REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Independent Expert Review of VCS Methodology *VM0043 CO_2 Utilization in Concrete Production, v2.0 Draft* (CN0128)

July 30, 2026

1 INTRODUCTION

Verra is a global leader helping to tackle the world's most intractable environmental and social challenges. As a mission-driven nonprofit organization, Verra is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving livelihoods, and protecting natural resources by working with the private and public sectors. We support climate action and sustainable development with standards programs and tools that credibly, transparently, and robustly assess environmental and social impacts and enable funding for sustaining and scaling up projects that verifiably deliver these benefits.

The Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) Program is our flagship program. It allows vetted projects to turn their greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions and carbon dioxide removals into tradable carbon credits called Verified Carbon Units (VCUs).

An integral component of the VCS Program is the *VCS Methodology Development and Review Process, v5.1* (*MDRP*), which outlines procedures and rules for the development of new or revised VCS methodologies, modules, and tools. A key element of the rigorous process includes review by a group of independent experts to ensure the methodology or revision aligns with current scientific knowledge, research, and best practices. Independent experts review the technical rigor, accuracy, and consistency of the draft methodology as per Section 3.5 of the *MDRP, v5.1*.

2 SCOPE OF WORK

Verra is accepting proposals for an independent expert review of the next revision (version 2.0) to VCS methodology *VM0043 CO_2 Utilization in Concrete Production, v1.1* (methodology development ID #CN0128). The following updates are part of the proposed methodology revision:

- Inclusion of the following eligible optional project activities in the methodology scope and the corresponding quantification and monitoring requirements:
    - Use of supplementary cementitious materials not diverted from existing uses
    - Use of process water with dissolved CO_2
    - Reduction of process-related CO_2 emissions from steam curing

  - Mineralization of CO_2 into recycled concrete aggregate feedstocks
- Inclusion of natural carbonation in the calculations of emission reductions and removals (ERRs) (i.e., CO_2 that would be sequestered naturally without project intervention)
- Introduction of requirements to conduct project-based calculations and update the static (default) value for the default mineralization efficiency of 60%
- Inclusion of a new cement displacement factor of 6.5%, which replaces the default factor of 30%
- Replacing the default emission intensity of liquid CO_2 processing with the provisions in *VMD0056 CO_2 Capture from Air (Direct Air Capture)* and generally seeking alignment with *VM0049 Carbon Capture and Storage* where applicable
- Providing information/guidance on the acceptable sources of data to determine the quantity of Portland cement in each mix design in the baseline
- Restricting the eligibility of ongoing capture facilities in line with *VMD0059 CO_2 Capture from Bioenergy*
- General editorial improvements and corrections (including alignment with the latest methodology template and the VCS Program rules/requirements)

Verra is therefore requesting proposals for independent expert reviews (including academic experts, consultants, and validation/verification bodies [VVBs]) of the above-listed documents.

The requirements for the independent expert review are set out in Sections 3.3.2 and 3.5.1–3.5.4 of the *MDRP, v5.1*.

The following aspects of the revision must be assessed:

- Scientific rigor: Assessment of whether the proposed major revision reflects the most recent scientific knowledge of GHG emission removals/reductions from the sourcing and utilization of CO_2 in concrete production
- Technical robustness and consistency to ensure accurate/conservative outcomes:
  - Suitability of all the proposed changes in the methodological scope, including eligible optional project activities in the methodology scope (mentioned in the list of updates above)
  - Suitability of the new procedure to determine the baseline scenario
  - Relevance and completeness of GHG sources included in the project boundary
  - Appropriateness of equations for quantifying baseline emissions, project emissions, leakage emissions, and GHG emission reductions, including the procedure for the determination of uncertainty
  - Validity of all assumptions and data sources, including the determination of the new cement displacement factor, default emission intensity of liquid CO_2 processing, etc.

- Appropriateness and technical soundness of the monitoring/quantification approach for natural carbonation, the quantity of Portland cement in each mix design in the baseline, etc.

- Any stakeholder comment that requires input from the expert, as identified by Verra

Minor improvements introduced in this revision, such as editorial changes, general clarifications, and additional guidance, are excluded from the scope of the expert review.

Principal tasks and responsibilities will include at least the following:

1) **Review documents and issue draft Independent Expert Report.** Independent experts review the draft revision documents and submit a draft Independent Expert Report issuing findings to Verra, using the *VCS Independent Expert Report Template*, as per Section 3.5.1 in the *MDRP, v5.1*.
2) **Iterate with Verra to resolve independent expert findings** as per Section 3.5.3 in the *MDRP, v5.1*. Verra may arrange a meeting or series of meetings to discuss findings and how they may be clarified or resolved within the draft revision documents. Where findings identify major risks that cannot be addressed within a reasonable timeframe, the methodology is put on hold or rejected by Verra (see Section 3.5.4 in the *MDRP, v5.1*).
3) **Issue Independent Expert Report.** Independent experts issue to Verra a final, signed version of the Independent Expert Report, using the *VCS Independent Expert Report Template*, as per Section 3.5.3 in the *MDRP, v5.1*.

The expected time commitment in number of working days:

Draft revision document	Review document and issue draft of Independent Expert Report	Iterate with Verra to resolve findings	Issue Independent Expert Report	Total
Red-lined version of the draft *VM0043, v2.0*	2	1	1	**4**

3 CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

Verra will use the following criteria for evaluating proposals:

1) Relevant expertise in the subject matter, including the following:

    - Depth of knowledge of CO_2 utilization technologies in concrete production, including CO_2 injection and mineralization processes, supplementary cementitious materials (SCMs), recycled concrete aggregates, process water containing dissolved CO_2, cement displacement approaches, and related monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) techniques and systems

- Strong understanding of concrete carbonation and carbon removal/reduction science, including CO_2 mineralization mechanisms, permanence and durability of stored CO_2 in concrete products, natural carbonation processes, mineralization efficiency assessment, concrete mix design considerations, and the interaction between CO_2 utilization and cement reduction strategies
- Experience with GHG accounting and carbon market frameworks, including additionality assessment, baseline setting, leakage, monitoring, uncertainty assessment, and application of Verra/VCS requirements (and requirements from competing standards) for CO_2 utilization technologies in concrete production
- Record of scientific publications, reports, and project experience

2) Experience with VCS project development, GHG accounting, or VCS methodology development, demonstrated by relevant experience
3) Cost, including making sure that the proposed level of effort is consistent with the outcomes
4) Availability to comply with the proposed timeline
5) Ability to perform an independent review, without risk of bias that could impact the integrity of the methodology
6) Prior experience as an independent reviewer, validator/verifier, or methodology expert is preferable but not mandatory
7) Knowledge of the ICVCM's core principles, assessment requirements, and procedures is preferable but not mandatory

4 MILESTONES, DELIVERABLES, AND TIMELINE

The independent expert review is ready to start as soon as the selection and contracting process is complete.

The main deliverables and expected timeline resulting from this assignment are as follows:

Deliverable	Timeline
1) Review documents and issue draft Independent Expert Report	Two weeks from the date of signing of the contract
2) Iterate with Verra to resolve findings	Six weeks from the date of signing of the contract
3) Issue Independent Expert Report	Eight weeks from the date of signing of the contract

5 RESPONSES TO THE RFP

Respondents are requested to submit their proposals as follows:

- Completed Proposal Response Template, provided in Annex 1 and also available as a Word document, that indicates the respondent's qualifications, experience, rate, and ability to conduct the review
- Completed Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form, provided in Annex 2 and also available as a Word document, that indicates the respondent's ability to perform an independent review without risk of bias
- Separately appended resumes/CVs (not to exceed two pages each)

All application materials submitted to Verra will be kept confidential.

Proposals must be submitted by email to methodologies@verra.org, with the methodology development ID #CN0128 in the subject line, by close of business on August 27, 2026. Verra will likely ask the top candidates clarifying questions about their proposal. Verra plans to finalize selection of the consultant by September 4, 2026, with the work to begin as soon as possible after then.

Legal Nature of RFP

This RFP is an invitation for proposals, and Verra is under no legal obligation to accept any proposal nor proceed with the RFP. Verra reserves the right to amend the requirements at any time.

Annex 1 – Proposal Response Template

Evaluation Criteria	Response
#1: Relevant expertise in the subject matter, including: • Depth of knowledge in CO_2 utilization technologies in concrete production, including CO_2 injection and mineralization processes, supplementary cementitious materials (SCMs), recycled concrete aggregates, process water containing dissolved CO_2, cement displacement approaches, and related monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) techniques and systems • Strong understanding of concrete carbonation and carbon removal/reduction science, including CO_2 mineralization mechanisms, permanence and durability of stored CO_2 in concrete products, natural carbonation processes, mineralization efficiency assessment, concrete mix design considerations, and the interaction between CO_2 utilization and cement reduction strategies • Experience with GHG accounting and carbon market frameworks, including additionality assessment, baseline setting, leakage, monitoring, uncertainty assessment, and application of Verra/VCS requirements (and requirements from competing standards) for CO_2 utilization technologies in concrete production	

• Record of scientific publications, reports, and project experience Please list relevant scientific publications, reports, and project experience.	
#2: Experience with VCS project development, GHG accounting, or VCS methodology development, demonstrated by relevant experience	
#3: Cost proposal. Provide both daily rate and total cost in USD.	
#4: Availability to comply with the proposed timeline.	
#5: Ability to perform an independent review, without risk of bias that could impact the integrity of the methodology.	Please complete (sign and PDF) the Conflict of Disclosure Form provided in Annex 2.
#6: Prior experience as an independent reviewer, validator/verifier, or methodology expert.	
#7: Knowledge of the ICVCM's core principles, assessment requirements, and procedures.	

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Methodology Reviewers

Name: (of collaborator)	**Position/Role**: (of collaborator)
Organization: (of collaborator)	**Methodology / Tool / Module:** *CN0128 – Revision to VM0043 CO_2 Utilization in Concrete Production*

Instructions

Conflict of Interest ("COI"):

A COI is a situation in which a personal interest interferes with or is perceived to interfere with your ability to carry out your responsibilities in an impartial, unbiased, and objective manner. There are three categories of COIs: potential, perceived, or actual. Each category could potentially pose risks for Verra, your relationship with our organization, the integrity of the consultancy and the resulting methodology, and your personal and professional reputation.

In undertaking your review responsibilities, you have an ongoing duty to be transparent and are required to disclose any potential, perceived, or actual conflicts of interest within five (5) business days of being aware of the situation. When in doubt, please make a disclosure.

Disclosure

1. Do you have any affiliations with or involvement in any organization or entity that develops projects under the proposed methodology?

   __Yes (Verra will contact you regarding next steps) __No

2. Do you have interests, financial,* personal,† or otherwise, related to project development (interests that concern the broader support of climate mitigation are not required to be disclosed).

   __Yes (Verra will contact you regarding next steps) ___No

If you answered "Yes" to #1 or #2, or if you have a situation that is different from them, please provide details in the space below. Please include names of organizations, activities, and relevant relationships.

*Financial interests arise when the reviewer or their immediate relative has been or is currently engaged in discussions to have, directly or indirectly, through business or investment, an ownership or investment interest in any project development.

† Personal interests arise when the reviewer or their immediate relative obtains an advantage, profit, right, or share or may benefit in any manner from the project development.

I have declared all relevant interests on this form and will continue to raise relevant interests as and when they arise.

______________________________ ______________________________

Signature Date