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Information Sheet on Verification Body Accreditation

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program

August 2010 Update

Note: This update includes revised contact information in FAQ #6, and is otherwise unchanged from previous versions of this document.

The MassDEP GHG reporting program requires facility greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reports to be verified by a third party beginning in 2011 (see Verification Requirements for Regulated Facilities below for the complete verification schedule). This Information Sheet explains how to become a MassDEP-recognized Verification Body and includes background information about MassDEP's GHG reporting regulation.

Becoming a MassDEP-Recognized Verification Body

MassDEP will recognize Verification Bodies (VBs) that demonstrate that they are:

1. **Recognized by The Climate Registry.** For information about The Climate Registry's recognition requirements, please review The Climate Registry's [Guidance on Accreditation](#) and visit their [website](#).
2. **Accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) to [ISO 14065:2007](#).** For information about applying to ANSI's GHG accreditation program, please visit [ANSI's website](#) and the [ANSI GHG Accreditation Program FAQs](#).
3. **Aware of all relevant provisions of the MassDEP GHG reporting regulation.** Additional details regarding this requirement will be released in 2010 along with application forms to become a MassDEP-recognized VB.

Please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section at the end of this document for more information regarding the accreditation process and eligibility criteria.

MassDEP's GHG Reporting Regulation

In August 2008, Governor Patrick signed the [Global Warming Solutions Act \(GWSA\)](#), making Massachusetts one of the first states in the nation to move forward with a comprehensive regulatory program to address climate change. The Act requires an 80 percent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions economy-wide by 2050, with a 2020 target to be set between 10 and 25 percent below 1990 levels. One provision of the GWSA requires MassDEP to adopt regulations requiring facilities to report and verify GHG emissions. These regulations were finalized in June 2009 as 310 CMR 7.71, Reporting of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions; the specific verification requirements are at 310 CMR 7.71(7). The regulation, and additional information about the GHG reporting program, is available at <http://www.mass.gov/dep/air/climate/reporting.htm>.

Regulated Facilities Requiring Third-Party Verification Services

Approximately 300 facilities in Massachusetts are required to report and verify GHG emissions, including:

- Facilities which emit more than 5,000 short tons per year of GHGs on a CO₂e basis
- Facilities that have an "Air Operating Permit" from MassDEP (as established in 310 CMR 7.00: Appendix C)

Verification Requirements for Regulated Facilities

All facilities are required to verify emissions reports once every three years. MassDEP has established a staggered implementation schedule, beginning in 2011, for facilities subject to GHG reporting requirements. MassDEP expects that these facilities will be fairly evenly distributed into the three categories shown in the table below:

| Criteria | Reporting Deadline for First GHG Report | Reporting Deadline for First Verified GHG Report | Verification Deadline |
|---|---|--|-----------------------|
| Reported >25,000 short tons CO ₂ in 2009 | June 15, 2010 (2009 emissions) | April 15, 2011 (2010 emissions) | December 31, 2011 |
| Reported >10,000 short tons CO ₂ e in 2010 (but not required to verify 2010 emissions) | June 15, 2010 (2009 emissions) | April 15, 2012 (2011 emissions) | December 31, 2012 |
| All other facilities | June 15, 2010 (2009 emissions) | April 15, 2013 (2012 emissions) | December 31, 2013 |

FAQs about Becoming a MassDEP-Recognized VB

1. *Q: What if my firm is already ANSI-accredited recognized by The Climate Registry? What additional steps does my firm need to complete to become MassDEP recognized?*

A: Your firm must submit an application to MassDEP. This application will require VBs to demonstrate that they are recognized by The Climate Registry and aware of all relevant provisions of the regulation. MassDEP intends to make applications available on the MassDEP website in 2010, and to offer short training sessions to ensure that VBs are aware of all relevant provisions of the regulation.

2. *Q: What can I do between now and 2010 to get started?*

A: If you have not already, apply to ANSI to become an accredited VB and familiarize yourself with the MassDEP regulation. For information about applying to ANSI's GHG accreditation program, please visit ANSI's website and the [ANSI GHG Accreditation Program FAQs](#).

3. *Q: Are there any fees associated with the accreditation process?*

A: ANSI accreditation program fees are explained in [ANSI's GHG Fee Procedure](#). MassDEP does not intend to charge additional fees for MassDEP-recognition.

4. *Q: Do individuals need to be accredited in order to work for a MassDEP-recognized VB?*

A: No, ANSI accredits firms that are legal entities and does not accredit individual verifiers. The Climate Registry does not require specific training in order for individuals to become a GHG verifier; however, as part of their ISO 14065 accreditation requirements, VBs must have systems in place to evaluate and ensure the competency of their verification staff. The Climate Registry's [Guidance on Accreditation](#) identifies some organizations that provide training on GHG verification.

5. *Q: Can my firm be a MassDEP-recognized VB if my firm does not have offices located in Massachusetts?*

A: It is not a requirement to have an office located in Massachusetts.

6. *Q: Who can I contact for more information?*

- ANSI: Kevin Cashman, GHG Program Coordinator: 202-331-3637, kcashman@ansi.org
- The Climate Registry: Jackie Zorovich, Director of Verification Services, 201-238-2572, jackie@theclimateregistry.org
- MassDEP: William Space, Environmental Analyst, Climate Strategies, 617-292-5610, climate.strategies@state.ma.us