



Oil and Natural Gas

The United States has worked hand-in-hand with the Methane to Markets Partnership's oil and gas stakeholders to pursue cost-effective methane emissions reduction opportunities to reduce product losses, lower methane emissions, and increase revenues. Some of the U.S. government's notable 2006 accomplishments and ongoing activities are discussed below.

Large-Scale Emissions Reductions Projects in Mexico

USAID supported several methane emissions reduction project activities with Mexico's state-owned oil company, PEMEX, including installing dry seals in the Ciudad PEMEX Gas Processing Center, conducting preliminary analyses of PEMEX Gas methane emissions at other locations, and identifying and quantifying fugitive emissions in the Cactus and Nuevo PEMEX Gas Processing Centers. PEMEX worked on eliminating fugitive methane emissions in the Cardenas Pipelines Sector of PEMEX Gas in Tabasco, Mexico. USAID and EPA are currently working with PEMEX to identify and implement more large-scale methane emissions reduction projects at additional facilities in 2007. PEMEX has spent approximately \$1.3 million on methane emissions reduction efforts through 2006.

International Project Development Support

EPA continues to provide general outreach support, government and stakeholder engagement, and highly specific methane emissions reduction project identification and development support in Argentina, Brazil, China, Colombia, Ecuador, India, Russia, and Ukraine. This entails working with several companies to promote identification, cost-benefit analysis, and implementation of methane emissions reduction projects and membership in Natural Gas STAR International.

Leak Detection and Repair in Ukraine

Cherkasytransgas, a Ukrainian branch company of Ukrtransgas, matched grant funding from the U.S. Department of Energy's International Utility Efficiency Partnership



Launching Natural Gas STAR International

In 2006, EPA expanded the successful U.S.-based Natural Gas STAR Program by launching Natural Gas STAR International with seven charter partners: ConocoPhillips Canada, Devon Energy Corporation, Enbridge, Inc., ExxonMobil Corporation, Marathon Oil Corporation, Occidental Oil and Gas Corporation, and TransCanada. Soon after the program's launch, India's largest oil producer, The Oil and Natural Gas Corp. Ltd., also joined as a Partner. EPA is working with these companies to identify, analyze, promote, and track methane emissions reduction projects from their world-wide operations.

(IUEP) program and USAID Eco-Links to undertake a methane emissions reduction project. This project included detecting and measuring leaks, developing and implementing leak repair plans, confirming methane reductions with post-repair measurements, and summarizing successes. Cherkasytransgas plans to conduct measurements at all compressor stations, gas distribution stations, and linear valves and create a database of all discovered leaks.



Council on Environmental Quality Chairman James Connaughton addresses audience gathered for launch of Natural Gas STAR International.

Building on the IUEP and USAID work, EPA is supporting methane emissions reduction projects in Ukrainian natural gas transmission and distribution sectors. This work will focus on directed inspection and maintenance programs, such as those implemented in the IUEP and USAID work, which are proven cost-effective ways to detect, measure, prioritize, and repair equipment leaks to reduce methane emissions. Additionally, as part of this effort, EPA will organize a roundtable in collaboration with the Ukrainian government focused on possible policy measures to reduce emissions from the Ukrainian natural gas transmission system.

USTDA Ecopetrol Hydrocarbon Pipeline Safety and Security Project

This \$500,000 feasibility study will help Ecopetrol S.A. address the safety, security, and integrity of Colombia's hydrocarbon pipeline system. The study, supported by USTDA, will involve a detailed assessment of the entire pipeline system and will focus on the development of a systematic plan aimed at reducing product losses by significantly improving physical and operational security throughout the system, including at various pumping and transfer stations.