

### **10.1.2 Quarterly Reporting**

In general, emissions data must be reported electronically each quarter, beginning either at the date and hour of provisional certification when all certification tests have been completed or the date and hour of the certification deadline specified in the rule, whichever comes first.

EPA uses the quarterly report data to assess compliance, by comparing each unit's reported SO<sub>2</sub> and/or NO<sub>x</sub> mass emissions against the number of allowances held, either on an annual or ozone season basis (as applicable). For coal-fired units with annual NO<sub>x</sub> emission rate (lb/mmBtu) limits under 40 CFR Part 76, the Agency also assesses compliance with these limits.

Quarterly reporting of emissions data is vital to the success of a cap and trade program. Quarterly reporting eases the administrative burden associated with the data reconciliation and allowance accounting process, because it enables EPA and the affected sources to work together during the year or ozone season to address any problems with the data, rather than waiting until the year or ozone season is over.

The electronic quarterly reports are submitted to EPA's Clean Air Markets Division (CAMD) by direct computer-to-computer transfer, using an EPA-provided software tool known as the Emissions Collection and Monitoring Plan System (ECMPS) Client Tool. The reports are due within 30 days after the end of each calendar quarter.

Beginning with the first quarter of 2009, all affected sources are required to report their emissions data must be reported in a standardized XML "schema" format provided by EPA71. Prior to 2009, the quarterly reports were submitted in a fortran-based electronic data reporting (EDR) format. The XML format is the culmination of an Agency initiative to modernize and re-engineer its data collection and processing systems.

This new format is Internet "friendly" and interacts more efficiently with a database structure than the EDR format. Proponents of XML believe that it will streamline Part 75 reporting and make the emissions data more accessible to interested parties.