not be allowed to sell credits to a utility;
- This will mean a more expensive program for the utilities and the consumers;



# Landfills: What should we do?

- Landfills (small ones) can be Credit generators
- We should all push for multi-sector approach to CO2 reductions;
- An electric generators only program will be more expensive for everyone!



# Actions

- Contact your State officials about their intentions and actions;
- Participate in the discussions;
- Seek advice from industry peers on the policy matters;
- Prepare your landfill for reduction tracking

