

Methane

Pollution from oil and gas facilities puts health at risk.

EPA must implement and enforce its standards to require new oil and gas facilities to cut methane and toxic air emissions.



- Oil and gas facilities emit large quantities of methane, a potent climate change pollutant. Climate change already impacts the health of millions of Americans, from extreme heat, increased air pollution, worsened wildfires, and more. Methane is a greenhouse gas more than 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide in the short term.
- Oil and gas facilities also emit highly reactive pollutants called volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that can cause cancer and other harmful health impacts. VOCs also react with other pollutants to form dangerous ozone pollution.
- Those whose health is most vulnerable include infants, children and teenagers; older adults; people with asthma and other lung diseases; people with cardiovascular disease; people with low incomes; and healthy adults who work or exercise outdoors.

EPA must not roll back limits on methane from new oil and gas facilities.

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency adopted methane standards for new oil and gas facilities in 2016 that will help prevent future health problems and premature deaths. However, EPA later proposed to roll back key requirements under these standards.
- Limits on methane pollution enjoy broad support from the American public, according to a 2016 poll; 60 percent of Americans favor the protections to reduce methane emissions from new and modified oil and gas facilities. Support stretches across all parts of the country.
- Six hundred health and medical professionals and seven leading national health and medical organizations supported these limits in comments to EPA in December 2015.

EPA must also limit methane emissions from existing oil and gas facilities.

For more information

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