

# REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

## Independent Expert Review of Revised VCS Methodology VM0041 Reduction of *Enteric Methane Emissions from Ruminants through Use of Feed Ingredients* (M0400)

8 October 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 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, v5.0*.

### 2 SCOPE OF WORK

Verra is accepting proposals for an independent expert review of the revised VCS methodology VM0041 *Reduction of Enteric Methane Emissions from Ruminants through Use of Feed Ingredients, v3.0*, developed by Verra.

The currently active version, [VM0041, v2.0](#), provides procedures to estimate enteric methane ( $\text{CH}_4$ ) emission reductions generated from the inhibition of methanogenesis through the introduction of a feed ingredient into ruminants' diets. The methodology is globally applicable.

The proposed revision seeks to:

- update the approach for the additionality assessment as follows:
  - Update the positive list based on activity penetration (i.e., estimated adoption of feed ingredients) by geographic region.
  - Include a project method based on regulatory surplus demonstration, investment or barrier analysis, and common practice analysis for countries where feed ingredients have activity penetration above the 5% threshold.
- revise the applicability conditions as follows:
  - Add guidance to clarify requirements regarding the authorized use of feed ingredients.
  - Add guidance to clarify requirements for baseline scenario conditions (i.e., herd structure and feeding regime).
  - Add guidance to specify conditions under which the methodology is not applicable.
- update the project boundary as follows:
  - Include nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) emissions resulting from the production and transport of feed ingredients (i.e., nitrate-based products).
  - Include accounting for CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O from manure decomposition.
- update approaches to emission reduction quantification as follows:
  - Align the quantification approaches for baseline and project emissions.
  - Revise default values and criteria for parameters used for calculating enteric methane emission reductions (i.e., enteric emission factor by animal group  $EF_{Enteric}$ , average gross energy intake  $GEI$ , conversion factor  $Ym$ , average energy density  $ED$  of dry matter intake  $DMI$ ).
  - Adapt and clarify monitoring requirements for baseline and project emissions.

The documents to be reviewed are:

- 1) draft VCS methodology VM0041 *Reduction of Enteric Methane Emissions from Ruminants through Use of Feed Ingredients*

The following specific aspects of the revision must be assessed:

- Appropriateness of the data used and estimates of the uptake of feed ingredients in different regions and the resulting positive list
- Revision of the applicability conditions, including appropriateness and stringency of the proposed restrictions and eligibility
- Appropriateness and consistency of the methodological approach for the revisions to quantification of emission reductions due to the use of feed ingredients
- 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 requesting proposals from independent expert reviewers (including academic experts, consultants, and validation/verification bodies) to review the above-listed document. 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 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, as per Section 3.5.1 in the *MDRP*, v5.0.  
**Level of effort:** Two working days
- 2) **Iterate 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 final 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 **five full working days**.

### 3 EXPERIENCE AND CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

Verra will use the following criteria to evaluate proposals:

- 1) Relevant expertise (demonstrated by record of scientific publications, reports, and project-specific experience) in the subject matter, including:
  - a) Livestock production systems (i.e., ruminants)
  - b) Greenhouse gas emission accounting approaches and protocols
  - c) Use of feed ingredients to inhibit or suppress CH<sub>4</sub> emissions
- 2) Experience with VCS project development, GHG accounting, or VCS methodology development, in particular with VM0041
- 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)	3 weeks from start date
2) Iterate with Verra to resolve findings (two rounds estimated)	6 weeks from start date
3) Issue Independent Expert Report	8 weeks from start date

The total duration of this expert review will be approximately eight 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 and also available as a Word document ([available on M0400 webpage](#)).
- Completed Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form, provided in Annex 2 and also available as a Word document ([available on M0400 webpage](#)), that indicates the respondent's ability to perform an independent review without risk of bias
- 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](mailto:methodologies@verra.org), with the methodology development ID number M0400 in the subject line, by close of business on 24 October 2025. Verra may ask candidates clarifying questions about their proposal. Verra plans to finalize selection of the consultant by 10 November 2025 with the work to begin as soon as possible after that.



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## 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) Livestock production systems (i.e., ruminants)
- b) Greenhouse gas emission accounting approaches and protocols
- c) Use of feed ingredients to suppress or inhibit CH<sub>4</sub> emissions

**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, in particular with VM0041

**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 a 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)	<b>Methodology:</b> Draft revision of VM0041 <i>Reduction of Enteric Methane Emissions from Ruminants through Use of Feed Ingredients</i>

#### 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.

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Signature

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Date