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**Obama Administration Finalizes Safeguards for Methane Pollution**  
*Standards are the First-Ever National Safeguards for Methane Pollution from the Oil and Gas Industry*

Austin, TEXAS -- Yesterday, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized standards for methane pollution from new and modified sources in the oil and gas sector. These safeguards are the first-ever national standards for methane pollution, a greenhouse gas that is 87 times more potent than carbon dioxide in the near term. In addition, the EPA also announced it would begin collecting data from existing oil and gas wells and associated equipment with the goal of a future rulemaking on existing sources of methane.

Last month, the EPA released its [Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report](#), which confirmed that the oil and gas industry is the leading emitter of methane pollution in the United States. The report estimates methane emissions from the oil and gas industry to be 34-percent higher than previously thought, at more than 9.8 million metric tons of pollution on an annual basis. No state releases more methane than Texas, and yet Texas has no specific regulations that require oil and gas producers to capture methane or inspect their facilities to prevent fugitive emissions of methane.

Yesterday's announcement is a critical element of the Obama Administration's Climate Action Plan, which seeks to reduce methane emissions by 40-45 percent from 2012 levels by 2025.

In response, **Cyrus Reed, Conservation Director of the Sierra Club's Lone Star Chapter**, released the following statement:

"We welcome the EPA's proposal to reduce air emissions and climate-cooking methane gases from the oil and gas industry. No state would benefit more than Texas from these common sense safeguards for our communities and our planet. While other states like Colorado and Pennsylvania have already taken action to require their oil and gas producers to inspect their facilities for leaks, and capture methane and prevent fugitive

emissions, our regulatory agency and legislature refuse to take action to protect our people. We thank the EPA for stepping into our political void.”

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