



**National Conference of State Legislatures
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EPA Proposes New Rule to Reduce Methane Emissions

On Aug. 18, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) [proposed](#) a number of new draft rules for the oil and natural gas industry aimed at combating climate change and reducing air pollution. Specifically the rules are intended to reduce methane and volatile organic chemicals (VOCs) emissions from new hydraulically fractured wells as well as find and repair leaks. The rules also attempt to reduce such emissions by covering “downstream” equipment associated with the distribution of natural gas. EPA will take [comment](#) on the proposal for 60 days after it is published in the Federal Register. At the same time, EPA issued draft control technique guidelines (CTGs) for states that are targeted to help to reduce VOC emissions from existing equipment and processes in the oil and natural gas industry. EPA noted in its [fact sheet](#) on the guidelines that it also intends to issue, by Oct. 1, a final rule regarding strengthening ground level ozone standards, which include VOCs. In addition to these actions from EPA, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is expected to finalize [a new rule for venting and flaring natural gas on federal lands](#) in September.

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