ENVIRONMENT CANADA'S GREENHOUSE GAS DIVISION

Greenhouse Gas Verification: Scoping Out the Terrain

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Presentation Overview

- Types of validation/verification that might be required under various model systems
- Types of training courses that might be developed,
- Competencies that might be required before becoming accredited
- Use of specialists on audit/verification teams and the possible criteria for selecting specialists
- The process that could be put in place for accreditation of organisations to perform audits/verification of GHGs

Nature of the Presentation

- Because of early stage development of these initiatives, proposals may be speculative;
- Intended to stimulate discussion of different approaches rather than propose one option over another
- Verification/audit community's involvement critical to informing these discussions.

Different Model Systems

- The Climate Change Plan for Canada proposes a Large Industrial Emitters System with a three-pronged strategy:
  - targets for reductions established through covenants with a regulatory or financial backstop (55 megatonne (Mt) reduction);
  - access to a domestic emissions trading system, domestic offsets, and international permits to provide flexibility; and
  - complementary measures (an additional 11 Mt reduction).
- A domestic offset system, therefore, needs to be developed.
- Canada's GHG inventory also needs to meet international reporting requirements.

Potential Model Systems Needs

- Likely need reporting of GHG emissions for all three systems.
- Frequency and extent of reporting still needs to be established.
- Offsets projects will likely need validation (pre-project) and verification (post-project) to certify that an emission reduction/removal has occurred.
- Reported GHG emissions that are included in the National GHG Inventory will likely require some form of quality assurance or verification.
- Frequency would likely be determined by the frequency of emission reduction claims.

Types of Training Courses

- Basic course to introduce climate change and GHG issues to novice practitioners – could be used as prerequisite or alternative to first day of more intensive course
- Project validator/verifier training course, could cover:
  - Terminology
  - Project basics: validating a baseline or project scenario, verifying measured data
  - Project specifics: certifying emission reductions/removals
- GHG inventory verifier
  - Quantification protocols
  - Verification protocols

Possible competencies

- Professional certification, member in good standing;
- Some verification/audit experience in another field;
- Proven knowledge in the area to be verified
  - Similar to requirements under PERRL and TEAM for validation/verification

Specialists

- Technical specialists will likely be required for certain GHG emission verification functions;
- Some examples include:
  - Petroleum engineers;
  - Soil scientists;
  - Forestry engineers;
- Use of specialists in the audit profession is common practice;
- It is likely that similar guidelines would be used to ensure appropriate expertise and job performance stipulations are included in specialist contract.

Becoming a Verifier

- Submit competencies prior to taking training courses – need approval of accredited certification entity
- Take essentials training course followed by either project validator/verifier or GHG inventory verifier
- Pass course testing
- Conduct a series of validations/verifications while being shadowed by accredited verifier
- Submit scores from shadow validations/verifications and test scores to accredited certification entity to obtain accreditation.