

EPA PROPOSES NATIONAL REPORTING ON GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposed the first comprehensive national system for reporting emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases produced by major sources in the United States. EPA is developing this rule under the authority of the Clean Air Act. "Our efforts to confront climate change must be guided by the best possible information," said EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson. "Through this new reporting, we will have comprehensive and accurate data about the production of greenhouse gases." In developing the reporting requirements, EPA considered the substantial amount of work already completed and underway in many states, regions and voluntary programs. Approximately 13,000 facilities, accounting for about 85 percent to 90 percent of greenhouse gases emitted in the United States, would be covered under the proposal. The new reporting requirements would apply to suppliers of fossil fuel and industrial chemicals, manufacturers of motor vehicles and engines, as well as large direct emitters of greenhouse gases with emissions equal to or greater than a threshold of 25,000 metric tons per year (tpy). Categories of emitters listed in the preamble of the proposed rule that fall within the solid waste and organics recycling industries include ethanol production, food processing, landfills, wastewater treatment and manure management.

The proposed rule would require reporting of annual emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and other fluorinated gases (e.g., nitrogen trifluoride and hydrofluorinated ethers [HFES]). The proposed rule would apply to certain downstream facilities that emit GHGs (primarily large facilities emitting 25,000 tpy of CO₂ equivalent GHG emissions or more) and to upstream suppliers of fossil fuels and industrial GHGs, as well as to manufacturers of vehicles and engines. Reporting would be at the facility level, except certain suppliers and vehicle and engine manufacturers would report at the corporate level. The first annual report would be submitted to EPA in 2011 for the calendar year 2010, except for vehicle and engine man-

ufacturers, which would begin reporting for model year 2011. The proposed rule will be open for public comment for 60 days after publication in the Federal Register, which is expected in late March or early April. Two public hearings will be held during the comment period. More information on the proposed rule: www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ghgrulemaking.html

LOCAL FOOD AS AN ECONOMIC STIMULUS

A statewide task force report — *Local Food, Farms & Jobs: Growing the Illinois Economy* — delivered to the Illinois General Assembly in early March concluded that a local farm-and-food development strategy could trigger \$20 billion to \$30 billion in new economic activity annually, while also creating thousands of new jobs. "The business of creating and maintaining all the links in the local supply chain — aggregating, processing, packaging, storing and transporting products — translates into jobs that cannot be outsourced," notes the report prepared by the Illinois Local and Organic Food and Farm Task Force. "Right now, such a system doesn't exist. There is not enough local food to meet the demand, nor enough farmers growing local food, nor companies in the business of processing local food. This void is what is called opportunity." The task force is comprised of farmers, distributors, retailers, community organizations and government representatives from around the state. Its findings confirm that local food system development is a nationwide phenomenon: "Many states are taking steps to satisfy consumer demand to know how food is produced, where and by whom. State government's role is to help jumpstart job creation, lending and investment in the local food system so that entrepreneurs can grow the economy."

The report recognizes how demand for local food is increasing on the wholesale level as well. "Illinois colleges and universities, as well as corporate kitchens, schools, hospitals, prisons, restaurants and grocery stores want to buy farm products from nearby sources. Inadequate local food production and delivery channels pinch supply. Illinois' predominant farm and food systems are designed to serve distant markets, not link farm production with in-state markets." To download a copy of the report, go to: www.foodfarmsjobs.org.

IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has awarded \$356 million in loans to 16 rural utilities and cooperatives, across 10 states to improve the infrastructure for renewable energy transmission. The loans will add or fix 3,830 miles of transmission and distribution lines, and benefit about 4,500 customers in rural areas.

Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC), based in Andarko, Oklahoma, will receive the largest loan, of \$103.3 million. It plans to build 120 miles of new lines, 3 switching stations and 10 substations. WFEC says it began receiving electricity from a 19-megawatt wind farm last month, and is looking to add another 100 to 200 megawatts of wind energy. Other loan recipients include Victory Electric Cooperative Association in Dodge City, Kansas, the Central Alabama Electric Cooperative in Prattville, Alabama and the Piedmont Electric Membership Cooperative in Hillsborough, North Carolina.

NATIONAL SEWAGE SLUDGE SURVEY

The U.S. EPA Office of Water released results of the latest Targeted National Sewage Sludge Survey (TNSSS). The survey was among the action steps EPA committed to in response to the 2002 National Research Council report, *Biosolids Applied to Land*. The survey involved collecting samples of sewage sludge from 74 randomly-chosen wastewater treatment facilities in 35 states during 2006 and 2007. The sampled facilities are considered to be representative of the nation's 3,337 largest treatment facilities — those that treat more than 1 million gallons/day. Samples were tested for 145 analytes, including metals, PAHs, nitrogen, phosphorus, flame retardants (PDBEs), pharmaceuticals, hormones and steroids. The survey found nitrite/nitrate, fluoride and water-extractable P in every sample; 27 metals were also found in every sample. Semivolatile organics and PAHs were identified in a number of samples; 3 pharmaceuticals — cyprofloxacin, diphenhydramine and triclocarban — were found in all 84 samples. But the majority of pharmaceuticals tested for were not found in any sample. Steroids and flame retar-

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