



COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, SPACE, & TECHNOLOGY
Lamar Smith, Chairman

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Statement of Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas)

A Solution in Search of a Problem: EPA's Methane Regulation

Chairman Smith: Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has become an agency that promotes an extreme political agenda rather than reasonable policies based on sound science.

The EPA knows its regulatory agenda would have little to no significant impact on the environment. But that hasn't stopped the EPA from imposing some of the most expensive and expansive regulations in its history.

These rules will cost billions of dollars, place a heavy burden on American families and diminish the ability of American businesses to compete around the world. EPA's political agenda is to rearrange the American economy and institute "command and control" by the Obama administration.

This Committee's investigations have revealed that the EPA intentionally chooses to ignore good science.

EPA cherry-picks the science that fits its agenda and ignores the science that does not support its position. When the science falls short, EPA resorts to propaganda campaign techniques designed to mislead the public.

Today's hearing will examine yet another EPA regulation that has relied on suspect science, questionable legal interpretations, and flawed analysis to justify its existence.

Like all regulations promulgated by the EPA, the methane regulation is no different: it stifles economic growth, destroys American jobs, and increases energy prices. That means costs will rise – from electricity to gasoline to food, disproportionately hurting low income Americans.

According to Energy in Depth, by the end of this century the EPA's supposed benefits from the final methane rule for new sources will only result in a reduction of four-thousandths of one degree Celsius in temperature rise. Absolutely incredible!

Recent studies involving National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration scientists conclude that the rise in methane emissions are not due to the oil and gas sector, which are the target of the EPA regulations. These scientists conclude that the likely rise in methane emissions are from natural sources, like tropical wetlands.

Emissions from the oil and gas sector continue to decrease in large part because of voluntary emissions reductions programs and advances in technologies. This indicates the futility of new and burdensome EPA regulations. During the last year, Federal Courts have halted several of EPA's major regulations. Many of these regulations trample on the constitutional rights of individuals and rely on suspect legal interpretations of the law.

EPA's methane rule relies on faulty scientific evidence and data and the final rule constitutes an abuse of authority. For this reason, my home state of Texas along with North Dakota are planning to pursue legal action. Instead of wasting taxpayers' money on frivolous rules that do little to protect the environment, the EPA should spend its resources on developing sound science that will lead to technological breakthrough.

The methane rule is more of the same from the EPA: a costly and burdensome regulation that is all pain and no gain.

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