

A FEW THOUGHTS ON THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS IN EM&V

EEAC BRIEFING, INFORMAL SESSION

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BACKGROUND



- ▶ **Improvements in technology and computing capabilities are creating opportunities for enhancements in data collection and analysis**
 - This trend is often called EM&V 2.0
 - However, many of the same tools are being promoted in support of both EM&V and program implementation

- ▶ **Some commonly cited examples:**
 - Automated and cloud-based data processing
 - Technologies that collect energy usage data in new ways and present opportunities to increase the amount and type of data collected:
 - Smart meters
 - Smart thermostats
 - Non-intrusive load monitoring

CLEARLY AN IMPORTANT TOPIC. BUT IS “EM&V 2.0” A USEFUL TERM?

- ▶ **On the plus side, it is a lot catchier than “technological progress”**
- ▶ **On the minus side, it:**
 - Ignores the fact that much of what is being called EM&V 2.0 is actually program implementation support
 - Tends to imply that technological progress in EM&V is both entirely new and a binary issue (i.e., either driving everything or not happening at all)
 - **Technological progress has actually been continuous for 30 years**
 - Tends to suggest that EM&V can be reduced to a simple matter of hardware and software
 - **The “E” is an important part of EM&V, draws on multiple disciplines, and involves substantial judgment**
 - Tends to suggest that approaches classifiable as EM&V 2.0 can be expected to sweep away all other EM&V activities
- ▶ **We therefore suggest using this term with caution**

MA'S EM&V PROGRAM AND PRODUCTS/SERVICES CLASSIFIED AS EM&V 2.0

- ▶ **The information needs facing MA's EM&V program are both extensive and immediate**
- ▶ **We need all the help we can get, whether it comes from technological improvements or other quarters**
 - EM&V program is already using some products classified as EM&V 2.0
 - There is a need to speed up the EM&V process, and further use of technologies classified as EM&V 2.0 could help
 - Both of these issues to be discussed further in today's formal presentations
- ▶ **However:**
 - Commercialization of products/services classified as EM&V 2.0 is in a somewhat earlier stage than is sometimes recognized
 - As of now, there is imperfect convergence between the services being promoted and the services EM&V needs