SF₆ Emissions Reduction Partnership for Electric Power Systems

Eric Jay Dolin, Ph.D.
SF₆ and the Environment
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An Opportunity for Industry

SF₆ Emissions Reduction Partnership for Electric Power Systems

Work with industry to reduce emissions of SF₆ in technically and economically feasible ways
Why a Program for Electrical Power Systems?

- Estimate—Nearly 80% of SF₆ purchased by utilities
- Gas emitted from electrical equipment
- Cost-effective opportunities to reduce emissions
- Many in industry have begun addressing the problem
What Is in the MOU?--EPA’s Responsibilities

- Designate liaison for program
- Serve as clearinghouse for technical information
- Sponsor conferences
- Provide recognition for partners
- Establish protocols for estimating and reporting SF$_6$ emissions
What Is in the MOU?--Partner Responsibilities

- Where possible, estimate emissions for any year between 1990 and 1999
- Annually inventory and assess leaks (units with less than 15 pounds of SF$_6$ not included in program)
- Annually report emissions to EPA using inventory method
Partner Responsibilities--Cont.

- Establish corporate policy for proper handling of SF₆, including commitment to recycle
- Develop strategy for retiring high-leakers
- Ensure that knowledgeable people handle SF₆
- After 18 months, establish an emissions reduction goal
The Partnership Is Off to a Great Start

- 61 partners representing roughly 40% of U.S. net generating capacity
- Partners improving management of this valuable resource
- Annual reports indicate successful reduction strategies in place
Cumulative Partnership Numbers for 1999

- $\approx 73,000$ pounds—mean SF$_6$ capacity
- $\approx 13,000$ pounds—mean emissions of SF$_6$
- 10%—mean leak rate
Key Points

- Program is strictly voluntary—not regulatory
- Extremely flexible agreement (MOU)—encourages technically and economically feasible activities as defined by the partner
- Opportunity to demonstrate that emissions reductions can be achieved through voluntary action