

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR:Harvey.Reid@epamail.epa.gov (Harvey.Reid@epamail.epa.gov [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:15-NOV-2001 10:21:44.00

SUBJECT:: Draft of US Climate Action Report available for comment

TO:adler.ken@epamail.epa.gov (adler.ken@epamail.epa.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO:breidenich.clare@epamail.epa.gov (breidenich.clare@epamail.epa.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO:bruce.harding@osd.mil (bruce.harding@osd.mil [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO:buckley.katherine@epamail.epa.gov (buckley.katherine@epamail.epa.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO:coe.edmund@epamail.epa.gov (coe.edmund@epamail.epa.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO:commcoll@aol.com (commcoll@aol.com [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO:cstokes@usaid.gov (cstokes@usaid.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO:donald.trilling@ost.dot.gov (donald.trilling@ost.dot.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO:gillenwater.michael@epamail.epa.gov (gillenwater.michael@epamail.epa.gov [UNKNO
READ:UNKNOWN

TO:hogan.kathleen@epamail.epa.gov (hogan.kathleen@epamail.epa.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO:howard.diamond@noaa.gov (howard.diamond@noaa.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO:igoklany@ios.doi.gov (igoklany@ios.doi.gov [OPD])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO:jeff.dowd@hq.doe.gov (jeff.dowd@hq.doe.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO:jhrubovcak@oce.usda.gov (jhrubovcak@oce.usda.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO:john.conti@hq.doe.gov (john.conti@hq.doe.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO:laitner.skip@epamail.epa.gov (laitner.skip@epamail.epa.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO:ledbettg@osdgc.osd.mil (ledbettg@osdgc.osd.mil [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO:lisa.hanle@hq.doe.gov (lisa.hanle@hq.doe.gov [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO:margot.anderson@hq.doe.gov (margot.anderson@hq.doe.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO:mcintyrebd@state.gov (mcintyrebd@state.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO:mitchell.baer@hq.doe.gov (mitchell.baer@hq.doe.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO:mmaccrac@usgcrp.gov (mmaccrac@usgcrp.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO:MaryBeth.Zimmerman@ee.doe.gov (MaryBeth.Zimmerman@ee.doe.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO:patel-weynandto@state.gov (patel-weynandto@state.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO:Phil Cooney (CN=Phil Cooney/OU=CEQ/O=EOP [CEQ])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO:Peter.Karpoff@hq.doe.gov (Peter.Karpoff@hq.doe.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO:Phillip.Tseng@ee.doe.gov (Phillip.Tseng@ee.doe.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO:raymond.prince@hq.doe.gov (raymond.prince@hq.doe.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO:richard.ohlemacher@noaa.gov (richard.ohlemacher@noaa.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO:Robert J. Tuccillo (CN=Robert J. Tuccillo/OU=OMB/O=EOP [OMB])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO:rworrest@usgcrp.gov (rworrest@usgcrp.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO:saile.sharon@epamail.epa.gov (saile.sharon@epamail.epa.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO:samenow.jason@epamail.epa.gov (samenow.jason@epamail.epa.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO:sullivan.jamest@epamail.epa.gov (sullivan.jamest@epamail.epa.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO:talleyt@state.gov (talleyt@state.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO:thatcher.jennifer@epamail.epa.gov (thatcher.jennifer@epamail.epa.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO:todd.ramsden@ost.dot.gov (todd.ramsden@ost.dot.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO:whohenst@oce.usda.gov (whohenst@oce.usda.gov [UNKNOWN])

READ: UNKNOWN

TO: william.breed@hq.doe.gov (william.breed@hq.doe.gov [UNKNOWN])

READ: UNKNOWN

TO: William A. Pizer (CN=William A. Pizer/OU=CEA/O=EOP [CEA])

READ: UNKNOWN

TEXT:

We posted today the draft chapters of the U.S. Climate Action Report (our third national communication under the UNFCCC) for public comment (except Ch.5, which should be available for interagency review shortly). Comments on the draft chapters are due no later than December 17. The Federal Register notice announcing the public comment opportunity is attached to this message. The documents are posted on EPA's web site at:

<http://www.epa.gov/globalwarming/publications/natcomm.html>

For those agencies with climate change related websites (e.g., State, DOE, USGCRP, NOAA, USDA, etc.), please post a link to this site from your sites. In addition, please spread the word about the public comment period.

Thanks for all your help in getting this together so quickly. Please contact either of us if you have questions.

Best regards,
Reid and Clare

(See attached file: 11-15-01 FR Notice.pdf)

- 11-15-01 FR Notice.pdf===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====

ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00

TEXT:

Unable to convert NSREOP0201:[ATTACH.D26]SREOP024004QM97.001 to ASCII,
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Abstract for (0100041):

Q: Will EPA grant a facility a testing waiver/extension for its reconstructed 3L coating line and associated thermal oxidizer where the facility would be required to test the same line to show compliance with other State and federal regulations within a "short" period of time?

A: No. EPA will not grant a testing waiver/extension because the eighteen months between the required subpart RR compliance test and the deadline date for the MPCA test is too long.

Abstract for (0100042):

Q1: Will monitoring of fuel nitrogen content be required if natural gas is the only fuel fired in each turbine?

A1: No.

Q2: Will daily monitoring of sulfur be required if only pipeline quality natural gas is fired?

A2: No. The monitoring schedule from U.S. EPA's national guidance for subpart GG, dated August 14, 1987, should be used for sulfur monitoring when natural gas is fired.

Abstract for (0100043):

Q: May the sampling time for Method 9 opacity testing while burning fuel oil in a boiler be reduced to one hour per boiler?

A: Yes. In this particular case, the shorter test sampling time may be reduced to one hour for Boilers 4 and 5 while burning fuel oil because the construction permit is so restrictive that 3 hours of initial performance testing would consume a significant portion of the annual operating time allowed for these boilers while burning fuel oil.

Abstract for (0100044):

Q: Does the installation of Dense Pack turbine blades constitute a modification?

A: Probably not. Although such a project would constitute a nonroutine physical change under PSD, it would not be a modification under PSD (as well as NSPS) if there were not an associated emissions increase as defined under the respective PSD and NSPS rules.

Abstract for (0100045):

Q: Will EPA allow a reduced frequency of Relative Accuracy Test Audits (RATAs) for an infrequently operated boiler?

A: Yes. In this particular case, the boiler is operated only 8 days per year as a peaking unit. EPA believes that it is reasonable to provide for some reduction in quality assurance testing for the continuous emissions monitors, as long as the boiler meets acid rain program requirements at 40 CFR Part 75, and operates as a peaker.

Abstract for (0100046):

Q: Will EPA relieve a facility that uses only pipeline quality natural gas of the nitrogen monitoring requirements?

A: Yes.

Q: May a facility use the sulfur monitoring requirements in sections 2.3.1.4 and 2.3.3.1 of Appendix D to Part 75 in lieu of 40 CFR 60.334(b) and 60.335(a)?

A: Yes.

Q: Is a nitrogen CEM a permissible alternative to the monitoring requirements at 40 CFR 60.334(a) and 60.335(c)(2)?

A: Yes.

Abstract for (0100047):

Q: May a landfill use a natural attenuation factor for fugitive landfill gas control for the purpose of State fee reports and emission inventories?

A: No. Natural attenuation was evaluated during the rulemaking process for 40 CFR part 60, subpart WWW. Analysis by the U.S. EPA determined that there was insufficient oxygen and residence time for aerobic biofiltration to be a significant removal pathway.

Abstract for (0100048):

Q1: Is nitrogen monitoring of either natural gas or landfill gas required?

A1: Nitrogen monitoring of landfill quality natural gas is not required. Nitrogen monitoring of landfill gas will be waived if EPA receives adequate information that the landfill gas in question contains very little fuel-bound nitrogen.

Q2: Will EPA permit a facility not to perform sulfur monitoring when natural gas and landfill gas are used?

A2: No. However, this particular facility provided data on the sulfur content of each type of fuel. This data showed that the sulfur content was minimal. Therefore, the facility may begin at semi-annual testing.

Abstract for (0100049):

Q: Did Tenneco commence construction when it internally obligated funds for the purpose of modifying a boiler prior to June 19, 1984, thereby not triggering NSPS, subpart Db applicability?

A: No. For the purposes of subpart A, there was no contractual obligation to construct an affected facility.

Q: Does the installation of sampling ports on a boiler constitute commencement of construction?

A: No. The ports were installed to gather data for planning and design work, or other unrelated activities, which does not constitute commencement of construction, reconstruction, or modification.

Abstract for (0100050):

Q: Will EPA grant Tyson Foods an alternative fuel usage recordkeeping plan under subpart Dc?

A: Yes. The specific recordkeeping requirements for the facility are included in Attachment A to the response letter.

Abstract for (0100051):

Q1: Will EPA approve the waiver of monitoring fuel bound nitrogen for facilities using only pipeline quality natural gas?

A1: Yes.

Q2: What should the sulfur monitoring schedule be for peaking-only units that use only natural gas and operate only during the summer months?

A2: These types of peaking units test once per month during the initial ozone season (May–September). If this shows little variability, then sulfur monitoring should be conducted once per season thereafter.

Abstract for (0100052):

Q: A company intends to burn stripper off gases (SOGs) from pulping processes in a boiler subject to subpart Db, which would cause the facility to exceed the subpart Db NO_x emission limits. The company requests permission to use an alternative monitoring procedure for NO_x which will consist of correcting the continuous NO_x monitoring data by subtracting the NO_x contribution from burning SOGs. Is this acceptable?

A: No. Since the combustion of SOGs in the boiler is not exempt from NSPS subpart Db, the proposed alternative monitoring procedure is not acceptable. However, EPA's OAQPS has agreed to initiate rulemaking to amend the subpart Db regulation to allow the establishment of an alternative NO_x standard for pulp mills, similar to the provision in 40 CFR 60.44b(f) for chemical manufacturing plants and petroleum refineries which combust byproduct/waste.

Dated: November 6, 2001.

Michael M. Stahl,

Director, Office of Compliance.

[FR Doc. 01-28632 Filed 11-14-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7104-3]

Preparation of Third U.S. Climate Action Report

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice; request for public comments.

SUMMARY: In June 1992, the United States signed, and later ratified in

October, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Pursuant to the national communication reporting requirements under Articles 4.2 and 12 of the Convention and to guidelines later adopted by the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP), the United States submitted the first U.S. Climate Action Report (CAR) to the UNFCCC Secretariat in 1994 and the second in 1997. The U.S. Government has prepared an initial draft of the third national communication for public review. The purpose of this announcement is to notify interested members of the public of the opportunity to submit input on the draft text of the national communication before the final document is completed.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before noon, December 17, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be submitted to Mr. Reid P. Harvey via e-mail at harvey.reid@epa.gov or via postal mail to Reid P. Harvey, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Atmospheric Programs (Mail Stop 6204N), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Reid P. Harvey, Office of Atmospheric Programs, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at (202) 564-9429.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

In accordance with the UNFCCC's reporting requirements as specified in Articles 4.2 and 12, and following reporting guidelines developed (and adopted by the UNFCCC COP at its first session), the United States prepared the U.S. Climate Action Report (CAR) and submitted it to the UNFCCC Secretariat in October 1994.

At the Second COP, the Parties requested developed country Parties to the Convention to submit to the UNFCCC Secretariat, in accordance with Articles 12.1 and 12.2 of the Convention, a second national communication by April 15, 1997. Parties who submitted first reports in 1996 were to provide an update by the 1997 deadline and Parties with economies in transition were to provide their second communication by April 15, 1998. Developing country Parties have different guidelines and due dates for their national communications. The United States submitted its second national communication to the UNFCCC Secretariat in July 1997.

At the Fifth COP in 1999, the Parties updated the guidelines for preparation of national communications (see FCCC/

CP/1999/7). This document is available on the Internet at <http://www.unfccc.int/resource/cop5.html>. In addition, the Parties requested that third national communications be submitted no later than November 30, 2001. However, the U.S. is not able to meet this deadline and plans to submit the document by late January 2002.

The U.S. issued a Federal Register notice on March 19, 2001 (66 FR 15470-15471) to provide an opportunity for the public to submit input on the issues covered in the third national communication. A copy of the Federal Register notice can be found on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/globalwarming/publications/actions/FRL-6954-1.pdf>. Two comments were submitted by members of the public in response to that notice.

The Third United States Climate Action Report (CAR)

The third CAR provides an update on key activities conducted by the U.S. since the second CAR, an inventory of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions and sinks, an estimate of the effects of mitigation measures and policies on future emissions levels, and a description of U.S. involvement in international programs, including associated contributions and funding efforts. In addition, the text discusses U.S. national circumstances that affect U.S. vulnerability and responses to climate change. Finally, the CAR presents information on the U.S. Global Change Research Program, Global Climate Observing Systems (GCOS), and adaptation programs.

Table of Contents of the Third US CAR

1. Executive summary
2. National circumstances
3. Greenhouse gas inventory
4. Policies and measures
5. Projections and effects of policies and measures
6. Vulnerability assessment, climate change impacts, and adaptation measures
7. Financial resources and transfer of technology
8. Research and systematic observation
9. Education, training, and public awareness

Public Input Process

This Federal Register notice solicits comments on the draft chapters listed above. The individual chapters are posted on the Internet and may be downloaded from the national communication web site listed at the following web site: <http://www.epa.gov/globalwarming/nwinsite.html>. However, two chapters (the executive summary

and chapter 5 on projections) are not yet complete, but will be made available for public comment in approximately two weeks through posting on the web site. Comments may be submitted to the contact listed above. Comments on each of the chapters will be due within 30 days of release, either through notice in the Federal Register or posting on the web site. As the U.S. submission will already be delayed by approximately two months beyond its deadline, a longer review period is not possible.

You may view the 1997 U.S. Climate Action Report on the Internet at: <http://www.state.gov/www/global/oes/97climate-report/index.html>.

Dated: November 9, 2001.

Robert Brenner,

Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation.

[FR Doc. 01-28736 Filed 11-14-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7103-8]

Final NPDES General Permit for Discharges From the Oil and Gas Extraction Point Source Category to Coastal Waters in Texas (TXG330000)

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Final issuance of NPDES general permit.

SUMMARY: EPA Region 6 today issues a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) general permit regulating discharges from oil and gas wells in the Coastal Subcategory in Texas and regulating produced water discharges from wells in the Stripper and Offshore Subcategories which discharge into coastal waters of Texas.

The permit prohibits the discharge of drilling fluid, drill cuttings, produced sand and well treatment, completion and workover fluids. Produced water discharges are prohibited, except from wells in the Stripper Subcategory located east of the 98th meridian whose produced water comes from the Carrizo/Wilcox, Reklaw or Bartosh formations in Texas. Discharge of dewatering effluent is prohibited, except from reserve pits which have not received drilling fluids and/or drill cuttings since January 15, 1997. The discharge of deck drainage, formation test fluids, sanitary waste, domestic waste and miscellaneous discharges is authorized. All of the authorized discharges have effluent limitations.