

Enserva Briefing Note: Updated Oil and Gas Methane Regulations

Introduction

Yesterday, on the margins of COP28 in Dubai, the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Canada's Minister of Environment and Climate Change, announced Canada has published updated oil and gas methane regulations with the goal of reducing methane emissions by at least 75 percent from 2012 levels by 2030. Yesterday's announcement is largely in alignment with a similar pledge made by the United States over the weekend. Please note that the [full regulatory](#) document remains 'unofficial' as it undergoes continued edits, but was released in the interests of providing comprehensive details to accompany the announcement.

Background

- Both Canada and the United States' new oil and gas methane rules eliminate routine venting and flaring, enhance leak detection and repair, and address problems such as blowdowns and other potentially large methane releases.
- From 2027 to 2040, the draft methane regulations will reduce cumulative emissions by 217 megatonnes (carbon dioxide equivalent).
- Canada is on track to meet its 2025 methane reduction target of 40 to 45 percent below 2012 levels. The draft regulations published are amendments to the 2018 methane regulations.
- Canada supports increased global collaboration through the Global Methane Pledge. To date, over 150 countries have signed the Pledge which commits signatories to a collective goal of reducing human-caused methane emissions by at least 30 percent from 2020 levels by 2030.
- These regulatory updates eliminate most exclusions from the existing regulations, including Canadian facilities handling natural gas.

What it means for Enserva members

The official federal government news release notes ***"commitments by British Columbia and Alberta to explore ways to achieve a similar reduction target, and welcomes the increased ambition from provinces to tackle their methane emissions."*** It also notes that while at COP, dozens of oil and gas companies have already announced plans to reduce emissions by 80 to 90 percent by 2030. This underscores an Enserva core message that energy companies and their services, supply and manufacturing partners are reducing emissions today, and that the best way to ensure we hit our global targets is to support a prosperous and robust energy sector. Enserva will continue to carry these positive messages forward about the valuable role our sector is playing across the board.

For further reading

[Canada proposes new methane emissions rules for oil-and-gas sector | Calgary Herald](#)

[COP28: Canada's new methane plan eyes 75% slash in emissions | Globalnews.ca](#)

[Draft Oil and Gas Methane Regulations Amendments published in December 2023 to reduce emissions by 75 percent - Canada.ca](#)

[Technical backgrounder - Canada.ca](#)

[Biden Administration Announces Rule to Cut Millions of Tons of Methane Emissions - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#)

