

Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act Bulletin

Update: Temporary deadline extension for submission of emission reports and verification statements

Greenhouse Gas Emission Reporting Regulation

Update

This bulletin provides an update to “GGIRCA Bulletin 006: Temporary deadline extension for submission of emission reports and verification statements” issued on April 23, 2020. Please note that the following deadlines have been amended as follows:

- Requests for an additional deadline extension for submission of a verification statement beyond July 31, 2020 must be submitted by the Operation Representative to the Director under GGIRCA at GHGRegulator@gov.bc.ca by July 20, 2020.
- Operators and verification bodies will be notified by July 27, 2020 if approved for an extension.

Overview

It is recognized that we are facing rapidly changing situations as we cope with the effects of COVID-19 in our province. Everyone in British Columbia (B.C.) must follow the orders and directives issued by the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) to protect public health, and it is recognized it could have impacts on the day-to-day operations of regulated activities under the *Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act* (GGIRCA).

This bulletin provides information on recent amendments (OIC#158) to the Greenhouse Gas Emission Reporting Regulation (‘the Regulation’ or ‘GGERR’) that provide the Director under GGIRCA discretion to extend the deadline for submission of an emission report (which includes a verification statement) respecting the 2019 reporting period and a verification statement respecting the 2018 reporting period if verification was delayed under s.28(3) of the Regulation (herein both cases referred to as a ‘Subject Emission Report’).

Requirements of the GGIRCA and its regulations remain in effect and it is expected that all reasonable measures should be taken to comply. Now is a good time to carefully review requirements and develop plans and contingencies to ensure operations are maintained in accordance with the requirements for the foreseeable future. Please provide notice of any concerns or issues to the attention of the Compliance Unit for Industrial Reporting and Control at GHGRegulator@gov.bc.ca.

Deadline Extension for Emission Reports

An operator of a reporting operation and/or a regulated operation (‘Operator’) must submit a Subject Emission Report by July 31, 2020.

Request for Additional Deadline Extension for Verification Statements

If an Operator determines in consultation with the verification body responsible for verification of its' Subject Emission Report that a required site visit cannot be conducted virtually (see GGIRCA Bulletin 005) or at the premises of the operation by July 31, 2020, the Operator may submit a request for an additional deadline extension for the verification statement to the Director under GGIRCA.

Requests must be submitted by the Operation Representative to the Director under GGIRCA at GHGRegulator@gov.bc.ca by July 20, 2020 and must include:

- a summary of reasons for requiring a deadline extension beyond July 31, 2020;
- an appended note from the verification body responsible for verification of its' Subject Emission Report stating a rationale for why the required site visit(s) may not be conducted virtually and/or at the premises of the operation by July 31, 2020;
- a suggested timeline for submission of the verification statement, if known; and,
- contact information (name, email and daytime phone number) for the Operator Representative and the verification body.

The Director or an Inspector under GGIRCA may request additional information to support the determination of the appropriate deadline for the verification statement. Operators and verification bodies will be notified by July 27, 2020 if approved for an extension.

Regulation is Determinative

The above is not legal advice and is provided as an aid in understanding the Regulation. Operators are responsible for reviewing the Regulation to ensure compliance with it.