

EPA Actions to Reduce Methane Emissions from Oil & Natural Gas Operations

Tomás Carbonell

Deputy Administrator for Stationary Sources Office of Air and Radiation U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

EPA's Methane Programs for the Oil and Gas Sector

- Clean Air Act regulations for new and existing oil and natural gas operations
- Inflation Reduction Act Methane Emissions Reduction Program
 - More than \$1B in financial and technical assistance (with DOE) for methane monitoring and reduction
 - Improved reporting of methane emissions
 - Waste Emissions Charge to incentivize reductions while Clean Air Act regulations are implemented





Oil and Gas Final Rule

- New Source Performance Standards for methane and VOCs from new, modified, and reconstructed sources
- Emissions Guidelines for states to develop & implement plans to limit methane emissions from existing sources
- A suite of cost-effective measures based on proven solutions:
 - Ensures all well sites, centralized production facilities and compressor stations are routinely monitored for leaks
 - Allows flexibility to deploy innovative and advanced monitoring tech
 - Cuts methane from process controllers, pumps, and other equipment
 - Eliminates routine flaring of natural gas from new oil wells
 - Addresses "super-emitting" sources

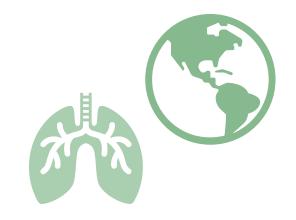






Climate and Health Benefits

- ► The rule will achieve:
 - Historic reductions in methane pollution
 - Reductions in smog-forming VOCs
 - Reductions in air toxics like benzene
- From 2024-2038 the rule will avoid:



- 58 million tons of methane nearly 80 percent lower than expected emissions without the rule
- 16 million tons of VOCs
- ▶ 590,000 tons of air toxics
- Net climate and ozone health benefits from 2024-2038 (\$2019)
 - \$97 to \$98 billion dollars / \$7.3 to \$7.6 billion a year

Financial & Technical Assistance

- Under Inflation Reduction Act, EPA & DOE will provide \$1B in financial and technical assistance to accelerate the transition to no- and low- emitting oil and gas technologies
- December 2023, EPA & DOE announced first round of formula grant funds
 - 14 states to receive \$350m in funding to help oil and gas owners and operators voluntarily and permanently reduce methane from low-producing conventional wells
- Second round of funding will be competitive grants
 - Will be available to a variety of stakeholders for mitigation and monitoring from low-producing wells, other oil and natural gas assets, and related activities

- As required by Congress in Inflation Reduction Act, in August 2023 EPA proposed changes to Subpart W of Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program
- Would improve the accuracy of reporting emissions, including methane
- Final Revisions expected before August 2024 deadline
- Updated reporting practices would begin for 2025 reporting year



- January 12, 2024 Proposed Rule to tackle wasteful emissions from oil and gas sector, as required by Inflation Reduction Act
- Impacts facilities with high methane emissions exceeding levels set by Congress
- Incentive to deploy best practices and available technologies to meet levels of performance already achieved by leading companies
- Will work in tandem with Methane Emissions Funding Program financial assistance and Clean Air Act standards to encourage methane reductions before new standards take effect

Supporting Global Methane Pledge

- Global Methane Initiative
 - Launched in 2004
 - Public-private initiative advancing costeffective, near-term methane abatement and recovery
 - Three sectors: Biogas (agriculture, MSW, wastewater), coal mines, and oil & gas systems
- Global Methane Pledge
 - Launched in 2021
 - Agreement to take voluntary action to reduce methane emissions 30% by 2030
 - 155 countries have joined to date



