

Regional Solid Waste Committee Meeting

Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule Update

December 2, 2010

The EPA has issued 40 CFR Part 98 which requires the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions from large sources and suppliers in the United States. Current landfills and closed landfills that accepted waste on or after January 1, 1980 are subject to the rule if they generate methane in amounts equivalent to 25,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide or more per year. There is an applicability tool available on the EPA website (<http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/GHG-calculator/index.html>).

In order to see if your landfill is subject to the reporting rule you must run the calculations outlined in Subpart HH of 40 CFR Part 98. If the rule applies you must submit a report annually. According to the rule, a landfill may cease reporting once they have provided calculations that show that emissions are less than 25,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent for five years or less than 13,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent for three years.

The amount of methane is calculated based on the weight records held by the facility. If weight records are not available then the section provides three alternate methods of calculating amount of methane produced. The three methods are to i) assume all prior years waste is equal to the waste quantity in the first reporting year, ii) Use the estimated population served by the landfill each year and use the waste per capita values provided in tables included in the rule or iii) use a constant average waste disposal quantity calculated using an equation provided in the rule (this calculation is based on landfill capacity). The calculations are run for 50 years or the number of years the landfill has been in existence whichever is shorter.

The rule requires that sources have a designated representative by January 30, 2011. The designated representative must sign an electronic signature agreement so the EPA asks for at least ten days to process the application prior to the deadline. The first green house gas report is due March 31, 2011. All reporting is done electronically through E-GGRT (Electronic Greenhouse Gas Reporting Tool). E-GGRT is still not available but they are offering webinars that address how to use the tool and explain in detail how the designated representative system works. The schedule for that training is available on this website: <http://epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/training.html#eggtr>.

More information about the rule and e-GGRT is available on the EPA's website: <http://epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ghgrulemaking.html>.