

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**10 CFR Part 300****RIN 1901-AB11****General Guidelines for Voluntary Greenhouse Gas Reporting**

AGENCY: Office of Policy and International Affairs, U.S. Department of Energy.

ACTION: Proposed rule and opportunity for public comment; proposed revised guidelines.

SUMMARY: Section 1605(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPACT), 42 U.S.C. 13385(b), directed the Department of Energy (DOE or Department) to issue guidelines establishing a voluntary greenhouse gas reporting program. The guidelines issued by the Department in 1994 to establish the Voluntary Reporting of Greenhouse Gases Program were intentionally flexible to encourage the broadest possible participation. On February 14, 2002, the President directed DOE, together with other involved Federal agencies, to recommend reforms to enhance this voluntary reporting program. The purposes of the proposed revised Guidelines are to establish revised procedures and reporting requirements for filing voluntary reports, and encourage corporations, government agencies, non-profit organizations, households and other private and public entities to submit annual reports of their total entity-wide greenhouse gas emissions, net emission reductions, and carbon sequestration activities that are complete, reliable and consistent. Public comments on these proposed revised Guidelines are solicited and a public workshop has been scheduled to encourage an open exchange of views on this subject.

DATES: Interested persons should submit written e-mail or written comments by February 3, 2004 to the addresses given below. You may present oral views and data at a public workshop that will be held at the Washington Plaza Hotel, 10 Thomas Circle, NW., Massachusetts Avenue at 14th Street, Washington, DC 20005, on January 12, 2004, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Send e-mail comments to: *1605bgeneralguidelines.comments@hq.doe.gov*. Alternatively, written comments may be sent to: Mark Friedrichs, PI-40; Office of Policy and International Affairs; U.S. Department of Energy; Room 1E190, 1000 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20585. DOE will hold a public workshop at the following address:

Washington Plaza Hotel, 10 Thomas Circle, NW., Massachusetts Avenue at 14th Street, Washington, DC 20005. You may review comments received by DOE, the workshop transcript, and any other related material at the following Web site: *http://www.pi.energy.gov/enhancingGHGregistry/proposedguidelines/generalguidelines.html*. If you lack access to the Internet, you may access this Web site by visiting the DOE Freedom of Information Reading Room, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC. See Section III of the

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section of this notice for more information about public participation in this proceeding.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark Friedrichs, PI-40, Office of Policy and International Affairs, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20585, or email:

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I. Introduction**A. Background**

Section 1605(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPACT) directed the Department of Energy, with the Energy Information Administration (EIA), to establish a voluntary reporting program and database on emissions of greenhouse gases, reductions of these gases, and carbon sequestration activities (42 U.S.C. 13385(b)). Section 1605(b) required that DOE's Guidelines provide for the "accurate" and "voluntary" reporting of information on: (1) Greenhouse gas emission levels for a baseline period (1987-1990) and thereafter, annually; (2) greenhouse gas emission reductions and carbon sequestration, regardless of the specific method used to achieve them; (3) greenhouse gas emission reductions achieved because of voluntary efforts, plant closings, or state or federal requirements; and (4) the aggregate calculation of greenhouse gas emissions by each reporting entity (42 U.S.C. 13385(b)(1)(A)-(D)). Section 1605(b) contemplates a program whereby voluntary efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions can be recorded, with the specific purpose that this record can be used "by the reporting entity to demonstrate achieved reductions of greenhouse gases" (42 U.S.C. 13385(b)(4)).

In 1994, after notice and public comment, DOE issued General Guidelines and sector-specific guidelines that established the Voluntary Reporting of Greenhouse Gases Program for recording voluntarily submitted data and information on greenhouse gas emissions and the