



New Methane Regulations and Fugitive Emissions Guidelines

EFFECTIVE DATE: Jan. 1, 2020

The BC Oil and Gas Commission (Commission) is reminding industry and other stakeholders of new regulations and guidelines which take effect on Jan. 1, 2020.

The Commission has introduced new regulations to reduce methane emissions from upstream oil and gas operations to meet or exceed federal and provincial methane emission reduction targets, through amendments to the Drilling and Production Regulation.

The anticipated impact of the new regulations is a reduction in methane emissions by 10.9 megatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent over a 10-year period, which is like taking 390,000 cars off the road each year.

Developed with input from environmental groups and industry, the new regulations address the primary sources of methane emissions from B.C.'s upstream oil and gas industry, which are:

- Pneumatic devices
- Equipment leaks
- Compressor seals
- Glycol dehydrators
- Storage tanks
- Surface casing vents

More information on the new Methane Regulations can be found [here](#), or by visiting the [Reducing Methane Emissions](#) page on the Commission's website.

In addition, the Commission has released a new guideline on the management of fugitive methane emissions. The Fugitive Emissions Management Guideline is intended to support the new leak detection and repair requirements of the Drilling and Production Regulation. A copy of the guideline is available on the Commission's [website](#). The guideline contains:

- Fugitive emissions management plan development information.
- Leak detection survey procedures, frequency, spacing and timing guidance.
- Training and competency expectations.
- Leak repair tracking, management and verification procedures.
- Data collection and management requirements.

If you have any questions regarding this Information Bulletin, please contact:

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The BC Oil and Gas Commission protects public safety and safeguards the environment through the sound regulation of oil, gas and geothermal activities in B.C. From exploration through to final reclamation, the Commission works closely with communities and land owners, and confirms industry compliance with provincial legislation. It also ensures there are close working relationships; consults with, and considers the interests of Indigenous peoples.

With more than 20 years' dedicated service, the Commission is committed to safe and responsible energy resource management for British Columbia.

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