

## **Dale Marshall. 'Addressing methane emissions from the oil and gas sector.'**

Notes taken from the audio of the webinar presentation.

Dale Marshall. 'Addressing methane emissions from the oil and gas sector.' Environmental Defence Natl. Prog. Manager. Presentation (1 of 5) at Webinar on Methane, Clim. Action Network, 4 - 5 May 2017

Methane may be more serious issue than previously thought.

- Officially, methane emissions in Canada are over 100 Mt/yr, 1/2 from energy
- Research in Alta and BC found that emissions are much higher than reported in inventories

-at least 250% higher in BC

-at least 60% higher in Alta

Alta research

- Commissioned by Alta Energy Regulator, Greenpath, AB Energy Serv. Co.
- Surveyed 395 oil and gas facilities, in 6 Alta regions.
  - emissions estimated to be much higher because there were more pneumatic devices that emit CH<sub>4</sub> than previously reported.
  - spokesperson Greenpath said this just the 'tip of the iceberg', i.e. emissions could be even higher than they found. They just looking at pneumatics.
- Found that was a significant source CH<sub>4</sub> emitting in almost every facility (.8 of them).
  - some were pneumatic devices that vent CH<sub>4</sub> during normal operations
  - some were malfunctioning, e.g. 'snap-acting' controllers that stayed open permanently
  - some were from oil tankers or pipes that were leaking

Reducing CH<sub>4</sub> emissions includes some of the lowest cost CH<sub>4</sub> reductions!

- CH<sub>4</sub> is a potent GHG. Stopping leaks can have a big impact to reduce rate of warming.
- Solutions are technically feasible and low-cost!
- Captured CH<sub>4</sub> can be used for energy at the facility or put in a pipe and sent to market. So cost effective, some are '-' costs, some are low '+'

Competitiveness

- there are regulations at state level in US: more facil. are being regulated in USA than the total no. of CDN facilities!
- Minister McKenna when discussing the 3-yr delay of regulations recently announced, to keep in lock-step with the delay of institution of fed regs in USA, said Canada had to play 'catch-up' because of what was happening at the state level (some states putting regs into effect on the earlier schedule?)

- Strong CDN regs will level the playing field across Canada and eliminate provincial diffs.
- Canada feds have to ensure strong, credible equivalency assessments so no company/facility in any prov gets a free ride.

Longer-term trajectory...

- ...should be toward eliminating entirely CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from oil and gas sector.
- Much greater reductions are possible than the 40-45% indicated in the 2025 target. (The fact that this target could be achieved by 2023 tells Marshall that much more reduction is possible. In other words the past and current level of level of leakage of CH<sub>4</sub>, old equipment and wasteful techniques like venting and flaring, were pretty significant. Also, the calculations to achieve the 40-45% are quite low, meaning we can reduce leakage by much more.)
- Canada has endorsed the zero-flaring by 2030 initiative.
- Feds need to signal now that getting rid of venting and flaring is the goal, to prevent investing in flaring technology that subsequently needs to be replaced (stranded assets).