

FACT SHEET

United States, et al. v. The Williams Companies, Inc., et al.

On April 20, 2023, the United States, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, the States of Alabama, Colorado, West Virginia, and Wyoming, and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality lodged a Consent Decree that settles claims against The Williams Companies, Inc. and seven related Williams entities (Williams), and Harvest Four Corners, LLC (Harvest) pursuant to the Clean Air Act and state air pollution control laws at 15 natural gas processing plants located throughout the United States.

The settlement is part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) national enforcement and compliance initiative to create cleaner air for communities by reducing excess emissions of harmful air pollutants.

The settlement was filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado on April 20, 2023, simultaneously with a complaint alleging that Williams and Harvest violated certain requirements to control volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions from natural gas processing plants. The settlement requires Williams to pay a \$3.75 million civil penalty, strengthen its leak detection and repair (LDAR) practices at the 15 natural gas processing plants, and perform equipment leak monitoring and repair leaks at 80 natural gas compressor stations that are not otherwise subject to LDAR requirements. In addition, the settlement requires Harvest to implement a flare monitoring project at the Ignacio Gas Plant on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation.

At the 15 natural gas processing plants covered by the settlement, Williams and Harvest will: implement an aggressive plan to repair VOC leaks more quickly; implement innovative repair technologies; install low-emission equipment; use optical gas imaging technology to identify leaks and repair those leaks; and improve training for staff and contractors. Williams and Harvest will also conduct independent audits to ensure that they are meeting the settlement's LDAR requirements.

At the 80 compressor stations, Williams will use optical gas imaging technology to monitor equipment for leaks, and then repair leaks. Harvest will implement a flare monitoring project at the Ignacio Gas Plant to ensure that the flare is operating properly. If the monitoring reveals that the flare is not operating properly, Harvest must operate additional instrumentation and controls to ensure proper operation of the flare.

The Williams and Harvest facilities involved in the settlement emit VOCs and greenhouse gases, including methane, into the atmosphere. When fully implemented, the settlement will reduce ozone-producing air pollution by an estimated 696 tons per year and greenhouse gases by 29,350 tons per year of carbon dioxide equivalent, including methane. The emission reductions achieved through this settlement will directly benefit air quality and residents in communities in Alabama, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas, West Virginia, Wyoming, and on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. More information about this settlement may be found here:

<https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/2023-williams-companies-inc-clean-air-act-settlement-information-sheet>.