



VERIFICATION OPINION DECLARATION GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

To: The Stakeholders of Health Care Service Corporation

Apex Companies, LLC (Apex) was engaged to conduct an independent verification of the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reported by Health Care Service Corporation (HCSC) for the period stated below. This verification declaration applies to the related information included within the scope of work described below.

The determination of the GHG emissions is the sole responsibility of HCSC, and HCSC is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the GHG statement in accordance with the criteria. Apex's sole responsibility was to provide independent verification on the accuracy of the GHG emissions reported and on the underlying systems and processes used to collect, analyze and review the information. Apex is responsible for expressing an opinion on the GHG statement based on the verification. Verification activities applied in a limited level of assurance verification are less extensive in nature, timing, and scale than in a reasonable level of assurance verification.

Boundaries of the reporting company GHG emissions covered by the verification:

- Operational Control
- United States

Types of GHGs: CO₂, N₂O, CH₄

Exclusions: Refrigerants, fleet vehicles, and diesel fuel used in emergency generators

GHG Emissions Statement:

- **Scope 1:** 4,968 metric tons of CO₂ equivalent
- **Scope 2 (Location-Based):** 44,091 metric tons of CO₂ equivalent
- **Scope 2 (Market-Based):** 0 metric tons of CO₂ equivalent

Data and information supporting the Scope 1 and Scope 2 GHG emissions statement were in most cases historical in nature.

Global Warming Potential (GWP) and Emission Factor Data Sets:

- GWP: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report (AR-5)
- United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Emissions & Generation Resource Integrated Database (eGRID) (2023 data), 2025
- USEPA Emission Factor Hub, 2025
- United Kingdom (UK) Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting, October 30, 2024

Period covered by GHG emissions verification:

- January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025

Criteria against which verification was conducted:

- World Resources Institute (WRI)/World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (Scope 1 and 2)

Reference Standard:

- ISO 14064-3 Second Edition 2019-04: Greenhouse gases -- Part 3: Specification with guidance for the verification and validation of greenhouse gas statements



Level of Assurance:

- Limited
- This verification used a materiality threshold of $\pm 5\%$ for aggregate errors in sampled data for each of the above indicators.

GHG Verification Methodology:

Evidence-gathering procedures included but were not limited to:

- Interviews with relevant personnel of HCSC;
- Review of documentary evidence produced by HCSC;
- Review of HCSC data and information systems and methodology for collection, aggregation, analysis and review of information used to determine GHG emissions; and
- Audit of sample of data used by HCSC to determine GHG emissions.

Verification Opinion:

Based on the process and procedures conducted, there is no evidence that the GHG emissions statement shown above:

- is not materially correct and is not a fair representation of the GHG emissions data and information; and
- has not been prepared in accordance with the WRI/WBCSD GHG Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (Scopes 1 and 2).

It is our opinion that HCSC has established appropriate systems for the collection, aggregation and analysis of quantitative data for determination of these GHG emissions for the stated period and boundaries.



Statement of independence, impartiality and competence

Apex is an independent professional services company that specializes in Health, Safety, Social and Environmental management services including assurance with over 30 years history in providing these services.

No member of the verification team has a business relationship with HCSC, its Directors or Managers beyond that required of this assignment. We conducted this verification independently and to our knowledge there has been no conflict of interest.

Apex has implemented a Code of Ethics across the business to maintain high ethical standards among staff in their day-to-day business activities.

The verification team has extensive experience in conducting assurance over environmental, social, ethical and health and safety information, systems and processes, has over 20 years combined experience in this field and an excellent understanding of Apex's standard methodology for the verification of greenhouse gas emissions data.

Attestation:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mary E. Armstrong-Friberg'.

Mary E. Armstrong-Friberg, Lead Verifier
ESG - Senior Program Manager
Apex Companies, LLC
Cleveland, Ohio

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Trevor Donaghu'.

Trevor Donaghu, Technical Reviewer
ESG Director
Apex Companies, LLC
Pleasant Hill, California

June 12, 2026

This verification opinion declaration, including the opinion expressed herein, is provided to Health Care Service Corporation and is solely for the benefit of Health Care Service Corporation in accordance with the terms of our agreement. We consent to the release of this declaration to the public or other organizations, but without accepting or assuming any responsibility or liability on our part to any other party who may have access to this declaration.