

Afforestation Update

May 6th, 2010



Climate Change Central

Albertans taking action

Here we go again...

- Original protocol approved in 2007
- Based on the CFS Afforestation Protocol developed under the NOQT
- Scope: quantify the carbon gains from “planting trees on land not traditionally forested such as agricultural land, urban land, agro-forestry operations and perhaps rehabilitation of industrial lands”
- Defines non-traditionally forested as being non-treed prior to December 31, 1989.



GHG Accounting

- Assisted in quantification of:
 - Above ground Carbon
 - Below ground carbon
 - Soil Carbon (Optional)



Why was it pulled?

- Problem with the interpretation of the original Science
- Out of step internationally with the treatment of harvested biomass



What's been happening?

- Original quantification errors corrected
- Completed a review of treatment of harvested biomass in other systems
- Meeting held October 2009 to discuss a path forward – specifically, how can we treat harvested biomass in a manner that both recognizes the environmental benefit and enables economically viability



- Looked pretty heavily to the treatment in CAR whereby we consider the permanence of various HWP.
 - The problem is that some HWP store C much longer than others
 - Therefore discounting based on permanence makes some HWP much more attractive than others – and effectively makes some products uneconomical



Changes Agreed Upon to Date

- Change in scope of the protocol to include “the planting of trees, or removal of impediments to natural reforestation” (similar to CAR)
- Switch from basing Carbon calculations on merchantable carbon to calculating based on total carbon.
 - Captures the C in establishing stands
 - Creates a problem with how to true-up



- TWG is proposing/discussing a system whereby two reserve pools are held:
 - Assurance factor of 10% applied to account for unintentional reversals (i.e. fire, disease, etc). (Non refundable)
 - Buffer Account held to ensure that upon true up, there is enough carbon to account for the switch from total carbon to merchantable. (potentially refundable)



Challenges /Ongoing Work

- What are the appropriate permanence factors for AB?
- What is the appropriate mill efficiency data for AB?
- What is the appropriate buffer pool rate?
- How to address planting for conservation purposes (never harvested)?
- How to ensure verifiability?
- How do we ensure this protocol works with the biomass protocol?
- How do we manage the possibility of gaming?
Mandatory verification period?



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