

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Independent Expert Review of Revised VCS Methodology VM0016 Recovery and Destruction of Ozone-Depleting Substances and Hydrofluorocarbons

July 22, 2025

1 INTRODUCTION

Verra is a global leader helping to tackle the world's most intractable environmental and social challenges. As a mission-driven non-profit 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, tools, and programs 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, v5.0](#) (MDRP) which outlines procedures and rules for the development of new or revised VCS methodologies, modules, and tools. A key component 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, v5.0*.

2 SCOPE OF WORK

Verra is accepting proposals for an independent expert review of the revised VCS methodology VM0016 *Recovery and Destruction of Ozone-Depleting Substances and Hydrofluorocarbons, v1.2*, developed by ICF and Verra.

The currently active version, [VM0016, v1.1](#), applies to project activities that recover and destroy ozone-depleting substances (ODS) from products where a partial or total atmospheric release occurs in the baseline scenario. Project activities may be implemented in Montreal Protocol Article 5 and non-Article 5 countries. Project activities may recover and destroy ODS refrigerants or blowing agents contained in insulation foam of refrigerator appliances.

The proposed revision seeks to:

- expand the scope of the methodology to include the following:
 - Stockpiled hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs)
 - Destruction of intact insulation foams from refrigerated appliances
 - Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) as per the Kigali amendment to the Montreal Protocol
 - Fire suppressants and propellants as eligible ODS sources for destruction
- adapt and clarify monitoring requirements for determining the quantity and composition of the destroyed substances.

The documents to be reviewed are:

- 1) Draft revision of *VM0016 Recovery and Destruction of Ozone-Depleting Substances and Hydrofluorocarbons*
- 2) Draft revision of *VMD0048 Activity Method for the Determination of Additionality for Recovered and Stockpiled ODS Refrigerants*

The following specific aspects of the revision must be assessed:

- Appropriateness and consistency of the methodological approach for the use of other ODS sources, such as fire suppressants and propellants, and intact foam destruction
- Expansion of the applicability to HFC and stockpiled HCFC, including appropriateness and stringency of the proposed restrictions and eligibility as per the phase out/down schedule for each substance group as detailed in the Montreal Protocol
- Appropriateness of the updated positive list in *VMD0048 Activity Method for the Determination of Additionality for Recovered and Stockpiled ODS Refrigerants*
- Any specific stakeholder comment that requires input from the expert

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

Verra is therefore requesting proposals for independent expert reviews (including academic experts, consultants, and validation/verification bodies) of the above-listed documents. The independent expert review is expected to start in parallel with the public consultation.

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, v5.0*.

Principal tasks and responsibilities will include, at a minimum, 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, as per Section 3.5.1 in the *MDRP, v5.0*.
Level of effort: Five working days
- 2) **Iteration with Verra to resolve independent expert findings** as per Section 3.5.3 in the *MDRP, v5.0*. 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.
Level of effort: Two working days
- 3) **Issue Independent Expert Report.** Independent experts issue a final signed version of the Independent Expert Report to Verra, as per Section 3.5.3 in the *MDRP, v5.0*.
Level of effort: One working day

The total expected time commitment is **eight full working days**.

3 EXPERIENCE AND CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

Verra will use the following criteria for evaluating proposals:

- 1) Relevant expertise (demonstrated by record of scientific publications, reports, and project-specific experience) in the subject matter, including:
 - a) The Montreal Protocol, ozone-depleting substances, and HFCs
 - b) Refrigeration equipment systems, refrigerants, and insulation foams
 - c) Fire suppression systems, aerosols, and propellants
 - d) End-of-life management and destruction technologies
- 2) Experience with VCS project development, GHG accounting, or VCS methodology development
- 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 independent review, without risk of bias that could impact the integrity of the methodology

4 MILESTONES, DELIVERABLES, AND TIMELINE

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

Deliverable	Timeline
1) Review documents and issue draft Independent Expert Report (Verra will share a template of the review report with the expert)	2 weeks
2) Iteration with Verra to resolve findings (two rounds estimated)	3 weeks
3) Issue Independent Expert Report	1 week

The respondent must state their agreement with or proposed deviations from the expert review's duration and timeline within the proposal.

The total duration of this expert review will be approximately six weeks (depending on the number of review rounds).

5 RESPONSES TO THE RFP

Respondents are requested to submit their proposals as follows:

- Qualifications, experience, cost, and ability to conduct the review using the template provided in Annex 1: Proposal Response Template
- Separately appended resume/CV (not to exceed two pages)

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# M0171 in the subject line and by close of business on August 15, 2025. Verra may ask candidates clarifying questions about their proposal. Verra plans to finalize selection of the consultant by August 22, 2025 with the work to begin as soon as possible after that.

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

1) Relevant expertise in the subject matter, including:

- a) The Montreal Protocol, ozone-depleting substances, and HFCs
- b) Refrigeration equipment systems, refrigerants, and insulation foams
- c) Fire suppression systems, aerosols, and propellants
- d) End-of-life management and destruction technologies

Years of experience: *Please complete.*

Please list relevant scientific publications, reports, and project-specific experience. (Max. 1 page)

...

2) Experience with VCS project development, GHG accounting, or VCS methodology development

Years of experience: *Please complete.*

Please list relevant scientific publications, reports, and project-specific experience. (Max. 1 page)

...

3) Cost, including making sure that the proposed level of effort is consistent with the outcomes

Please provide both daily rate and total cost in USD.

Daily rate:

Total cost:

4) Availability to comply with the proposed timeline

Please check one box below and provide the suggested timeline (where applicable).

- ☐ I confirm ☐ I propose new timeline of weeks

5) Ability to perform independent review, without risk of bias that could impact the integrity of the methodology

Please complete (sign and pdf) the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form provided in Annex 2.

ANNEX 2: CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE FORM

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Methodology Reviewers

Name:	Position/Role: (if any)
Organization: (if any)	Methodology: https://verra.org/methodologies/vm0016-recovery-and-destruction-of-ozone-depleting-substances-ods-from-products-v1-1/ Draft revision of VM0016 Recovery and Destruction of Ozone-Depleting Substances and Hydrofluorocarbons

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, and 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 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 project development.

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

Signature

Date