ANNEX 5 Assessment of the Sources and Sinks of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Excluded

Although this report is intended to be a comprehensive assessment of anthropogenic[72] sources and sinks of greenhouse gas emissions for the United States, certain sources have been identified yet excluded from the estimates presented for various reasons. Before discussing these sources, however, it is important to note that processes or activities that are not *anthropogenic in origin* or do not result in a *net source or sink* of greenhouse gas emissions are intentionally excluded from a national inventory of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions. In general, processes or activities that are not anthropogenic are considered natural (i.e., not directly influenced by human activity) in origin and, as an example, would include the following:

- Volcanic eruptions
- Carbon dioxide (CO_2) exchange (i.e., uptake or release) by oceans
- Natural forest fires[73]
- Methane (CH_4) emissions from wetlands not affected by human induced land-use changes

Some processes or activities may be anthropogenic in origin but do not result in net emissions of greenhouse gases, such as the respiration of CO_2 by people or domesticated animals.[74] Given a source category that is both anthropogenic and results in net greenhouse gas emissions, reasons for excluding a source related to an anthropogenic activity include one or more of the following:

- There is insufficient scientific understanding to develop a reliable method for estimating emissions at a national level.
- Although an estimating method has been developed, data were not adequately available to calculate emissions.
- Emissions were implicitly accounted for within another source category (e.g., CO_2 from Fossil Fuel Combustion).

It is also important to note that the United States believes the exclusion of the sources discussed below introduces only a minor bias in its overall estimate of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

CO_2 from Burning in Coal Deposits and Waste Piles

Coal is periodically burned in deposits and waste piles. It has been estimated that the burning of coal in deposits and waste piles would represent less than 1.3 percent of total U.S. coal consumption, averaged over ten-years. Because there is currently no known source of data on the quantity of coal burned in waste piles and there is uncertainty as to the fraction of coal oxidized during such burnings, these CO_2 emissions are not currently estimated. Further research would be required to develop accurate emission factors and activity data for these emissions to be

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[72] The term "anthropogenic," in this context, refers to greenhouse gas emissions and removals that are a direct result of human activities or are the result of natural processes that have been affected by human activities (IPCC/UNEP/OECD/IEA 1997).

[73] In some cases forest fires that are started either intentionally or unintentionally are viewed as mimicking natural burning processes that have been suppressed by other human forest management activities. The United States does not consider forest fires within its national boundaries to be a net source of greenhouse emissions.

[74] Respiration of CO_2 by biological organisms is simply part of the broader global carbon cycle that also includes uptake of CO_2 by photosynthetic organisms.

estimated (see *Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Reference Manual*, p. 1.112 – 1.113).

CO_2 from Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)

The 2006 IPCC Guidelines include, for the first time, methodological guidance to estimate emissions from the capture, transport, injection, and geological storage of CO_2. The methodology is based on the principle that the C capture and storage system should be handled in a complete and consistent manner across the entire Energy Sector. The approach accounts for CO_2 captured at natural and industrial sites as well as emissions from capture, transport, and use. For storage specifically, a Tier 3 methodology is outlined for estimating and reporting emissions based on site-specific evaluations. If site-specific monitoring and reporting data are not available, and the C capture and storage system cannot, therefore, be considered in a complete and consistent manner, the assumption is that the captured CO_2 is emitted. The assumption that, in the absence of site specific data, all CO_2 injected in storage sites is emitted is opposite from the current methodology implemented by the United States. The new methodology will not affect emission estimates for CO_2 consumption for non-EOR applications. The United States initiated data collection efforts to incorporate this new methodology for the current Inventory. However, time was not sufficient to fully implement this guidance and therefore estimates are not yet included in national totals. Preliminary estimates indicate that the amount of CO_2 emitted from EOR operations and CO_2 transport pipelines in 2005 was 35.16 Tg CO_2 (35,156 Gg CO_2). Site-specific monitoring and reporting data for CO_2 injection sites (i.e., EOR operations) were not readily available. Therefore, these estimates assume that all of the CO_2 used in EOR operations is emitted.

CO_2 from Natural Gas Processing

CO_2 is produced as a byproduct of natural gas production and processing. Natural gas produced from natural gas wells (referred to as non-associated natural gas) and natural gas produced from crude oil wells (referred to as associated-dissolved natural gas) may contain naturally occurring CO_2 that must be removed from the natural gas in order for it to meet pipeline specifications for CO_2 content. A fraction of the CO_2 remains in the natural gas delivered to end-users by pipeline, and is emitted when the natural gas is combusted. However, the majority of the CO_2 is separated from natural gas at natural gas processing plants. CO_2 removed at gas processing plants is generally vented to the atmosphere, but several gas processing plants in Wyoming and Texas and one gas processing plant in Michigan compress the CO_2 separated from natural gas and transport this CO_2 by pipeline for use in enhanced oil recovery. CO_2 used for enhanced oil recovery is injected into oil reservoirs to improve the recovery of oil remaining in the reservoir through a number of processes, including reduction of crude oil viscosity and oil density, acid effects on carbonate reservoirs, and miscible and immiscible displacement. Preliminary estimates indicate that in 2005 approximately 5.99 Tg CO_2 (5,992 Gg CO_2) produced from natural gas processing plants (acid gas removal plants) was captured and used in enhanced oil recovery operations. As discussed under CO_2 from Enhanced Oil Recovery (above) all of this CO_2 used in EOR operations is assumed to be emitted.

CO_2 from "Unaccounted for" Natural Gas

There is a discrepancy between the amount of natural gas sold by producers and that reported as purchased by consumers. This discrepancy, known as "unaccounted for" or unmetered natural gas, was assumed to be the sum of leakage, measurement errors, data collection problems, undetected non-reporting, undetected over reporting, and undetected under reporting. Historically, the amount of gas sold by producers has always exceeded that reportedly purchased by consumers; therefore, some portion of unaccounted for natural gas was assumed to be a source of CO_2 emissions. In other words, it was assumed that consumers were underreporting their usage of natural gas. In DOE/EIA's energy statistics for 1996, however, reported consumption of natural gas exceeded the amount sold by producers. Therefore, the historical explanation given for this discrepancy has lost credibility and unaccounted for natural gas is no longer used to calculate CO_2 emissions.

CO_2 from Shale Oil Production

Oil shale is shale saturated with kerogen.[75] It can be thought of as the geological predecessor to crude oil. CO2 is released as a by-product of the process of producing petroleum products from shale oil. As of now, it is not cost-effective to mine and process shale oil into usable petroleum products. The only identified large-scale oil shale processing facility in the United States was operated by Unocal during the years 1985 to 1990. There have been no known emissions from shale oil processing in the United States since 1990 when the Unocal facility closed.

CH_4 from the Production of Carbides other than Silicon Carbide

Methane (CH_4) may be emitted from the production of carbides because the petroleum coke used in the process contains volatile organic compounds, which form CH_4 during thermal decomposition. Methane emissions from the production of silicon carbide were estimated and accounted for, but emissions from the production of calcium carbide and other carbides were not. Further research is needed to estimate CH_4 emissions from the production of calcium carbide and other carbides other than silicon carbide. (See *Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Reference Manual*, pp. 2.20 – 2.21)

CO_2 from Calcium Carbide and Silicon Carbide Production

CO_2 is formed by the oxidation of petroleum coke in the production of calcium carbide. These CO_2 emissions are implicitly accounted for in the storage factor calculation for the non-energy use of petroleum coke in the Energy chapter. There is currently not sufficient data on coke consumption to estimate emissions from this source. (See Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Reference Manual, pp. 2.20 – 2.21)

CO_2 from Graphite Consumption in Ferroalloy and Steel Production

Emissions from "graphite," "wood" or "biomass" in calculating CO_2 emissions from ferroalloy production, iron and steel production or other "Industrial Processes" included in Chapter 4 of the inventory are not explicitly calculated. It is assumed that 100 percent of the C used in ferroalloy production is derived from petroleum coke and that all of the C used in iron and steel production is derived from coal coke or petroleum coke. It is also assumed that all of the C used in lead and zinc production is derived from coal coke. It is possible that some non-coke C is used in the production of ferroalloys, lead, zinc, and iron and steel, but no data are available to conduct inventory calculations for sources of C other than petroleum coke and coal coke used in these processes.

Non-fuel uses of coal coke and petroleum coke are accounted for in the Industrial Process chapter, either directly for iron and steel, aluminum, ferroalloy, lead, zinc, and titanium dioxide production, or indirectly by applying a storage factor to "uncharacterized" non-fuel uses of petroleum coke and coal coke. Non-fuel uses of wood and biomass are not accounted for in the Energy or Industrial Process chapters, as all uses of wood and biomass are accounted for in the Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry chapter. It is assumed for the purposes of the CO_2 emission calculation that no wood or other biogenic C is used in any of these industrial processes. Some biogenic C may be used in these industrial processes but sufficient data to estimate emissions are not available.

Consumption of either natural or synthetic graphite is not explicitly accounted for in the Industrial Process chapter. It is assumed that all of the C used in manufacturing C anodes for production of aluminum, ferroalloys, and electric arc furnace (EAF) steel are derived directly from petroleum coke and coal tar pitch (a coal coke byproduct), not from natural graphite or synthetic graphite sources. Some amount of C used in these industrial processes may be derived from natural or synthetic graphite sources, but sufficient data to estimate emissions are not currently available.

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[75] Kerogen is fossilized insoluble organic material found in sedimentary rocks, usually shales, which can be converted to petroleum products by distillation.

N_2O from Caprolactam Production

Caprolactam is a widely used chemical intermediate, primarily to produce nylon-6. All processes for producing caprolactam involve the catalytic oxidation of ammonia, with N_2O being produced as a by-product. Caprolactam production could be a significant source of N_2O—it has been identified as such in the Netherlands. More research is required to determine this source's significance because there is currently insufficient information available on caprolactam production to estimate emissions in the United States. (See *Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Reference Manual*, pp. 2.22 – 2.23)

N_2O from Cracking of Certain Oil Fractions

In order to improve the gasoline yield in crude oil refining, certain oil fractions are processed in a catcracker. Because crude oil contains some nitrogen, N_2O emissions may result from this cracking process. There is currently insufficient data to develop a methodology for estimating these emissions. (See *Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Reference Manual*, p. 2.23)

CH_4 from Petroleum Coke Production

Coke production may result in CH_4 emissions. Detailed coke production statistics were not available for the purposes of estimating CH_4 emissions from this minor source. (See Petrochemical Production in the Industrial Processes chapter and the *Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Reference Manual*, p. 2.23)

CO_2 from Metal Production

Coke is used as a reducing agent in the production of some metals from their ores, including magnesium, chromium, , nickel, silicon, and tin. CO_2 may be emitted during the metal's production from the oxidization of this coke and, in some cases, from the carbonate ores themselves (e.g., some magnesium ores contain carbonate). The CO_2 emissions from the carbonate ores are not presently accounted for, but their quantities are thought to be minor. (See *Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Reference Manual*, p. 2.37 – 2.38)

N_2O from Acrylonitrile Production

Nitrous oxide may be emitted during acrylonitrile production. No methodology was available for estimating these emissions, and therefore further research is needed if these emissions are to be included. (See *Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Reference Manual*, p. 2.22)

SF_6 from Aluminum Fluxing and Degassing

Occasionally, sulfur hexafluoride (SF_6) is used by the aluminum industry as a fluxing and degassing agent in experimental and specialized casting operations. In these cases it is normally mixed with argon, nitrogen, and/or chlorine and blown through molten aluminum; however, this practice is not used by primary aluminum production firms in the United States and is not believed to be extensively used by secondary casting firms. Where it does occur, the concentration of SF_6 in the mixture is small and a portion of the SF_6 is decomposed in the process (Waite and Bernard 1990, Corns 1990). It has been estimated that 230 Mg of SF_6 were used by the aluminum industry in the United States and Canada (Maiss and Brenninkmeijer 1998); however, this estimate is highly uncertain.

SF_6 from Production/Leakage/Breakage of Soundproofed Double-glazed Windows

Sulfur hexafluoride (SF_6) may be emitted from the production, breakage, or leakage of soundproof double-glazed windows. No methodology was available for estimating these emissions, and therefore further research is needed if these emissions are to be included.

SF_6 from Production/Leakage/Dismantling of Radar, Tracer and Night Vision Equipment

Sulfur hexafluoride (SF_6) may be emitted from the production, leakage, and dismantling of radar, tracer, and night vision equipment. Emissions from this source are believed to be minor, and no data were available for estimating the emissions.

SF_6 from Applications in Sports Shoes, Tires, and Tennis Balls

Sulfur hexafluoride (SF_6) may be emitted from application involving the production of sport shoes, tires, and tennis balls. These emissions are believed to be minor, and no data were available for estimating emissions.

SF_6 from Applications to Trace Leakage of Pressure Vessels and Used as a Tracer Gas in Open Air

Sulfur hexafluoride (SF_6) may be emitted from application involving tracer gasses to detect leakage from pressure vessels and as a tracer gas in the open air. Although emissions from this source are believed to be minor, emissions estimation data and methodologies were not available.

Miscellaneous SF_6 Uses

Sulfur hexafluoride may be used in foam insulation, for dry etching, in laser systems, for indoor air quality testing, for laboratory hood testing, for chromatography, in tandem accelerators, in loudspeakers, in shock absorbers, and for certain biomedical applications. Data need to be gathered and methodologies developed if these emissions are to be estimated. A preliminary global assessment of aggregate emissions from these applications can be found in Maiss, M. Brenninkmeijer, and C.A.M. Brenninkmeijer (1998).

N_2O from Domestic House Animal Waste Deposited on Soils

A substantial amount of liquid and solid waste is produced by domestic animals that are kept as pets. A preliminary methodology was developed to estimate nitrous oxide (N_2O) emissions from the deposition of domestic house animal (i.e., dogs and cats) waste on lawns, fields and parks. Estimates calculated with this methodology suggest that, in 1990, approximately 330 Gg of nitrogen originating as domestic house animal waste were deposited on soils resulting in approximately 2.9 Tg CO_2 Eq. of N_2O emissions from soils. To estimate the amount of nitrogen deposited by domestic house animals, only those excretions that remained on land surfaces—as opposed to wastes that were collected by owners and are managed as municipal solid waste—were included.

Annual dog and cat population numbers were obtained from the Pet Food Institute.[76] Annual nitrogen excretion rates were estimated from protein intake. The recommended protein intake for an average size adult of each animal type[77] was multiplied by the average amount of nitrogen per unit of protein (0.16 kg N/kg protein, from the *Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines*) to estimate nitrogen consumption. It was then assumed that 95 percent of this nitrogen was excreted, either in solid or liquid form (i.e., it was assumed that 5 percent was retained for fur and milk production). Of the total nitrogen excretion, 90 percent was assumed to occur through liquid waste, with the balance from solid waste.[78] Both cat and dog populations were divided into urban and rural fractions, using the metropolitan and non-metropolitan human population categories, respectively, of the U.S. Census Bureau.[79] Both liquid and solid wastes from the urban cat population, and solid waste from the urban dog population were assumed to be collected (i.e., not deposited on soils). Nitrous oxide emission estimates from domestic house animal excretion were calculated in the same manner as performed for estimating emissions from livestock excretion. Producing these estimates involved making a number of simplifying assumptions regarding average animal size and protein consumption, as well as the proportions of animal populations residing in urban and rural areas and the proportions

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[76] Pet Food Institute (1999) *Pet Incidence Trend Report*. Pet Food Institute, Washington DC.

[77] Bright, S. (1999) Personal communication between Marco Alcaraz of ICF Consulting and Susan Bright of the Dupont Animal Clinic, Washington, DC, August 1999.

[78] Swenson, M.J. and W.G. Reece, eds. (1993) *Duke's Physiology of Domestic Animals*. Cornell University Press. 11th Edition.

[79] U.S. Census Bureau (1999) <http://www.census.gov/population/estimates/metro-city/ma96-08.txt>

of wastes that are deposited on land. Further methodological development and data collection is required in order to reduce the uncertainty involved in the domestic house animal excretion estimates.

CO_2 from Non-Hazardous Industrial Waste Combustion

Waste combustion is incorporated in two sections of the energy chapter of the inventory: in the section on CO_2 emissions from waste combustion, and in the calculation of emissions and storage from non-energy uses of fossil fuels. The former section addresses fossil-derived materials (such as plastics) that are discarded as part of the municipal wastestream and combusted (generally for energy recovery). The latter addresses two types of combustion: hazardous waste incineration of organic materials (assumed to be fossil-derived), in which regulated wastes are burned without energy recovery, and burning of fossil-derived materials for energy recovery. There is one potentially significant category of waste combustion that is not included in our calculus: industrial non-hazardous waste, burned for disposal (rather than energy recovery). Data are not readily available for this source; further research is needed to estimate the magnitude of CO_2 emissions.

CH_4 from Land-Use Changes Including Wetlands Creation or Destruction

Wetlands are a known source of methane (CH_4) emissions. When wetlands are destroyed, CH_4 emissions may be reduced. Conversely, when wetlands are created (e.g., during the construction of hydroelectric plants), CH_4 emissions may increase. Grasslands and forestlands may also be weak sinks for CH_4 due to the presence of methanotrophic bacteria that use CH_4 as an energy source (i.e., they oxidize CH_4 to CO_2). Currently, an adequate scientific basis for estimating these emissions and sinks does not exist, and therefore further research and methodological development is required.

N_2O from Wastewater Treatment and Biological Processes

As a result of nitrification and denitrification processes, nitrous oxide (N_2O) may be produced and emitted from large-scale composting, small scale composting (e.g. households), post-composting of anaerobic digested wastes, and both domestic and industrial wastewater treatment plants. Nitrogen-containing compounds are found in composted wastes and wastewater due to the presence of both human excrement and other nitrogen-containing constituents (e.g., effluent from garbage disposals, bath and laundry water, and industrial wastes). The portion of emitted N_2O that originates from these sources is currently estimated under the Wastewater Treatment source category—based upon average dietary protein intake and assumptions on co-disposal of N that was not consumed. The portion of emitted N_2O that originates from other nitrogen-containing constituents is not currently estimated. Further research and methodological development is needed if these emissions are to be accurately estimated.

CH_4 from Large and Small Scale Composting

Methane (CH_4) may be released through large and small scale (e.g. household) composting. Detailed composting data is necessary in order to estimate emissions but were not available.

CH_4 from Treatment of Dredging Sludge, Remediation of Groundwater, Intermediate Storage of Slaughter Waste, Production of Process Water from Groundwater, and Post Composting of Anaerobic Digested Wastes

Methane (CH_4) may be released through the treatment of dredging sludge, remediation of groundwater, intermediate storage of slaughter waste, production of process water from groundwater, and post composting of anaerobic digested wastes. No methodology was available for estimating these emissions, and therefore further research is needed if these emissions are to be included.

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