

News release

GREENPEACE

Don't let the oil lobby's overblown claims derail Canada's climate plan: Greenpeace

1 March 2017 (TORONTO) — Industry [claims](#) that Canada's proposed greenhouse gas regulations for oil and gas operations would render Canadian operations uncompetitive with their U.S. counterparts are overblown, according to new data released by Greenpeace Canada. The analysis shows that state-level regulation of methane emissions in the United States already covers 25 per cent more oil and gas production than would be covered under the proposed Canadian rules.

"We shouldn't let the oil industry use the Trump bogey-man to scare us away from acting on climate change in Canada," said Keith Stewart, Senior Energy Strategist for Greenpeace Canada. "Reducing methane emissions from oil and gas operations is one of the biggest and most cost-effective greenhouse gas emissions reductions available to us, which is why Canada needs to catch up with what U.S. states are already doing."

The [proposed regulations](#) to limit methane emissions from oil and gas facilities are a centerpiece of the Trudeau government's climate strategy, and will be the first real test of the government's commitment to implement the Pan-Canadian Climate Framework that was announced in December. Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) is expected to publish the *Gazette* / version of the regulations by the end of March 2017. These regulations are expected to reduce greenhouse gas reductions by at least 20 megatonnes (MT), which is greater than the total emissions from Nova Scotia (17 MT) or New Brunswick (15 MT).

U.S. President Donald Trump has announced an intention to remove proposed and existing federal methane regulations in the U.S., but this will be contested in the courts and could take years to accomplish. Trump's move will not, however, affect the controls that limit methane from oil and gas facilities at the state level in California, Colorado, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wyoming, and Utah.

According to [documents obtained by Greenpeace Canada](#) under Saskatchewan's Freedom of Information Act, the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers has been citing competitiveness concerns to try to weaken the implementation of the methane regulations since August 2016, but this lobby effort has [become more public](#) since Trump was elected.

The competitiveness claim is undermined by data, prepared by experts from the U.S. Environmental Defense Fund for Greenpeace Canada, showing that the oil and gas production covered by state-level methane regulations in the U.S. is 25 per cent greater

than the Canadian oil and gas production that would be covered by Environment and Climate Change Canada's proposed rules.

2015 production	Oil (millions of barrels)	Gas (billions of cubic feet)	Total: oil and gas (millions of barrels of oil-equivalent)
Canada (excludes oil sands production, as bitumen extraction isn't a significant source of methane)	461.97	5,464	1,428.56
US states regulating oil and gas emissions.	353.44	8,070.00	1,785.02

Source: National Energy Board and Drillinginfo database. For details, [see backgrounder](#).

Furthermore, [seventeen other countries](#) (including Norway, Mexico, Nigeria and the United Kingdom) have committed to regulate methane emissions from the oil and gas sector.

“When it comes to tackling methane emissions from oil and gas operations, the Americans are already doing more at the state level than what is proposed in Canada,” said Stewart. “Trump may choose to fiddle while the planet burns, but with strong regulations the Trudeau government has an opportunity to lock in reductions, minimize waste, and clean up the oil and gas sector, which is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Canada.”

For more information:

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