



Institute for
Policy Integrity

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

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STATEMENT ON WEAKENING OIL AND GAS STANDARDS

The Trump administration is soon expected to finalize a rule repealing EPA limits on methane emissions from the oil and gas sector and significantly weakening limits on the sector’s volatile organic compound emissions. Widespread leaks from wells, pipelines, storage tanks, and other equipment waste valuable natural gas and are a major contributor to both greenhouse-gas and smog-forming pollution.

Jack Lienke, Regulatory Policy Director at the Institute for Policy Integrity, has released the following statement:

“EPA’s case for weakening these standards is even leakier than the oil and gas wells it’s trying to deregulate. The agency refuses to admit that it has legal authority to leave its existing rules in place and refuses to acknowledge the serious health and climate consequences of eliminating those protections. As a result, this action, like so many others taken by the Trump Administration, is highly unlikely to hold up in court.”

The Institute for Policy Integrity submitted [multiple sets](#) of comments on EPA’s earlier proposals to weaken pollution rules for the oil and gas sector.

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[The Institute for Policy Integrity](#) at New York University School of Law is a non-partisan think tank dedicated to improving the quality of government decisionmaking. The institute produces original scholarly research in the fields of economics, law, and regulatory policy; and advocates for reform before courts, legislatures, and executive agencies.