



STATEMENT ON EPA METHANE RULE RESCISSION

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“The Environmental Protection Agency’s proposal to roll back the 2016 methane rule is a rash move that disregards the input of local governments, threatens public health, defies science, flagrantly caters to the oil and gas industry, and ignores methane’s significant role in climate change. The proposal weakens the standards that require oil and gas operators to identify and repair leaks at their facilities, contradicting EPA’s own research that shows air pollution from the oil and gas industry kills nearly 2,000 citizens each year. This is a tragically short-sighted move with dangerous long-term consequences.”

– Gwen Lachelt, Executive Director

Background

Today (Sept. 11, 2018), the Environmental Protection Agency announced plans to roll back a commonsense Obama-era regulation on methane emissions, a move that undermines the health and safety of American citizens. The agency’s New Source Performance Standards, enacted in 2016, require new and modified oil and gas sources to limit methane released during extraction and flaring. The standards currently reduce emissions at more than 36,000 wells nationwide. EPA’s methane rule is separate from the Bureau of Land Management Methane and Waste Prevention Rule, which applies to oil and gas operations on federal and tribal lands. This rule is also expected to be rolled back this month.

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