

Developments in Climate Change Policy

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Overview



- **Many Players on Climate Change**
- **EPA Activities**
- **Possible Future Directions in Climate Policy**
- **Things to Watch**

Growing Engagement in EPA



- Many EPA offices, programs, and regions focusing on climate
 - Mitigation
 - Impacts (water, air quality)
 - Linkages to other environmental goals (air quality, waste management, etc.)
 - Land use
 - Research and development
 - Data management
 - Regulatory review

Many US Agencies Involved



- Much broader and more complex institutionally than any other environmental issue
- Diverse interests and perspectives, e.g.:
 - Interagency coordination: White House, CEQ, OMB, OSTP, NSC, NEC, CEA
 - Energy use, security, and markets: DOE, FERC, DOD
 - Sectoral agencies: USDA, DOT, DOI
 - Revenue use: Treasury
 - Research agencies: DOE, NASA, NOAA, USGS
 - Impacts: DOI, NOAA
 - International activities: DOS, USAID, DOC, USTR

Increasing State and Local Activity



- **States and regions filling near-term vacuum**
 - Trading programs (RGGI, WCI, Midwest)
 - Reporting programs (TCR, CCAR, WCI, etc.)
 - California waiver
 - International linkages (ICAP)
- **Additional long-term interest in other aspects**
 - Land-use and transportation
 - Impacts and adaptation
 - Energy efficiency
 - Linkages to air quality, water quality and supply

Growing Congressional Activity



- Bills from both House and Senate
- Multiple committees involves
- Focus on cap and trade, but also other policy tools, like:
 - Energy efficiency
 - Renewable Energy
- Climate's place in the queue

Key EPA Activities



- GHG Mandatory Reporting Rule
- Advanced Notice of Proposed Rule-making

Mandatory GHG Reporting Rule: Appropriations Language



FY2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act:

- “... not less than \$3,500,000 shall be provided for activities to develop and publish a draft rule not later than 9 months after the date of enactment of this Act, and a final rule not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, to require mandatory reporting of greenhouse gas emissions above appropriate thresholds in all sectors of the economy...”

Accompanying Explanatory Statement:

- The Agency shall "use its existing authority under the Clean Air Act" to develop a mandatory GHG reporting rule. "The Agency is further directed to include in its rule reporting of emissions resulting from upstream production and downstream sources, to the extent that the Administrator deems it appropriate. The Administrator shall determine appropriate thresholds of emissions above which reporting is required, and how frequently reports shall be submitted to EPA. The Administrator shall have discretion to use existing reporting requirements for electric generating units under Section 821 of the Clean Air Act...."

Mandatory GHG Reporting Rule: Purpose and Scope



- Objective(s) of the Program – to collect comprehensive and accurate data relevant to future policy decisions,
- Scope of Coverage
 - Define gases- “...to require mandatory reporting of greenhouse gas emissions”
 - CO₂, CH₄, N₂O, HFC, PFC, SF₆, other fluorinated gases
 - Both upstream and downstream sources-
 - Upstream: fossil fuel and chemical producers and importers
 - Downstream: direct emitters- large industrial facilities

Extensive Input Solicited



- Meetings held with approximately 300 different groups, including:
 - Trade Associations: Fertilizer Institute, National Corn Growers Assoc., National Cotton Council of American, National Cattlemen’s Beef Assoc., National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, American Farm Bureau Federation, Farm and Rural Community Council
- States and state-based groups: CA, CT, NM, SCAQMD, TCR, Western Climate Initiative, NACAA, ECOS
 - Tribes: Tribal Air Caucus, National Tribal Air Assoc.
 - NGOs: WRI, NRDC
- EPA staff have examined existing and proposed reporting programs,
 - EPA programs: SO₂/NO_x, National GHG inventory, Climate Leaders, EPA fuels programs,
 - External programs: 1605b, WRI/WBCSD, TCR, California, WCI, RGGI, EUETS and industry-specific protocols

Mandatory Reporting Rule: Status



- **Comprehensive draft prepared, covering upstream and downstream sources and a high percentage of national emissions**
- **Status:**
 - Draft rule still needs to go through interagency review
 - Public comment period, with stakeholder workshops
- **Implementation**
 - Reporting could begin in 2011 at the earliest, for 2010 emissions
 - Delay in finalization of rule into late 2009 could affect schedule

What is an ANPR?



- Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR or ANPRM)
- An ANPR is an informal action sometimes taken by agencies prior to proposing a rule
- An ANPR is used when an agency believes it would be appropriate to obtain more information and solicit public input on possible regulatory approaches before deciding what to propose

The Greenhouse Gas ANPR



- Represents EPA's next step in responding to the Supreme Court case finding that GHGs are air pollutants under the Clean Air Act (CAA)
- It includes:
 - A summary of the science on climate change and its effects
 - A summary of EPA's work to date on potential motor vehicle GHG standards under the CAA
 - A discussion of the interconnections among different CAA provisions
 - An examination of CAA provisions potentially applicable to GHGs
 - A discussion of a wide range of potential regulatory approaches and technologies for reducing GHGs
- Available at: www.epa.gov/climate

The GHG ANPR Does NOT



- Propose or recommend use of any particular Clean Air Act authority
- Make judgments about a preferred pathway
- Regulate any emissions
- Commit to specific next steps

ANPR Status



- **Comment period closed November 28, 2008**
- **Over 2500 comments received**
- **Staff are reviewing in preparation for discussions with incoming Administration**

Possible Future Directions



- **New Administration just beginning the transition process**
- **New approaches underway to both domestic and international climate policy**
- **Many other issues also demand attention**

Domestic Policy



- Executive branch playing a larger role on climate policy
- Close coordination with Congress ongoing
- Linkage of climate and energy issues, along with consideration of economic needs
- Interest in a mix of policy approaches
 - Cap and Trade
 - Other policies targeting renewables, energy efficiency, R&D, etc

Also Have to Address Clean Air Act Issues



- EPA must respond to a number of pending Clean Air Act issues
 - Massachusetts vs. EPA
 - California waiver challenge
 - Multiple petitions to set standards for aircraft, ships, other non-road engines (e.g. construction), landfills
 - Treatment of GHGs under the existing Clean Air Act
- Input received on ANPR will help inform future direction

International Re-engagement



- Negotiations underway on “Post-2012 Framework”, with aim to agree by Copenhagen (Dec 2009)
- Timetable is very ambitious and international expectations may be too high
- Post 2012 Framework likely to be more complex than Kyoto approach
 - Unresolved questions include form of the future agreement, timing and nature of developing country commitments, timing of US re-engagement
- Lesson from Kyoto: US domestic policy needs to lead and inform international policy development

Some Things to Watch



- **Progress on Cap & Trade**
 - Point of Regulation
 - Phasing of sectors
 - Allocation v. Auction
 - Treatment of competitiveness/trade issues
 - Treatment of Offsets
- **Outcome of petitions and litigation on Clean Air Act issues; follow-up actions to the ANPR**

Contacts and Resources



Thank you!

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