

Tad Anderson

Emissions - Indirect

2. How is this Leakage Rate (LR) determined and updated over time? That is, (a) what research articles and/or reports are relied upon? (b) does the value chosen represent a best-guess estimate of LR or the upper limit of the uncertainty range (and, if the latter, what confidence level)? and (c) what provisions exist for updating the value of LR as both industrial practices change and better leakage measurements become available?

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3. Do the ISO documents use a single value of LR (as implied in question 2, above), or are multiple values of LR used, depending upon the source of natural gas and/or other factors?

I can work out the answers to these questions myself if you provide me with the relevant content from the ISO documents. Alternatively, if your staff can provide me direct answers to the above questions, that would also satisfy my needs.

I hope this clarifies (and perhaps simplifies) my request.

I'm cc'ing a few others with whom I've been in contact regarding the methane leakage issue, since they will perhaps be interested in your response as well.

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Thanks for your reply and your efforts to get me access to the ISO 14040/44 documents.

It's an interesting dilemma: The Dept of Ecology is developing rules based on copyrighted documents that the agency cannot readily share with the public. That's an awkward wrinkle, though very understandable in these times of government/private partnership.

Actually, though, I don't need access to the entire documents. All I'm after is a thorough understanding of how the issue of methane leakage is dealt with in estimating the life cycle GHG emissions for facilities and projects that use natural gas.

So if your agency could provide me just those portions of the documents that involve methane leakage (surely a tiny fraction of the total) that would satisfy my needs.

Specifically, I am looking for answers to these questions:

1. For a given amount of natural gas used in or produced by a project (as chemical feedstock, energy source, or deliverable commodity), what amount of methane is assumed to have leaked into the atmosphere during the extraction and delivery of that methane to the project? Let's call this the Leakage Rate (LR) with units of kg_methane_leaked per kg_methane_consumed.