

# Methane Emissions: New Research Results Show Now is Not the Time to Rollback Regulations

## ACTION

Members of Congress should take action to preserve methane emissions regulations for the oil and gas industry concerning methane leaks in pipelines, wells and storage facilities.

## Background

- Methane, the primary component of natural gas, has a global warming potential more than 25 times greater than that of carbon dioxide. Methane is the second most prevalent greenhouse gas emitted by human activities in the United States.
- Methane leaks, also referred to as “fugitive emissions,” can occur at a number of points in natural gas/oil production, processing and transmission.
- The current New Source Performance Standards for methane require oil and gas companies to develop and implement a leaks monitoring plan, which includes a fixed schedule for monitoring leaks and specific timelines for repairs.

## New Research Shows Methane a More Potent Greenhouse Gas

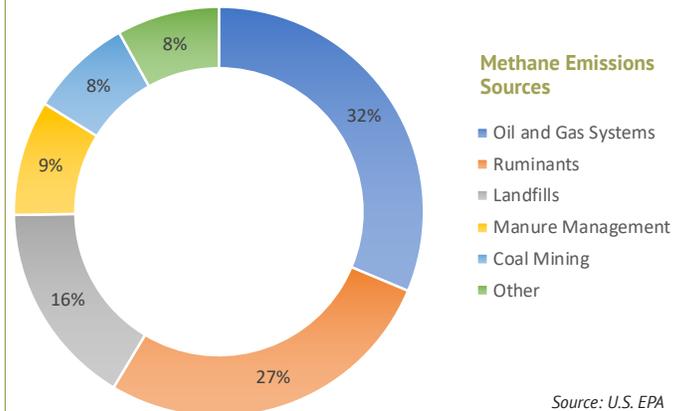
Until recently, widely used calculations of methane’s radiative forcing (RF) had excluded any short wavelength effects. The inclusion of short wavelength effects impacts methane’s 100-year global warming potential (GWP), increasing it by 14 percent above the value currently provided by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

100-Year Global Warming Potential



Source: M. Etminan et al., *Geophysical Research Letters* 43 (2016)

## Oil and Natural Gas Industry Largest Producers of Methane in U.S. (2017)



Source: U.S. EPA

## Major Oil and Gas Companies Support Federal Regulation of Methane Emissions



*“The best way to help further reduce and ultimately eliminate methane emissions industry wide is through direct federal regulation of new and existing sources.”*

-Susan Dio, BP America Chairwoman and President

Given the risks of methane emissions are higher than previously estimated, Congress should take action to preserve current methane emissions regulations and require a rigorous assessment of methane emissions from the oil and gas industry prior to any additional rollback of regulations.