

GHG Reporting Challenges

Electric Sector

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Bonneville Power Administration Background

- The Bonneville Power Administration is a federal agency based in the Pacific Northwest.
- BPA markets wholesale electric power from 31 federal hydro projects in the Columbia River Basin, 1 nonfederal nuclear plant. About 1/3 of electric power used in the Northwest comes from BPA.
- BPA also operates and maintains the majority of the high-voltage transmission in the US Pacific Northwest.
- BPA's service territory includes Idaho, Oregon, Washington, western Montana and small parts of eastern Montana, California, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming.

BPA's Carbon Footprint

- Because the Federal Base System is hydro and nuclear based, the agency has virtually no Scope 1 emissions to report on for generation.
- BPA does have Scope 2 emissions associated with its power sales. These emissions derive from power purchased by the agency from the market to meet short term energy deficits and help manage hydro operations.
- Other large Scope 1 sources of emission include:
 - Transportation and equipment fuels (vehicles, airplanes, helicopters, misc. large and small equipment)
 - Sulfur Hexafluoride (An extremely stable insulating gas widely used in high-voltage circuit breakers and gas-insulated substations – has something like 23,000 times the global warming potential of CO2).

Challenges in GHG Reporting

- Understanding the emission profile associated with market purchases
 - Current tracking tools do not identify the source of generation purchased in real time markets. Changing these tracking tools ("e-tags") will take time and could reduce the efficiency of market operations.
- Providing operational data at the level of detail required by TCR protocols
 - We don't currently collect vehicle data by make/model of vehicle.
 - We don't have detailed data on equipment – some isn't even tracked (i.e., fuel used for chainsaws, weed wackers, and other small equipment).
- Coordinating reporting for multiple protocols
 - BPA has federal reporting obligations: requirements can be different than TCR's.

Challenges in GHG Reporting (cont.)

- Providing data on a calendar-year basis –
 - BPA operates on a Sept-Oct. fiscal year, most data is collected and reported on in that interval. It can be difficult to reformat data to meet calendar year requirements.
- Reporting for multiple jurisdictions:
 - BPA serves requirements customers in 4 states and sells to many more - it would be difficult to report on emissions using different state/provincial protocols
- Reporting on transmission losses
 - BPA cannot control nor track the sources of the generation it wheels.

GHG Reporting Opportunities

- Reporting Allows BPA to demonstrate its low emission profile, preserving the value of the Federal Base System
 - NRDC reports BPA's (and other NW utilities such as Seattle and Chelan) emissions as amongst lowest of any utility in the U.S.
 - BPA and its customers have invested many millions in energy efficiency and fish and wildlife preservation in order to maintain this low emission profile.
 - BPA continues to pursue GHG emission reductions – such as its aggressive efforts to reduce SF6 emissions.
- BPA supports The Climate Registry as it promotes standardized reporting and can help reduce effort associated with reporting obligations.
