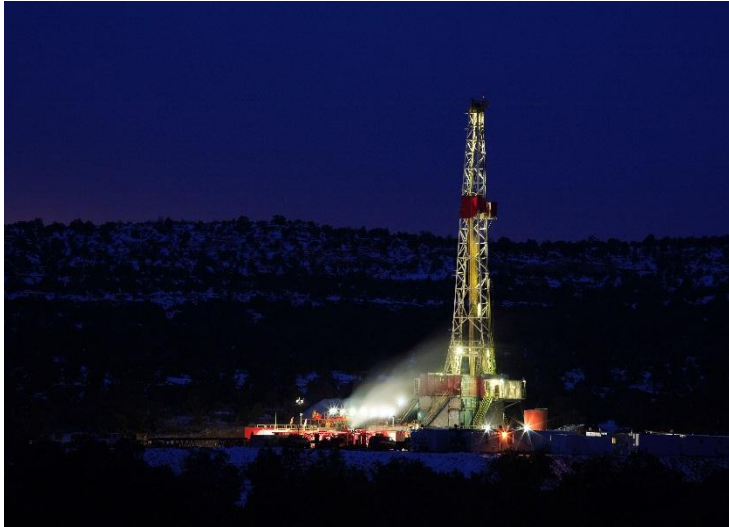


Methane: 20 Times More Potent Than Carbon Dioxide and a Threat to Our National Parks

Please tell the Bureau of Land Management to put strong rules in place to control methane leaks and emissions.



Methane is the second most-emitted greenhouse gas in the nation, but has a global warming potential 20 times greater than the most-emitted gas - carbon dioxide. About 23 percent of all methane emitted in the United States is a result of the production, processing, transmission and distribution of natural gas.

Methane emissions are a threat to national park air quality and visitor health.

Methane is a contributor to ground-level ozone, which produces smog and can lead to asthma attacks and other respiratory ailments. High levels of ground-level ozone can also kill plants. In northeastern Utah's Uinta Basin, near Dinosaur National Monument, a high density of oil and gas wells contributed to ozone levels that were worse than those of New York City, more than double the EPA's allowable standard of 75 parts per billion. Further, the global warming potency of methane can exacerbate and speed climate change, which threatens the fundamental environmental characteristics of all national parks.

In March 2014, President Obama announced the Strategy to Reduce Methane Emissions, and is hosting a series of forums to discuss how to best update the nation's methane rules.

The White House is taking steps to implement the President's 2013 Climate Action Plan, including updating its methane rules and figuring out new methods to limit methane emissions. Announced in March 2014, the Strategy to Reduce Methane Emissions will tackle possible solutions to methane emissions from the oil and gas sector, agriculture, coal mines, and landfills. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which oversees oil and gas development on all federal lands, is hosting a series of forums across the country to discuss the problem of methane emissions from the oil and gas industry.



FACTSHEET

The BLM is hosting a methane forum in Albuquerque, NM on Wednesday, May 7, 2014 from 1-4pm at the National Indians Training Center, 1011 Indian School Road NW, Albuquerque NM



Fajada Butte at Chaco Culture NHP at sunset © ©2005 Paiwei Wei/ISTOCKPHOTO

The BLM Methane Rules should contain:

- Monitoring for methane and other air pollutants at nearby national park units a condition of leasing and permitting;
- Requirements for the use of Best Available Technologies capture and conserve methane;
- The development of plans for the safe capture and transport of natural gas before drilling begins.

Please attend the BLM methane public meeting in Albuquerque on May 7, 2014 and tell them that strong rules need to be in place to ensure our parks and our health are protected from methane emissions.

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