

METHANE CHALLENGE LAUNCH

MARCH 30, 2016

10:00 – 10:45 AM

7 minutes of remarks

Introduction

- Thank you, Sarah, for that kind introduction, and good morning, everyone!
- It's truly a pleasure to be here today and to help kick off a new chapter in our efforts to reduce methane pollution.
- You all just learned about the U.S. Methane Strategy, and the many actions we are taking to reduce emissions across our economy.
- Today, we are taking one more step to get us closer to achieving our national goal of cutting emissions from the oil and gas sector by 40 to 45 percent below 2012 levels by 2025. Today, we are launching and recognizing the founding partners of our new voluntary program: the **Natural Gas STAR Methane Challenge Program.**

Climate Action Plan: Strategy to Reduce Methane Emissions

- When President Obama announced his Climate Action Plan he didn't just look at carbon pollution. He also directed the

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to address emissions of methane.

- He also didn't just look at regulatory programs. He directed us to use ALL of the tools in the toolbox.
- Methane accounts for approximately 10 percent of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, and one third of U.S. methane emissions come from oil production and the production, processing, transmission and distribution of natural gas.
- When produced safely and responsibly, oil and gas resources have the potential to spur economic growth, enhance our energy security, and in the case of natural gas, improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Methane Challenge Program

- EPA has been focused on finding solutions to reduce oil and gas methane emissions since 1993, when we launched the Natural Gas STAR Program.
- The Natural Gas STAR Program is a flexible, voluntary partnership between EPA and the oil and natural gas industry focused on cost-effectively reducing methane emissions from natural gas operations. By working with companies involved in oil production and all segments of the natural gas supply chain, Natural Gas STAR and its partners

have collectively reduced over 1.2 trillion cubic feet of methane emissions over the last 23 years. This is equal to the emissions associated with the electricity use from more than 83 million homes per year.

- While tremendous progress has been made during the last two decades through this program, we know there is more to be done and significant opportunities remain to reduce methane emissions, improve air quality, and capture and monetize this valuable energy resource.
- And that's where the Methane Challenge Program comes in. This program will provide a new way for U.S. oil and gas companies to achieve -- and be recognized for -- ambitious commitments to reduce methane emissions.
- Through Methane Challenge, companies can make and track ambitious commitments to reduce emissions in a transparent and comprehensive way, which has the potential to unlocking significant reductions in a quick, flexible, cost-effective way.
- We developed the Methane Challenge Program over the past year or so by reaching out to the industry and others to get input on what would work to encourage that next level of ambition for companies to step out and step up. I would like to acknowledge the excellent engagement we've had from

stakeholders during this time, which has contributed significantly to the development of this Program.

- Our Founding partners have agreed to the Methane Challenge Best Management Practices or” BMP” Commitment. Through the BMP framework, these partners have agreed to company-wide commitments to adopt best practices to limit methane emissions from key sources. Partner companies have committed to replacing or rehabilitating cast iron and unprotected steel distribution mains, and to reducing methane emissions from pipeline blowdowns, among other activities.
- I want to take a moment now to recognize and congratulate the Methane Challenge Program’s Founding Partners.
- These 41 companies have stepped up and joined us today to make unprecedented ambitious and transparent commitments to reduce methane pollution.
- They have committed to technologies, strategies, and practices to reduce their emissions and will lead their peers to a more sustainable path. Why? It makes good business sense, it demonstrates leadership, and it reduces harmful air pollution.
- The commitments made by each partner are a first step on a new road to cleaner air, safer and more efficient industry

practices, and continued efforts to address climate change and lead the world in developing a clean energy economy. They will be able to say they were here on Day 1, leading the way and setting an example for companies throughout the U.S. and around the world. On behalf of the Administrator, I want to congratulate and thank you all.

- And now my colleague Sarah Dunham will present our next speakers.

Closing Remarks

- Congratulations again to all the companies that have joined us today as founding partners in the Methane Challenge program. We look forward to working with them over the coming years.
- Of course, additional companies are welcome to join the Methane Challenge at any time. We hope to see the Program continue to grow and mature through the leadership and example of these Founding Partners.
- Thank you for your time today, and for your continued efforts to reduce methane emissions for the global good.
- We will now be doing a brief group photo and then will continue to the next session in our Program. [*note partners will already be assembled on stage for photo*]

