

PERFORMANCE TESTING OF MICROTURBINES AT OIL AND GAS FACILITIES

The Environmental Technology Verification Program (ETV), in existence since 1995, is administered by the US Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Research and Development. It is funded by Congress in response to the belief that there are many viable environmental technologies available that are underutilized due to the lack of credible third-party performance testing. Southern Research Institute operates one of twelve ETV Centers, the Greenhouse Gas Technology Verification Center (GHG Center), in partnership with the EPA's Air Pollution Prevention and Control Division. The mission of the GHG Center is to provide independent performance verification capability to vendors and others that need reliable performance information on greenhouse gas control technologies and emission monitoring devices. The GHG Center is currently verifying technologies that reduce methane emissions from oil and natural gas industries. The Center's Oil and Gas Industry Stakeholder Group has identified microturbines as a technology whose performance data would be useful in making purchasing decisions. The Center is currently accepting applications from microturbine manufacturers wishing to participate in independent performance tests at oil and gas facilities. Performance tests are planned to evaluate electricity production capability, emission performance, economic performance, and operational feasibility under two potential fuel conditions: (1) pipeline quality natural gas from compressor, and (2) "waste" methane that is normally vented at wellhead operations and gas processing stations. Anyone wishing to participate in these tests should complete and submit a pre-application form available on the Center's Web site (<http://www.sri-rtp.com/index.html>), or by contacting Sushma Masemore at 919/403-0282.