Methane pollution in Ohio & the state of federal regulations

Photo: courtesy of FracTracker.org
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Background:
BA, Denison University
MS, Ohio State University
Non-profit management &
US fish and wildlife service

Lead oil and gas & climate programs at the OEC.
The OEC's mission is to secure healthy air, land, and water for all who call Ohio home

- Advocacy
- Legislative initiatives
- Legal action
- Science and policy
- Network & partnerships
Position on Methane

We support *responsible* oil and gas development.

We are leading a national effort calling for commonsense methane emission standards.
What is Methane (CH$_4$)?

An organic compound that is the primary component of natural gas.

Emitted into the atmosphere from various sources, including decaying landfills, agriculture, & oil and gas.

Oil and gas is the leading source.
Extent of Ohio’s leaks
25,000 metric tons wasted in 2015. Enough to heat over 15,000 homes.
Methane & public health

- Leaks are packaged with Volatile Organic Compounds—or VOCs—& air toxics such as benzene, toluene, and formaldehyde.
  - VOC's lead to ground level smog, which can create health problems
- Methane is 80 times more potent climate pollutant than carbon
Ohioans at risk

3.2 million Ohioans live within a half mile of an oil and gas facilities

780,000 are students.

30,000 cases of childhood asthma connected to oil and gas pollution each year

In Ohio, there are 2,205 schools and daycare facilities within the half mile threat radius putting our most vulnerable at risk for serious negative health issues.
Estimated cost to industry

per 1,000 cubic square feet
BLM Methane Standard

Limits releases of methane in national forests and other federal lands

Finalized January 2017
Threatened by Congress Spring 2017
BLM proposed 18 month stay in October 2017

Costing American taxpayers $800 million
in lost royalties over a decade and more pollution in our forests, like Wayne National Forest.
EPA Methane Standard

Requires operators to monitor for and fix leaks on private lands

Finalized June 2016

EPA recently announced intend delay up to 2 years

Waiting to hear agency response to public comments
Ohio Methane Coalition

● Built a broad-based coalition
● Brought Ohioans to Pittsburgh & Washington DC to testify
● Delivered nearly 80K supportive comments from Ohioans
● Joined together 5,000 Ohioans for a town hall on BLM rule
● Collected stories of affected citizens
How to find me

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