



## The Climate Registry

### Cover Memo to Accompany General Verification Protocol Version 2.0

*DRAFT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT*

*February 8, 2010*

The Climate Registry (The Registry) is pleased to release General Verification Protocol (GVP) Version 2.0 for public comment.

#### **Introduction to GVP v. 2.0**

The GVP presents the verification requirements for The Registry's voluntary greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reporting program. The Registry developed the GVP to provide Registry-recognized Verification Bodies with clear instructions for executing a standardized approach to the independent verification of annual GHG emissions reported to The Registry.

The Registry regularly updates its protocols to reflect changes in international best practices and to provide additional clarity and guidance. In developing the GVP v. 2.0, The Registry has explored many aspects of verification from the standpoint of identifying opportunities to streamline the process and thereby reduce the cost of verification, while also maintaining the integrity of our program. The two major changes introduced in this public comment draft of GVP v. 2.0 are outlined below:

1. Verification cycle:
  - a. 3-year cycle consistent with California Climate Action Registry, California Air Resources Board, and the Western Climate Initiative.
  - b. Full verification Year 1, streamlined verification Years 2 & 3.
  - c. 6-year limit on VB/Member relationship.
  
2. Facility visits:
  - a. Required for full verifications (i.e. Years 1 & 4) and not required for streamlined verifications (i.e. Years 2, 3, 5, or 6) unless triggered by changes to operations, emission sources, etc.
  - b. Updated methodology for determining number of facilities to visit:
    - i. Clarifies how to address aggregated facilities when determining number of facility visits.

- ii. Eliminates ranges (e.g. no longer method that requires 3 facility visits for 11 to 25 facilities, or 6 facility visits for 26 to 50 facilities) by introducing an equation.
- iii. Allows three different methodologies for determining the number of facility visits to better accommodate common situations:
  - 1. Method A: Based on Number of Non-Commercial Facilities and Risk Assessment Findings: This method is most appropriate when emissions generated are fairly evenly distributed amongst several facilities in the Member's inventory.
  - 2. Method B: Based on Ranking Distribution of Generation of Direct Emissions: This method is most appropriate for Members that have a large number of facilities in their inventory with a majority of direct emissions are generated by a small percentage of the facilities in the Member's inventory.
  - 3. Method C: Commercial Facilities: This method is permitted only for commercial facilities that generate no process emissions.
- iv. Does not allow for justification of fewer than the minimum number of facility visits.
- v. Clarifies requirement for worldwide facility visits.

Please refer to the redline draft of GVP v. 2.0 to see other tracked changes, including integration of the Updates & Clarifications document dated March 2, 2009, revisions to the Verification Statement and Notification of Planned Facility Visits forms, introduction of a new equation for percent accuracy for use in evaluating materiality, expanded discussion on conflict of interest, etc.

While The Registry welcomes and encourages comments on all aspects of the GVP, it particularly seeks comments on the two major changes outlined above.

## Conclusion

The Climate Registry strives to implement a transparent protocol development process that includes the participation of a wide array of stakeholders. We sincerely appreciate your interest in the development of GVP v. 2.0.

Please join us for a public call on **Thursday, February 18** to ask questions and provide verbal feedback on the draft GVP Version 2.0. To register for the call, please visit our [online calendar](#).

Written public comments on GVP v. 2.0 must be submitted using The Registry's comments template to Amy Dao at [amy@theclimateregistry.org](mailto:amy@theclimateregistry.org) by **March 23, 2010**. Your comments may be publicly posted by The Registry unless you specifically request that The Registry does not reveal your identity/organization.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful feedback and comments. The Registry will consider the public comments that are received in finalizing GVP v. 2.0.