**Webinar Summary**

**Greenhouse Gas Assessment for Projects (GAP) Rule, Chapter 173-445 WAC**

**July 23, 2020**

**Overview of Ecology Presentation**

The presentation slides and video are available at:

<https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Laws-rules-rulemaking/Rulemaking/WAC-173-445>

**Where the GAP Rule Would Apply**

* The rule will apply to proposed projects with likely greenhouse gas emissions
* The focus of this rule will be on fossil fuel and industrial projects per the Governor’s Directive 19-18
* Proposed projects could be for:
  + A new facility which require environmental review *or*
  + Changes to an existing facility which require environmental review
* The rule would be used by any lead agency under the State Environmental Policy Act or by project applicants

**Where the GAP Rule Would NOT Apply**

* The rule would not apply to existing facility operations which are already permitted
* The rule would not apply to projects currently going through an environmental review process
* The rule would not apply to projects which have completed an environmental review process
* In general, the rule would not apply to:
  + Programmatic reviews or plans, like a Comprehensive Plan update
  + Highway, road, or passenger rail projects
  + Housing projects
* For projects that are not covered by the GAP rule, greenhouse gas emissions will still require consideration under SEPA on a case-by-case basis

**How to Know if a Project Must Use the GAP Rule Environmental Assessment**

* An initial screening process would be used to determine if the GAP rule environmental assessment procedures for GHG emissions apply to a fossil fuel or industrial project
* If the screening process identifies a project as being applicable, then the greenhouse gas assessment in the GAP Rule must be used
  + The greenhouse gas assessment methods will be discussed during the August webinar

**Initial Screening**

For the project, consider:

* 1. Facility onsite emissions
  2. Feedstocks (inputs)
  3. Products (outputs)

**Project’s Facility GHG Emissions**

* Estimate the project’s facility emission sources using methods described in WAC 173-441-120, Reporting of Emissions of Greenhouse Gases
  + The WAC requires using the methods adopted by reference from EPA’s GHG reporting regulation, 40 CFR 98, Mandatory Greenhouse Gas Reporting
  + WAC 173-441 applies to facilities emitting at least 10,000 metric tons CO2e of GHG per year in Washington (RCW 70.94.151(5)(a))
* Displayed a map showing 150 Washington facilities reporting GHG emissions over 10,000 metric tons of CO2e in 2018
  + These included: Power plants, Petroleum refineries, Pulp and paper plants, Metals (aluminum, steel), Glass plants, Chemical producers, Electronics manufacturers, General manufacturing, Large boilers, Food processors, and Waste facilities
* Estimate facility GHG emissions using a potential to emit basis.
  + Normally GHG reports are based on actual measurements (for example, amount of natural gas burned per year)
  + For screening use maximum quantity of natural gas per year that could be burned (for example, permit limit, boiler rating, etc.)
* Include estimating emissions from biogenic CO2
* If facility emissions are equal to or greater than 10,000 metric tons of CO2e per year, the GAP Rule applies to the project and the greenhouse gas assessment described in the rule must be done

**GHG Emissions for Project Inputs and Outputs**

If a project’s facility GHG emissions are less than 10,000 metric tons of CO2e, then consider inputs and outputs to the project

* Inputs are materials used by the project (feedstocks: natural gas for a chemical plant)
* Outputs are materials made by the project (products: gasoline from a refinery)
* Identify inputs or outputs using a table in the rule for:
  + Fossil fuels
  + Electricity
* Estimate the potential to emit
  + Similar to 40 CFR 98 Table C-1 and Table MM-1
  + For unlisted hydrocarbons, estimate on a carbon content basis
* If a single input or output, or a combination of multiple inputs or outputs, are > 10,000 metric tons of CO2e, the GAP Rule applies to the project and the greenhouse gas assessment described in the rule must be done

Initial Screening Recap

* An initial screening process would be described in the GAP Rule to determine which projects would complete the environmental assessment in the rule
  + We will discuss the environmental assessment methods for the GAP Rule at the August 27 webinar.
* If the GAP rule does not apply to a project, an evaluation of GHG emissions is still required under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) on a case-by-case basis

**Input and Feedback from Groups Representing Key Interest Areas**

* Environmental
  + Amanda Goodin, Earthjustice
* Business and Industry
  + James Verburg, bp America, Inc.

This input and feedback will be posted online soon. Once the link is available, it will be included on our webpage:

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**Public Input and Feedback**

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