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**Clean Air Task Force statement on EPA proposed rule on NSPS
for Oil and Natural Gas Industry
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“EPA’s twin proposals to regulate several air pollutants from the oil and natural gas industry are a welcome first step toward reducing the impacts of this industry on human health and the world’s climate. One of these proposals will regulate volatile organic compounds, a major contributor to ozone smog, while the other will regulate toxic air pollutants such as benzene that are linked to cancer and other serious human health problems. Together, EPA estimates the combined proposals will produce substantial health and climate benefits, and will do so at a *net savings* to the industry.

“However, the natural gas industry has also been dumping huge amounts of natural gas into the air for decades, because it is sometimes more convenient to do this rather than transporting the gas to market. This is a huge waste of use of scarce, valuable energy and the practice releases large amounts of a variety of harmful air pollutants into the environment. EPA’s proposals will result in the capture of some of this gas, and estimates that the value of the captured gas and condensate that will now be available for sale will exceed the overall cost of the rules by about \$30 million per year.

“So, while CATF applauds EPA’s proposed rule and believes that it will reduce the impact of air pollution from natural gas operations, EPA’s proposal does not regulate methane directly, which is emitted in large amounts from natural gas exploration, production, processing transportation and distribution activities—in fact, natural gas operations emit more methane than any other industry in the nation. EPA’s omission is a serious one, as methane is a potent global warming gas that lasts for only about 10 years in the atmosphere (unlike carbon dioxide, which lasts for centuries), so prompt reductions in methane pollution can quickly reduce the pace of warming of the planet. CATF will strongly urge EPA to correct this omission in its final rule.”

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Clean Air Task Force is a non-profit environmental organization with offices throughout the United States and in China that works to protect the earth's atmosphere by improving air quality and reducing global climate change through scientific research, public advocacy, technological innovation and private sector collaboration. For more information, please visit www.catf.us.