

*Federation of New York Solid Waste Associations Solid  
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# GHG Beyond Reporting

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# Objectives

- Background of GHG rulemaking
- Significance
- Tailoring Rule
- Implications

# Background

- On April 1, 2007 the US Supreme Court determined Greenhouse Gases (GHG), collectively including 6 specific GHG, were *air pollutants* which are to be addressed under the Clean Air Act (CAA)
- What does it mean to be an *air pollutant* regulated by the CAA?
- Many don't really understand the significance

# Background

- EPA was required to determine whether or not:
  - GHGs may reasonably be anticipated to endanger public health or welfare, or
  - whether the science is too uncertain to make a reasoned decision
- EPA took the first step...

# Background

- Endangerment Finding Published – December 7, 2009
  - Stated that GHGs were a threat to human health and env., and
  - **Emissions from light duty engines contribute to GHG**
- This finding allows EPA to promulgate regulations of GHGs from light duty vehicles
- FINAL Light Duty Vehicle rules were published on April 1, 2010 and will become EFFECTIVE January 2, 2011

# Background

- Wrestling with Stationary Sources
- March 29, 2010 – Reconsideration of “Johnson Memo” published:  
(<http://www.epa.gov/nsr/guidance.html>)
- Confirmed that a “new pollutant” becomes covered under the PSD program when a new rule regulating GHG takes effect
- January 2, 2011

# Significance

- January 2011:
  - Each facility with more than **250 TPY** of GHGs will be a major source under PSD
  - Title V – **100 TPY**
  - Major Modification threshold = **0 TPY**
- Hence... “Tailoring Rule” because EPA believes these levels are “*Absurd*”
- Everyone say – “Duh”

# Tailoring

- How does USEPA fit GHGs into the Clean Air Act?
- USEPA initially proposed...
  - Major source = 25,000 TPY
  - Major Modification = 10,000 TPY
- Is this high enough for your affected industry?
- Understanding how the thresholds relate to facilities

# Tailoring

- GHG reporting threshold (Methane Generation) of 25,000 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e
- ~260 scfm of LFG recovery = Major Source
- Many screamed for higher thresholds
- USEPA later indicated they may increase to ~75,000
- ~800 scfm of LFG recovery = Major Source
- However, PSD allows facilities to take federally mandated controls into consideration when determining PTE...

# Tailoring

- What happens after tailoring rule passed
- States still have to pass SIP revisions
- This is a major dilemma
- SIP revisions...How, when, etc.

# Tailoring “*TODAY*”

USEPA issued final Tailoring Rule May 13, 2010

- Established first two steps “Phase-In” process:
  - Step 1: January 2, 2011 – June 30, 2011
    - GHGs considered IF PSD/Title V triggered by non-GHG pollutants or “PSD/Title V Anyway “
  - Step 2: July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2013
    - PSD/Title V triggered by GHGs alone

# Tailoring “*TODAY*”

- Established “temporary” GHG thresholds:
  - Major Source = 100,000 TPY CO<sub>2</sub>e  
AND.....100/250 TPG GHG mass basis
  - Major Modification = 75,000 TPY CO<sub>2</sub>e  
AND...any increase >0 TPY GHG mass basis

# Tailoring “*TODAY*”

Established that.....

- Emissions be determined in English units and NOT metric units as in GHG Reporting Rule.\
- Emissions thresholds based upon Potential – to- Emit (PTE), consistent with existing PSD and Title V programs.
  - Biomass fuels/biogenic CO<sub>2</sub>
  - Fugitive emissions
  - Pollution control projects

# Tailoring “*TODAY*”

- Established deadline for STEP 3 rule making..  
No later than JULY 1, 2013 USEPA will promulgate:

Potentially LOWER thresholds for GHGs.

Delay for permitting of small sources (<50,000 TPY CO<sub>2</sub>e) until April 2016.

Include future GHG permit streamlining.

# Tailoring “*TODAY*”

- Established April 2015 deadline for completion of GHG permitting study:
  - Determine regulatory burdens if GHG program applied to smaller sources (< 50,000 TPY CO<sub>2</sub>e).
  - Complete next step in phase-in rule making by April 2016 to address CAA permitting to these sources – possible permanent exemption levels??

# Tailoring “*TODAY*”

USEPA to work with states to implement Tailoring Rule.....

- If state rule changes cannot be made by January 2, 2011 USEPA will “take action”
- USEPA to develop supporting guidance by end of 2010, and
- USEPA will actively work with states on BACT evaluations for GHGs.

# Tailoring “*TODAY*”

What about pending permit applications  
submitted before January 2011?.....

**ALL PERMITS ISSUED AFTER THE STEP 1  
DEADLINE MUST ADDRESS GHGS!!**

# Implications

- Many more Title V facilities
- Many more PSD major facilities
- Increased permitting backlog in states
- BACT?
- Additional permitting costs to affected facilities.

!

# Implications

*STEP 3 NOT THE LAST STEP!!!!*

USEPA has clearly stated that ...

“While committing to future action, we do not decide in this rule when the phase-in process will ultimately end, or at what threshold level, because all that depends on uncertain variables ..... We may continue the phase-in process with further rulemaking(s) after 2016.”

# Questions?