Baker Hughes

Methane Venting/Fugitives Policy Principles Statement

Our Position

We support the development of well-designed policies that directly result in the reduction of methane emissions from global oil and natural gas operations. The following principles provide the foundation for the design of durable policies to reduce venting and fugitive methane emissions (hereafter, "methane emissions") from the oil and gas sector.

Methane Policy Principles

Scope

- Methane-related policies should drive meaningful emission reductions that support the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement.
- Policies should address methane emissions from the entire oil and natural gas value chain, including exploration, production, and transportation, as well as from downstream distribution infrastructure and key end-use applications.
- Both new and existing installations should be included in the policy and regulatory frameworks addressing methane emissions.
- Since methane has a significantly shorter atmospheric residence time than CO_2, we support use of the 20-year Global Warming Potential (GWP20) estimate developed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)[1] when determining the potential climate impact of methane.

Design

- Methane emission reduction policies should be cost-effective and performance-based to facilitate future technological developments.

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[1] IPCC has indicated a GWP20 for methane 84 to 87 times that of CO2 when considering its impact over a 20-year timeframe. IPCC, 2013: Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg1/)

- Legislation, standards, and guidelines should build on policies and voluntary initiatives such as the Methane Guiding Principles' best practices and the Oil & Gas Methane Partnership (OGMP) reporting framework 2.0 whenever practicable and appropriate.
- Leak detection and repair (LDAR) regulations should be fit-for-purpose for a range of oil and gas infrastructure; should be performance-based and technology-neutral regarding the application of approved LDAR technology; should align with state-of-the art minimum detection limits, and should include reporting, repair requirements, and timelines.
- Performance-based regulations should foster the use of proven technical and operating solutions while incentivizing the development of new technology, such as minimizing flowback venting from wellhead activities (e.g., following reduced emissions completion procedures); minimizing or eliminating venting during monitoring, maintenance, and repair activities (e.g., pipeline repair and compressor venting during routine and emergency shutdowns); and minimizing excessive venting from operational equipment controls (e.g., phasing out the use of continuous high bleed pneumatic control devices).
- To improve data accuracy and representativeness of reported methane emissions, policies and/or regulations should drive quantification methodologies for individual emission sources towards direct measurement (e.g., satellite, aerial, ground-based) and continuous monitoring.
- Regulations must be able to accommodate future innovative technologies and practices. Therefore, the approval process for new emission monitoring, quantification and mitigation technologies should be efficient, flexible, well defined, and open to a broad range of potential applicants including technology providers. Such a process should take an outcome-based approach versus prescriptive technology selection.

Reporting and Disclosure

- Independent, robust, and scientifically rigorous monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) requirements should be further developed, applied to the full oil and natural gas supply chain, and harmonized across jurisdictions.
- Regulators should establish standardized procedures when the verification and certification of methane emissions by accredited institutions such as national ministries or accredited private sector entities are required.
- Disclosure of methane emissions should be mandatory to provide information relevant to regulators, communities, investors, and other stakeholders, while protecting company-sensitive information.

Collaboration

- Policymakers should foster international collaboration on methane emission reduction through initiatives like the International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO)

Our Actions

As an energy technology company, we offer a range of products and services to help our customers manage and reduce methane emissions, from advanced methane monitoring and detection to 'zero-bleed' valves that control fugitive emissions. We continue to research and develop new technology to improve methane detection, quantification, and mitigation.

Baker Hughes will use these principles to guide our ongoing engagement with governments, customers, trade groups and other stakeholders around the world to advance the development and implementation of sound legislation, regulations, and incentive programs to reduce methane emissions from the oil and gas sector.