

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 211
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Programme: Clean Energy Regulator
Topic: POWER STATIONS EMISSIONS REPORTING
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 29 October 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Back asked:

Do the emissions reported by the CER include all the emissions from the power stations (e.g. when they are starting up, shutting down and burning fuel but not generating)? It may take a full 22 hours for a small coal fired power station to reach full operating temperature. This temperature has to be maintained by continuous coal feed. In light of this information, how accurate is the emissions data being reported?

Answer:

Yes, although the emissions are not yet broken down in this way as reporting is conducted annually. Under the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGER) legislation reporters must submit data for each individual fuel type on the quantity of fuel consumed for:

- electricity generation;
- transport (excluding international bunker fuels);
- carbon reductants or feedstock's;
- other stationary energy purposes; and
- fuels consumed without combustion.

From the 2012-13 reporting year the measurement and reporting of emissions and energy associated with the combustion of fuel is optional if the quantity combusted in a separate instance of a source is less than a threshold specified in the NGER legislation. For example, the reporting of emissions and energy associated with the combustion of a solid fuel is optional if the quantity of solid fuel combusted in a separate instance of a source is 1 tonne or less.