

# EPA Extends Several Deadlines in Clean Air Act Rule for Oil and Natural Gas Operations

## Fact Sheet

### Overview

- July 28, 2025 -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued an interim final rule to extend several compliance deadlines in the 2024 New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) and Emissions Guidelines for oil and natural gas operations – commonly known as OOOOb/c.
- The extensions in the interim final rule provide more realistic timelines for owners and operators to meet requirements and for states to develop and submit plans for limiting emissions from existing sources. The rule also extends the date for the future implementation of the rule’s “super emitter” program.
- The interim final rule marks the first of multiple actions the EPA plans to take to ensure that oil and gas regulations do not overburden producers.
- The interim final rule will be effective when it is published in the *Federal Register*. However, the EPA is seeking public comment and will accept written comments for 30 days after publication.

### The Extended Deadlines

#### ***Certain new, modified and reconstructed sources***

- The 2024 NSPS requires oil and gas owners and operators to reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and methane from covered new, modified, and reconstructed sources. The EPA has determined that some of the deadlines for meeting these requirements are unworkable for owners and operators of tens of thousands of new and modified sources across the U.S.
- The interim final rule will extend compliance deadlines in the NSPS as follows:
  - The deadline to meet certain requirements related to control devices, equipment leaks, storage vessels, process controllers, and covers/closed vent systems will be extended to 18 months after the interim final rule is published in the *Federal Register*.
    - This includes extending the deadline to require that flares and enclosed combustion devices used to control emissions have a continuous pilot flame and for an alarm to be sent to the nearest control room if the pilot or combustion flame is not lit.

- For continuous monitoring of the “vent gas net heating value” of flares and enclosed combustion control devices, the extended deadline is 120 days after publication. Net heating value is an indicator of flare performance and combustion efficiency.

### ***State plans for existing sources***

- The 2024 Emissions Guidelines do not impose requirements directly on sources; rather, they include model regulations that states may choose to adopt in required plans for reducing methane emissions from hundreds of thousands of existing oil and natural gas sources across the country.
- The EPA has found that states are facing challenges as they undertake the complex work to develop plans to implement the 2024 Emissions Guidelines and need additional time to complete their plans and submit them to the Agency.
- The 2024 rule requires states to submit plans by March 9, 2026. The interim final rule extends that deadline to 18 months after the rule is published in the *Federal Register*, giving states approximately 10 additional months to complete the significant work to develop state plans.

### ***The “super emitter” program***

- The 2024 rule includes a program that allows EPA-approved third parties using EPA-approved remote-sensing technology to seek certification to provide the EPA with data on potential large leaks and releases known as “super emitters.” The EPA has determined that there are fundamental flaws in the 2024 rule’s “super emitter” program that have affected the program’s implementation and the Agency’s review and processing of submitted data. Because of this, the EPA is delaying the date for future implementation of the program for 18 months.
- This extension also will affect the timing for the EPA to act on requests for approval of methane detection technology for use in the super emitter program. During the 18-month period, the EPA will not be required to act on applications seeking approval of remote-detection technology for use in the super emitter program.

### **Economic Impact**

- The EPA’s Economic Impact Analysis estimates that the interim final rule will cut compliance costs by an estimated \$750 million from 2028 to 2039 (3% discount rate), the equivalent of \$81 million per year.
  - EPA has identified hundreds of thousands of oil and gas sources across the country who would be impacted by this action.
- The estimated cost savings result from the extended deadline for states to submit plans under the Emissions Guidelines. That extension, in turn, will extend the outermost deadline in the Emissions Guidelines for states to require that sources comply with methane emissions controls for existing sources. The Agency does not expect the compliance

deadline extensions for new, modified and reconstructed sources to have a substantial impact on compliance costs or emissions.

- The EPA estimates that the following emissions reductions will not occur from 2028-2038 as a result of the interim final rule: 3.8 million tons of methane, 960,000 tons of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and 36,000 tons of toxic air pollutant. The reductions that will not occur are a portion of the overall reductions from the 2024 rule: the Agency estimates that emissions of 31 million tons of methane, 7.7 million tons of VOCs and 290,000 tons of toxic air pollutants will continue to be reduced over the 2028-2038 period.
- The EPA estimates the value of natural gas that will not be captured as a result of the deadline extensions at \$170 million from 2028-2039 (3% discount rate), the equivalent of \$18 million per year.

#### Additional Information

- To read the interim final rule, including instructions for submitting comments, visit EPA's oil and gas [website](#).