

Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act Bulletin 008

Notice: This Bulletin contains information that is no longer applicable. Please refer to “GGIRCA Bulletin 016 – Update: Reporting fugitive methane emissions from open pit coal mining” for up-to-date information.

Reporting Fugitive Methane Emissions from Open Pit Coal Mining

Greenhouse Gas Emission Reporting Regulation (GGERR)

Overview

This bulletin provides information to industrial operators that have a reporting obligation under the [Greenhouse Gas Emission Reporting Regulation](#) (the Regulation) on the requirement to quantify fugitive methane emissions from open pit coal mining in accordance with best industry practices.

Reporting Emissions

Section 15 of the Regulation requires that operators quantify fugitive methane emissions from coal when broken or exposed to the atmosphere during mining in accordance with best industry practices (as referenced in [Schedule A](#), Table 1, Item 25 of the Regulation).

For the purpose of submitting an emission report for the 2019 reporting year and until further notice, best industry practice for quantifying and reporting fugitive methane emissions from open pit coal mining operations in British Columbia (B.C.) is the methodology given in Environment and Climate Change Canada’s National Inventory Report (NIR) publication.^[1] This methodology, outlined in more detail below, utilizes an emission factor. The most recently published emission factor for quantifying fugitive methane emissions from open pit coal mining provided in the NIR should be used for this methodology.

Emission reports prior to the 2019 reporting year that used other industry best practices in accordance with the Regulation are not required to be modified.

Further Detail on Methodology

Annex 3.2 of Part 2 of the NIR provides the underlying methodologies for assessing fugitive emissions from fossil fuel production, processing, transmission and distribution, including coal mining operations. To obtain an estimate of fugitive methane emissions associated with an open pit coal mining operation, the following equation can be used (based on Eq.A3-4, NIR Part 2):

$$Emissions = EF_{BC} \times Coal_{Production}$$

Where:

^[1] National Inventory Reports are available online at the Environment and Climate Change Canada site: <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/climate-change/greenhouse-gas-emissions/inventory.html>

EF_{BC} is the emissions factor for the coal type and mine type of the operation (in tonnes CH₄/kilotonnes coal mined)

$Coal_{Production}$ is the gross production for the operation (in kilotonnes coal mined)

Emissions must be expressed in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) by using the relevant global warming potentials as prescribed in B.C.'s Carbon Neutral Government Regulation.^[2]

^[2] See the Schedule in the Carbon Neutral Government Regulation available online:
http://www.bclaws.ca/Recon/document/ID/freeside/392_2008