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Nitrogen Management Project Protocol
Minimum Data Standard Public Comment Period

Reserve MDS Package, D.1 Introduction

I understand use of the MDS in new protocol development, with application to reporting as well as verification. It seems an additional implied role of the MDS is to broaden the scope of nutrient management practices that can be accounted for. I would encourage the Reserve to evaluate whether the purposes for the MDS are clear and comprehensive or whether additional explanation of uses and purposes might be warranted. In some parts of the MDS it seems that the data are primarily intended to support a new protocol, in other parts it seems the data are to add to a compendium of data that help to validate nutrient management as an offset. Added clarity up front on uses will help the reader to better understand the remainder of the document.

Reserve MDS Package, D.1.2 Process for Future Expansion

[Fourth paragraph, second bullet, "...mitigation potential..."] For a new practice, the mitigation potential should also take into consideration any possible external GHG effects – i.e. if the new practice is a new N formulation, are there additional GHG emissions that result from the manufacture or transportation?

Reserve MDS Package Public Comment 3, D.2 Minimum Data Standards for Field Experiments:

[Footnote 5, "...reference data sets have been published..."] Slightly different than the body text, which states "the results of which have been published". Results and analysis are much more likely to be published than the data sets themselves.

[Footnote 5, "...non-peer reviewed..."] While this is valid in order to be inclusive of data sets, it might be prudent to note that "non-peer reviewed" citations and related data sets will be more critically scrutinized by the Reserve.

Reserve MDS Package Public Comment 4, D.2.1 Method of Data Collection:

[Top of page 4, "...data set submission..."] Is there also a standard presentation format for data sets? Data attributes, file formats, units of measurement, etc.? This has less to do with quality of data and more to do with level of effort on the part of the Reserve to make sense of new data sets. GRACENet may be able to provide some useful structure here as well.

[Top of page 4, "...sampling protocol..."] It will be important for the Reserve to capture assumptions that have implications in the data set. Assumptions will affect data quality and relevance and the MDS might want to provide guidance on how to adequately document assumptions.

Reserve MDS Package, D.2.2.2 Temporal Frequency and Scale of Data Collection

The discussion of temporal frequency and scale is good. It may also be important to provide specific guidance on extrapolation (temporal or spatial). This is critical when growing season measurements are used to develop an annual measure of emissions. Spatial extrapolation may be adequately addressed later in section D.3.