

**November 15, 2022**

## **Environmental Health Project Statement on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Proposed Methane Rule**

### **Background**

On November 11, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced its [Supplemental Proposal to Reduce Methane and Other Harmful Pollution from Oil and Natural Gas Operations](#). This is the EPA's most recent regulatory proposal to reduce substantially oil and gas methane pollution. This new draft rule builds on and strengthens the EPA's [initial proposal](#) released last November.

### **EHP's Statement**

The Environmental Protection Agency's proposed methane rule is a good first step to improving the public health of residents living in proximity to shale gas development. Reducing leaks of methane and other harmful pollution—volatile organic compounds (VOCs), particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and radium—into local communities will result in lowering the risk to residents of a wide range of serious health issues. Studies have found that these pollutants raise the risk of asthma and other respiratory illnesses, heart disease and heart attacks, birth defects and pre-term deliveries, mental health issues, and cancer, among other health impacts.

The Environmental Health Project urges the Environmental Protection Agency to continue to sponsor regulatory measures that better protect the health of families living near shale gas infrastructure. These measures should compel industry to further reduce emissions through requiring continuous monitoring, ending routine flaring, and increasing setback distances between facilities and occupied buildings, including home and schools. Regulators should also take into account all sources of pollution when permitting any new shale gas facility, while giving communities a stronger voice in the siting of shale gas operations. Only then will families have the health protections they deserve.

**Alison L. Steele, Executive Director  
Environmental Health Project**

## **About EHP**

The Environmental Health Project (EHP) defends public health in the face of shale gas development. We provide frontline communities with timely monitoring, interpretation, and guidance. We engage diverse stakeholders: health professionals, researchers, community organizers, public servants, and others. We do so because knowledge protects health.