



Regulatory Advisory



June 2013

Regulation for the Mandatory Reporting of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Advisory PTSD 13-01

EXTENSION OF POPULATION COUNTS TO CALCULATE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FROM VALVE AND METER LEAKS FOR ONSHORE PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION FACILITIES

With this advisory the California Air Resources Board (ARB) is announcing it is allowing onshore petroleum and natural gas facilities (as defined in section 95150(a)(2) of the Regulation for the Mandatory Reporting of Greenhouse Gas Emissions (MRR) (title 17, California Code of Regulations, section 95100 et seq.) to continue to use the provisions found in section 95153(p) as well as those of section 95153(o) to report the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from equipment leaks. These sections cover the GHG emissions that occur when valves, connectors, open ended lines, pressure relief valves, and meters leak. This change pertains to the reporting of 2013 emissions data in the 2014 reporting period, and is being made to provide additional time for reporters to implement these reporting requirements and for ARB to evaluate implementation of this method change.

Background

The most recent revisions to the MRR were adopted by the ARB Board in September of 2012. These revisions included the requirement that onshore petroleum and natural gas producers use only the methods in section 95153(o) entitled *Leak Detection and Leaker Emission Factors* to estimate the GHG emissions from equipment leaks. In the previous version of the MRR, these reporters had been directed to use the methods in section 95153(p) entitled *Population Count and Emission Factor*.

Current Action

This Regulatory Advisory extends the time onshore petroleum and natural gas producers may use the methods described in section 95153(p) as ARB evaluates the additional resources and costs associated with the screening methods (section 95153(o)) versus population counts (section 95153(p)). Emissions reported under each of these MRR sections (95153(o) and (p)) do not carry a compliance obligation under the cap-and-trade program and this advisory therefore will not impact cap-and-trade program requirements.

For what time period is the use of methods in section 95153(p) approved for onshore petroleum and natural gas producers?

Onshore petroleum and natural gas producers may use the provisions found in section 95153(p) when reporting 2013 emissions in 2014.

Where can I find more information and documentation concerning this change?

The MRR may be found at the following link: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/reporting/ghg-rep/regulation/mrr-regulation.htm>