

# **USEPA Climate Change Update**

**West Coast Collaborative  
Partners Meeting 2008**



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# Outline



- **EPA regulatory actions**
- **Activities of 110<sup>th</sup> Congress**
- **Looking ahead**

# Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking



- Examines provisions of Clean Air Act potentially applicable to GHGs
  - Seeks comment on a wide range of regulatory approaches
- Examines interconnections among Clean Air Act provisions
- Presents information on endangerment finding
- Comments due November 28

# Mandatory Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule



- Objective - To provide data that will inform and support development of national climate policy
- Scope:
  - 6 GHGs
  - Upstream (fossil fuel producers/importers) and downstream (direct emitters)
  - “Appropriate thresholds”
- Timeline - Proposed rule under development, final rule due June 2009

# Renewable Fuel Standard



- Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 requires 36 billion gallons by 2022
  - 5-fold increase over 10 years from current RFS levels
  - Includes sub-mandates for biomass-based diesel and cellulosic biofuel beginning in 2009 and 201
- EPA must conduct lifecycle analysis
  - Renewable fuels must achieve a 20% lifecycle GHG reduction relative to fuels they displace
  - Cellulosic fuels – 60% reduction
- Rule due December 2008

# Carbon Sequestration Rule



- Requirements for geologic sequestration of CO<sub>2</sub>
  - Purpose - Protect underground sources of drinking water from injection-related activities
  - Establishes new class of injection well
- Rule proposed July 2008
- Final expected late 2010/early 2011

# Activities of 110<sup>th</sup> Congress



- Boucher-Dingell cap and trade draft
  - 2020: 6% below 2005 levels
  - 2050: 80% below 2005 levels
- 4 goals agreed to by 152 Representatives
  - 2050: 80% below 1990 levels
  - Clean energy economy
  - Minimize economic impacts
  - Aid vulnerable communities and ecosystems
- Lieberman-Warner-Boxer cap and trade bill
  - 2020: 22% below 2005 levels
  - 2050: 70% below 2005 levels

# GHG challenges under way



- Permits for coal-fired power plants challenged at the Environmental Appeals Board
  - Is CO<sub>2</sub> a regulated pollutant?
- Petitions to regulate mobile sources, e.g., aircraft, ships, nonroad engines
- Litigation on New Source Performance Standards
- CA waiver decision

# Looking ahead



- CA waiver decision?
- Regulation – what direction will EPA take?
- Legislation – what effect will economic situation have? what role will Administration play?
- International activities – post-Kyoto framework – Poland 2008, Copenhagen 2009 – U.S. position?