



October 28, 2024

Ms. Ditte Juul Jørgensen
Director-General for Energy
European Commission
1049 Bruxelles/Brussels
BELGIUM

Dear Director-General Juul Jørgensen:

On behalf of the United States government, we are writing to congratulate the European Union's recent adoption of the EU Regulation on methane emissions reduction in the energy sector (EU/2024/1787) and support its underlying objectives. This regulatory package and the forthcoming secondary legislation are a strong complement to the efforts that the United States Government has taken to reduce methane emissions across the energy supply chain.

The United States and the European Union lead the world in efforts to reduce methane emissions. We are proud to have launched together the Global Methane Pledge at the Conference of the Parties (COP) 26 where we, along with more than 150 other governments as of today, committed to collectively reduce methane emissions by 30 percent by 2030. We are also co-leading work with international partners and stakeholders to develop a voluntary framework for greenhouse gas emissions measurement, monitoring, reporting, and verification from the natural gas sector. We are confident that the respective rules and regulations limiting methane emissions from the energy sector that have been adopted by the European Union and the United States will help us meet our shared climate goals.

We respectfully request an initiation of an equivalence determination process for importers/third countries under the EU/2024/1787 of the European Parliament and Council of 13 June 2024 on the reduction of methane emissions in the energy sector and amending Regulation EU/2019/942. We understand that this process will take time. However, we would like to begin discussions as soon as possible, to ensure the continued reliable and stable supply of natural gas from the United States to Europe.

We also understand that the European Commission's Directorate-General for Energy (DG ENER) must draft relevant secondary legislation related to the equivalence determination procedure and requirements. As you undertake this process, we encourage DG ENER to establish transparent consultative procedures that allow for stakeholder feedback. The United States looks forward to substantive engagement with the Commission as it takes next steps to develop the equivalence determination procedure and requirements.

We are confident that the United States' extensive domestic regulatory regime to monitor, measure, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions (especially methane) from the oil and gas sector is consistent with the goals of the EU's regulations. In the United States, the White House Methane Emissions Reduction Action Plan (Action Plan) targets the largest sources of methane emissions and includes a global goal of cutting methane emissions by 30% below 2020 levels by 2030. The Action Plan is implemented by multiple U.S. Federal Government agencies through regulations, financial incentives, transparency and disclosure requirements, and public and private partnerships. Key actions to date, specific to the oil and gas sector, include the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) issuance of a new Clean Air Act rule to strengthen and update methane emission standards for new, modified, reconstructed, and existing sources in the oil and natural gas sector; a new rule proposed by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) that will significantly improve the detection and repair of leaks from natural gas pipelines; and new funding from the Department of the Interior that has already begun to plug tens of thousands of orphaned oil and gas wells throughout the United States.

In addition, under the Inflation Reduction Act, the Methane Emissions Reduction Program (MERP) established a Waste Emissions Charge (WEC) for methane, which will further incentivize emission reductions beginning this year. The MERP also required extensive revisions to the EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program (GHGRP) regulations for annual reporting of emissions from the oil and gas sector (known as "Subpart W" regulations). GHGRP requires reporting of greenhouse gas data and other relevant information from large greenhouse gas emission sources, fuel and industrial gas suppliers, and carbon dioxide (CO₂) injection sites in the United States. This program has long been recognized as setting the gold standard for greenhouse gas measurement, reporting, and verification, and it now includes expanded requirements for quantifying and reporting emissions across the oil and gas sector.

Finally, as part of the MERP, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the EPA are providing up to \$1.36 billion in financial and technical assistance to small producers, states, Native American Tribal governments, and other entities to improve methane monitoring and to reduce methane and other greenhouse gas emissions from the oil and gas sector.

We look forward to working with the European Commission as we embark on the equivalence determination process. DOE and the EPA will collaborate closely with relevant departments and agencies, including the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Commerce, as well as U.S. industry stakeholders, as we proceed.

Sincerely,



Brad Crabtree
Assistant Secretary
Office of Fossil Energy and
Carbon Management
U.S. Department of Energy



Joseph Goffman
Assistant Administrator
Office of Air and Radiation
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

cc: Deputy Director General Mechthild Worsdorfer
Deputy Director General Matthew Baldwin
Director for International Relations Cristina Lobillo Borrero