CDM: Response form for request for clarification on Approved Methodologies (version 01.1)

Date of Meth Panel meeting:	21–26 June 2010
Title and number of request for clarification	"Question regarding applicability of AM0053 to biogenic methane collected from biodigestion of sewage sludge, in combination with AM0025." AM_CLA_0177

Summary of the query:

Please use the space below to summarize the request for clarification on the related approved methodologies.

Background

The approved methodology AM0053, "Biogenic methane injection to a natural gas distribution grid", is applicable to "project activities that process and upgrade biogas to the quality of natural gas and distributes it as energy via natural gas distribution grid. The source of biogas, which is generated by an anaerobic decomposition of organic matter, could be landfills, liquid waste treatment, animal waste management systems, etc."

Further the methodology states that "The approved methodology can be used in conjunction with approved methodologies for capture and destruction/use of biomethane, such as ACM0001, AM0013, etc. In such cases the baseline scenario identification procedure and additionality assessment shall be undertaken for the combination of the two components of the project activity, i.e. biomethane emission avoidance and displacement of natural gas".

Project Activity

The project activity involves the anaerobic treatment of sewage sludge, production of biogenic methane and injection of the biogenic methane into a natural gas distribution grid in Dalian City, People's Republic of China. In the baseline scenario sludge from municipal sewage treatment facilities is disposed of in landfills sites in accordance with AM0025 "Avoided emissions from organic waste through alternative waste treatment processes". In the project scenario, this sludge will be treated in a biodigester, enabling recovery of the biogas. The biogas (after cleaning) will be injected into a natural gas distribution grid. The project proponents will claim emission reductions both for the avoidance of methane emissions resulting from the baseline disposal of sludge in a landfill site (under AM0025); and from displacement of natural gas when the biogas is injected into a natural gas distribution grid (under AM0053).

Request

Confirmation is requested on whether project activities using AM0025 could be combined with natural gas injection to a gas grid under AM0053.

Recommendation by the Meth Panel:

Please use the space below to provide amendments /changes (in your expert view, if necessary).

N.A.

Answer to authors of the request for clarification by the Meth Panel :

Please use the space below to provide an answer to the authors of the above query

The Meth Panel clarifies the following:

- The Meth Panel confirms that the methodology AM0053 may be applicable to biogas generated in anaerobic treatment of sewage sludge (which is a project activity allowed under AM0025) since the biogas is generated by an anaerobic decomposition of organic matter;

- AM0025 ver. 11 states that "The project activity may include electricity generation and/or thermal energy generation from the biogas, syngas captured, RDF/stabilized biomass produced, combustion heat generated in the incineration process, respectively, from the anaerobic digester, the gasifier, RDF/stabilized biomass combustor, and waste incinerator". It is not explicitly stated in AM0025 that it is applicable to the case of injection of the biogas generated in the treatment process into a natural gas distribution grid. An applicability condition (in line with ACM0001) can be added to allow for this situation, and AM0025 can be mentioned as well in AM0053. The Meth Panel has already initiated revision of the above-mentioned methodologies.

Signed by the Chair, Mr. Lex de Jonge
Date: 25/06/2010

Signed by the Vice-Chair, Mr. Philip Gwage
Date: 25/06/2010

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