

Notes from November 16, 2010 DOE Fugitive Emissions Working Group Meeting

DOE FEWG Updates from Josh Silverman (FEWG Chair):

The PPTRS is now open for fugitive emissions data submissions. Several sites have already submitted data and preliminary returns are encouraging. Questions and comments regarding the PPTRS database/data call should be directed to Corey Buffo, PPTRS Administrator, at 202-586-9661 or corey.buffo@hq.doe.gov.

At the November Office of Science Summit:

- Several sites discussed their SSPs, including Fugitive Emissions Reduction Programs; PPPL indicated that they could achieve its GHG reduction goals from reducing fugitive emissions.
- Participating sites were open to spending money to reduce GHG emissions.

HS-22 is coordinating and sharing best practices with other federal agencies like EPA and DoD.

- The EPA's main focus has been the electrical power industry's use of SF₆. The EPA participates in an annual conference with Federal and commercial facilities that share best practices and lessons learned. EPA is not familiar with DOE facilities (apart from Power Marketing Administrations) and is interested in participating in future FEWG meetings to discuss program resources and reduction strategies.
- DoD has focused on SF₆ reduction for at least a decade. SF₆ is used by DoD for a variety of applications that involve major releases, especially with airborne radar, some of which are classified. DoD will meet with DOE to discuss lessons learned which will be recounted in the next FEWG meeting.

The Chair proposed that the FEWG annually submit a Departmental Fugitive Emissions Report that summarizes Departmental performance in reducing fugitive emissions from the FY08 baseline. This report would include future projections to the extent feasible. The Fugitive Emissions Report would be based on site information submitted in the PPTRS and Site Sustainability Reports.

The Chair thanked JLab and WAPA for hosting recent visits by HQ staff to discuss fugitive emissions. Upcoming visits include PPPL and SNL-NM. Other sites interested in sharing information or hosting a visit to review fugitive emissions strategies should contact the DOE Office of Environmental Policy and Assistance (HS-22). HQ will share work with sites visited to write up best practices knowledge, coordinate resources, and share information with other facilities to support fugitive emissions management.

HS-22 is soliciting volunteers to develop case studies and strongly encourages facilities to nominate these case studies for the DOE EStar Awards, which are a gateway to the White House GreenGov Awards (formerly the CTC awards). December 31, 2010 is the deadline for the 2011 EStar Award nominations. Contact Josh Silverman or Corey Buffo for further information.

Questions from the field:

- Has DOE budgeted Fugitive Emissions funding for FY11? If so, what is available?
 - Drew Campbell: I will have to get back to you. The funding is currently being re-evaluated.
- Was there a request in the FY11 budget? This information would really help out the labs.
 - Drew Campbell: I am not sure. There has been no update since the first FEWG call. But I will share the information with you as soon as I get it.

Site Presentations:

Alan Tatum presented slides for Oak Ridge National Laboratory's *Progress Report on Fugitive Emissions Management at Holifield Ion Beam Facility* and Kevin Jordan presented slides for Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility's *Strategies for SF₆ Control at the Free Electron Laser Facility at Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility*. Presentation highlights and questions are below.

ORNL (See previous PowerPoint attachment sent to FEWG members)

- How long ago was the leak discovered by annual maintenance?
 - This occurred 5 to 10 years ago.
- Who is this work funded by?
 - We are funded by Nuclear Physics.
- What is the estimated cost for your proposed infrared camera?
 - \$100,000 which includes training and probably \$20,000 for special lenses.
- Does the infrared camera only detect ΔT ?
 - Yes
- So it is worthless in a static situation?
 - Yes, it is not a cure-all.
- Have you explored other uses for the camera elsewhere in the lab and the rest of ORNL?
 - Yes, utilities and those with microscope knowledge in the lab.
- Would you split the cost of the camera?
 - Yes

- Comment from the field: \$100,000 is a lot of money for a camera that just detects ΔT . There are other infrared cameras that just detect ΔT for much less, perhaps \$10,000.

JLab SF6 Project (See previous PowerPoint attachment sent to FEWG members)

- Jlab and Kevin Jordan have adapted creative engineering solutions to site specific SF6 systems and equipment, demonstrating a commitment to continuous improvement as they continue to tweak and improve their work.
- Do your storage tanks leak?
 - No, we use Petroflex bags, which are used by the Army to store fuel in the desert.

Next FEWG meeting is Thursday, January 13, 2010 from 11am until Noon ET. Agenda will include an analysis of the PPTRS data call and initial observations of the SSP received.

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