

Rice Cultivation Compliance Offset Protocol Technical Working Group

California Air Resources Board
May 10, 2013
10:00-12:00 PST

California Air Resources Board
Staff Proposal for Discussion

Conference Call Information

- Meeting agenda and slides posted at:
<http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/capandtrade/protocols/riceprotocol.htm>
- Call-in numbers:
 - Domestic line: 800-779-6985
 - Passcode: 13014

California Air Resources Board
Staff Proposal for Discussion

2

Agenda

- Overview of goals for Technical Working Group (TWG) and introduction of participants
- Discussions and updates on areas seeking technical comments and support
- Assignments and tasks
- Agenda setting for future TWG meetings

Goals for Rice Cultivation Technical Working Group

- Technical working groups provide a forum for:
 - Communication of technical expertise
 - Issue discussion and problem resolution
- Areas to be addressed:
 - Streamlining of emission reductions quantification
 - Review of DNDC model
 - Rice Specific verification techniques
 - Project aggregation
 - Risks
 - Alternatives of reducing project costs
- Periodic meetings during protocol development process

Streamlining of Emission Reductions Quantification

- ARB staff proposing a contract to:
 - Simplify DNDC input and output handling
 - Provide a protocol specific DNDC version hosted by ARB
 - Provide a calculator for required quantification
- Fix inputs to values allowed under the protocol
 - Reduce both OPO/APD and verifier time and cost
 - Prevent accidental changing of parameters fixed under protocol
- The deliverables of this contract could reduce project costs significantly and make projects more feasible

California Air Resources Board
Staff Proposal for Discussion

5

Public Review of DNDC Model

- DNDC calibration for California and Mid-South rice fields: Funded by USDA CIG to Environmental Defense Fund (Lead), California Rice Commission, American Carbon Registry/Winrock, and other participants.
- ARB will provide methodologies for data collection and calibration for public review

California Air Resources Board
Staff Proposal for Discussion

6

Rice Specific Verification Techniques

- Rice Cultivation Compliance Offset Protocol is the first crop-based offset protocol that ARB will consider
- Verification considerations for the rice protocol:
 - Identify unique challenges to a crop-based protocol
 - What existing techniques and practices can help?
 - Are there technologies on the horizon that can assist the process?

Project Aggregation (1)

- What is aggregation and its intended purpose?
- What are the concerns and risks for aggregation?
- Can the aggregation achieve its goal and ensure offsets meet AB 32 criteria?

Project Aggregation (2)

- Risks of aggregation
 - Program integrity implications
 - Offset Project Operator (OPO) implications
 - In case of an adverse verification
 - In case of invalidation
- Regulation provisions that reduce project costs:
 - Use of Authorized Project Designee (APD)
 - An APD can represent multiple OPOs to negotiate a wholesale verification price
 - Deferred verification for small projects
 - Projects under 25,000 MT CO₂e of annual emission reductions may choose to perform verification that covers two consecutive Reporting Periods

California Air Resources Board
Staff Proposal for Discussion

9

Program Contacts

- Steve Cliff, Chief, Program Evaluation Branch,
scliff@arb.ca.gov
- Greg Mayeur, Manager, Program Operations Section,
gmayeur@arb.ca.gov
- Yachun Chow, Rice Cultivation Compliance Offset
Protocol, ychow@arb.ca.gov

California Air Resources Board
Staff Proposal for Discussion

10