

Question 13.23

Topic: Minimum CEMS Data Capture -- Maintenance Events

Question: Does a CEMS purge constitute a "maintenance activity" that would reduce to two the minimum number of data points required to calculate a valid hourly average under § 75.10(d)?

Answer: Yes, provided that the reason for performing the CEMS purge and the minimum acceptable frequency of the purge are clearly explained in the QA/QC plan for the unit. Note, however, that excessive, unnecessary CEMS purging may not be used as a means of circumventing the requirement to provide complete, accurate emissions accounting during all periods of unit operation.

If, for a particular monitor, the required purging frequency is unusually high (e.g., once or twice per hour), EPA recommends that the utility consider replacing the monitor with one that is less maintenance-intensive.

References: § 75.10(d), § 75.5(d)

History: First published in December 2000, Update #13