

Notes from the October 14, 2010 DOE Fugitive Emissions Working Group Meeting

Josh Silverman (HS-22) opened the meeting by presenting DOE FEWG updates:

The PPTRS is now open. Sites may get fugitive emissions workbooks from the PPTRS for data entry. Has anyone tried to access the workbooks from the PPTRS and if so, were there any problems in doing so?

- Yes, there is an issue with downloading the workbooks. They had to be e-mailed from HQ.
 - Some systems block the download and “allow” must be selected in order to download the workbooks. This issue should be fixed as of 10/1/2010.
- Do Service Centers have access to PPTRS, in particular the scope 3 sections?
 - Most Service Centers do not have access to the PPTRS because most federal offices do not have an EMS. But Offices can be added to the PPTRS. We want to capture ALL GHG information from the entire site. The PPTRS does have a scope 3 reporting field where this information can be captured. This is something that needs to be worked out.

HS-22 would like to improve the quality of technical assistance available to the field, including being able to more effectively coordinate relevant site-to-site communication. To reach this goal, HS-22 asks the field to educate – ideally through site visits – the headquarters staff about the fugitive emissions management activities taking place at the sites. Please contact Josh Silverman, Jeff Eagan, or Corey Buffo if you are interested in participating.

HS-22 has begun to co-ordinate and share best practices with other agencies such as EPA and DoD.

- The EPA’s main focus is the Power Administration and SF₆. Currently there is no alternative to SF₆ but SF₆ Particle Accelerator Regulations have begun in California. Alternatives to SF₆ in the future will also be regulated. EPA is interested in participating in the next FEWG meeting to discuss program resources.
- DoD is focused on SF₆ and the threat of terrorism. There is a lot of R&D underway at DoD.

Jennifer MacDonald (SPO) then presented on the Role of Fugitive Emissions and FEWG in DOE Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan:

- The Sustainability Performance Office (SPO) will be staffed over the next couple of weeks.
- SPO wants to develop a relationship between the FEWG and the Sustainability Plan. SPO also wants to co-ordinate a federal approach for capturing fugitive emissions data.
- There is currently no budget for SPO until 12/2010.

Site Presentations:

Greg Barrett presented slides for Argonne National Laboratory’s (ANL’s) *Progress Report on SF₆ Emissions Management* and Joanna Eckstein and Penny Avery presented slides for Sandia National Laboratory’s (SNL’s) *SF₆ Emissions Overview*. Presentation highlights and questions are below.

ANL

- One year ago ANL formed a committee to look at facilities that were major SF₆ users and to determine what happens to SF₆ from cradle to grave
- Gas companies may have nominal cost services
- SF₆ removal does not have to be done in house; Removal Service Company's can be used for SF₆ removal
- Where did you find technical expertise to assess your SF₆ user facilities?
 - SF₆ technical expertise is very common in Chicago. It is so common that the utility companies have an understanding with the EPA regarding SF₆.
 - Contact information for Dave Northacker will be circulated. He is extremely knowledgeable in this area and has offered his assistance to the sites.
- What percent avoidance does leak detection have?
 - Our FY10 fugitive emissions data will determine what the % avoidance is.
- What is the cost range for mobile/other detection systems?
 - Mobile systems cost anywhere from \$50,000 to \$100,000. I do not know what the cost is for systems that are not mobile.
- Do you recapture SF₆ emissions from Electron Microscopes?
 - No, SF₆ is not reclaimed or reused from the Electron Microscope because of the small amount of SF₆ released. SF₆ emissions from the Electron Microscope can be resupplied as high quality SF₆.

SNL

- SNL observed that carbon tetrafluoride could be used as a chemical substitute for SF₆ (but SNL is not using CF₄ as a substitute). Josh Silverman recommends against using carbon tetrafluoride as a substitute for safety reasons.
- What is your management approach for the purchasing of SF₆?
 - Each Division purchases SF₆. We are currently working with management to set limits on the purchase of SF₆. We are also looking into administrative control of purchasing but the large size of SNL makes it difficult.

The next meeting is Tuesday, November 16, 2010 from 11am until Noon ET.

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