

EPA Issues Final Rule to Reduce Methane from Oil and Natural Gas Operations



United States of America / North America

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Inventory of the U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks indicates that natural gas and petroleum systems are the largest industrial source of methane emissions in the U.S.

In January 2021, President Biden issued an Executive Order which requested that the U.S. EPA propose new regulations to address methane from the oil and gas sector. In response, EPA issued a final environmental regulation in December 2023 which is slated to sharply reduce methane emissions and other harmful air pollution from oil and natural gas operations, including, for the first time, from existing sources nationwide.



ANTICIPATED RESULTS

- The rule is expected to reduce methane emissions by nearly 80 percent of what they would have been without the rule. Reductions will come from plants that are operating now and those that will be built in the future.
- The rule is estimated to reduce 58 million tons of methane emissions from 2024 to 2038 and avoid 16 million tons of smog-forming volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions and 590,000 tons of air toxics.

PARTNERS INVOLVED IN PROJECT

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



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