

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
Methane Alternative Test Methods – Methane ATM
Revised April 2026

This document contains the FAQs of the Methane ATM program. Use the table of contents to find the question(s) of interest. Reach out to the review team at methaneATM@epa.gov if you have any questions. The reviewers expect that each applicant read the Guideline Document, relevant sections of the regulatory program, and the FAQs beforehand.

See below a brief description of each section of this FAQ document:

A. Methane ATM Program: Compiled FAQs regarding the regulatory program (40 CFR part 60 subparts [0000](#), [0000a](#), [0000b](#), and [0000c](#)).

B. Application Scope: Compiled FAQs regarding the subject matter of the application as it pertains to the regulatory program.

C. Application Process: Compiled FAQs regarding the application process before submittal, during review, and after the reviewer's final decision is made.

D. Application Materials: Compiled FAQs regarding the optional and required application materials (See Guideline Document and [40 CFR 60.5398b\(d\)](#)) submitted to the portal (<https://methane.app.cloud.gov/>).

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A. Methane ATM Program

Once a measurement technology is approved, will oil and gas companies be able to use the technology automatically?

The rule 40 CFR part 60 subparts [0000](#), [0000a](#), [0000b](#), and [0000c](#) provides details on how an owner/operator of an oil and gas facility should incorporate an approved alternative technology into their monitoring plans. For NSPS [0000b](#), there is not an additional approval process for the monitoring plan, but you must notify the Administrator in accordance with 40 CFR 60.5424b(a).

How will data be reported, and does the EPA already have a template for data reported from alternative advanced methane technologies?

Owners/operators of NSPS [0000b](#) and EG [0000c](#) sources that use alternative advanced methane detection technologies are required to report certain information in the annual reports required under 40 CFR 60.5420b(b) and 40 CFR 60.5420c(b). Annual reports will be required to be submitted through the [Compliance and Emissions Data Reporting Interface \(CEDRI\)](#). The required template for the annual report is available on the CEDRI website.

What are the standard data reporting requirements? Do they vary by technology type?

The standard data reporting requirements are outlined in [40 CFR §60.5424b](#) and are captured in the [CEDRI](#) reporting template.

If an owner/operator chooses to replace a periodic screening event with an OGI survey, would that survey count as the required annual OGI survey in a scenario where an annual OGI survey is required?

Refer to [§60.5398b\(b\)\(4\)\(iii\)](#) for a response to this question.

How are emissions monitoring plans, recordkeeping needs, and reporting requirements different for fugitive emissions monitoring using alternative test methods at sites subject to NSPS [0000a](#) versus NSPS [0000b](#)?

NSPS [0000a](#) has the same recordkeeping, reporting, and planning requirements as NSPS [0000b](#). This means that the advanced methane detection technology requirements are the same for both subparts, regardless of which technology a site employs.

B. Application Scope

Is EPA considering requests for technology that can measure the duration of an emissions leak?

EPA has two different metrics for evaluating alternative technologies based on whether they employ periodic or continuous screening. For the periodic screening technologies, EPA's review focuses on the technology's ability to detect emissions. For continuous monitoring technologies, EPA's review focuses on the technology's ability to quantify site level emissions.

Does OGI monitoring with helicopter platforms need to be approved through the application process?

OGI monitoring with helicopter platforms should be approved through the alternative technology provisions in NSPS OOOOb.

Where does fixed OGI fit into the application system, periodic or continuous?

Fixed OGI is considered a periodic screening method, as it is a more detection-specific technology approach. If a fixed OGI system can reliably quantify site-level methane emissions, EPA will consider that application as a continuous monitoring method. If there is uncertainty as to which approach applies, applicants should reach out to EPA.

C. Application Process

Who can submit an application for advanced methane detection alternative technologies for NSPS OOOOb?

Refer to [§60.5398b\(d\)\(2\)](#) for a response to this question.

Can an entire application be submitted as Confidential Business Information (CBI)?

An entire application for a proposed advanced methane detection technology cannot be submitted as CBI. Everything that is not CBI must be submitted through the Methane ATM portal (<https://methane.app.cloud.gov/>). Refer to the Guideline Document for instructions on how to submit non-CBI and CBI files. If an applicant submits non-CBI files to the CBI system, EPA may ask for the application to be re-submitted.

How is CBI handled by the EPA? Is the public able to see materials submitted as CBI?

The reviewers are trained to handle CBI as part of their review responsibilities and are the only people with controlled access to this data. No information submitted to EPA's CBI system will be shared with the public.

Do applicants need to meet a specific threshold for “broadly applicable” vs. “site or basin-specific”?

Per, [§60.5398b\(d\)\(3\)\(ii\)](#), the applicant must state the desired applicability (i.e., site-specific, basin-specific, or broadly applicable across the sector, super-emitter detection) of the technology. The submitted application materials should prove that the proposed advanced methane detection technology meets the desired applicability.

If a proposed advanced methane detection technology is capable of multiple thresholds by modifying the operation conditions, does an applicant need to submit multiple applications, one for each leak rate threshold?

If a proposed advanced methane detection technology works for different leak thresholds, each leak threshold must be submitted as a separate application and will be reviewed as such. Applicants may duplicate materials across the applications, when applicable. Application

materials should describe how the thresholds are changed, discuss any operational changes required to meet a new threshold, and provide validation data that supports these results. Applicants are encouraged to add language in the executive summary noting that a technology is capable of multiple thresholds, listing any related applications (by Request ID), and highlighting any changes in the documentation between the related applications.

Can more than one proposed advanced methane detection technology be combined in a single application?

Each application should cover one discreet advanced methane detection technology. Each application will be reviewed and approved separately.

Can an approved Methane ATM using an advanced methane detection technology be modified or updated? If so, how? Are providers, vendors, or users of the approved advanced methane detection technology allowed to make changes or upgrades to the technology (e.g., software, interface, sensors)?

Any major changes to a Methane ATM and/or the underlying technology require EPA's review and approval. Reach out to the reviewers when changes to the Methane ATM are planned to be made to receive guidance.

D. Application Materials

Are prospective applicants allowed to reach out to the review team before submitting an application?

Yes! Prospective applicants are encouraged to contact the review team. In addition, the reviewers may reach out to set up meetings to discuss your application.

What information is required for a Methane ATM request? Is there any material that should not be included in an application?

The minimum requirements for submission of a Methane ATM application are defined in [40 CFR 60.5398b\(d\)](#). [Guideline Document 56](#) provides additional detail on submission materials and expectations.

Is the information submitted to this site publicly available?

Yes, any information submitted to the Methane ATM portal will be publicly available, with the exception of Personal Identifiable Information (PII). Information that is claimed as CBI should not be submitted through this website.

Is there a public list of approved alternative methane testing technologies?

The list of the approved advanced methane detection technologies is hosted on [EPA's EMC website](#). A link to the list of approved technologies is also provided on the landing page for the Methane ATM portal. Additionally, the applications for approved technologies (except any CBI content) are also hosted on the portal.

Are there formatting requirements for the description of technology document and the visual workflow?

No. As stated in [Guideline Document 56](#), there are no prescribed formatting guidelines for the description of technology document or the visual workflow. There is also no requirement of how material in these documents should be divided between the public-facing portal and the CBI system. The reviewers reserve the right to request edits to these documents for any reason.

How should I submit CBI?

Refer to [Guideline Document 56](#) or [Handling CBI](#) for more information on submitting CBI.

What kind of data is EPA looking for to support the Methane ATM request?

The reviewers are interested in all relevant data used as part of the validation process to define the data quality indicators (DQI) and data quality objectives (DQO) in your proposed advanced methane detection technology. Proof-of concept or controlled-release data is important, but not sufficient. The reviewers also need to see data that show how your method performs in the field where you intend to deploy, under the range of physical and environmental conditions you expect to deploy. The data need to be collected following the exact protocol you submitted at the portal for approval. For periodic screening applications, the reviewers will need data proving 90% POD at the desired detection threshold.

How much testing and field data are required in the application?

Applicants should provide as much supporting data as possible to demonstrate the performance of their technology and method across the entirety of their defined envelope of operation.

Where should field testing take place? Do applicants need to do testing directly with EPA or at an EPA-certified test center?

EPA does not conduct or participate in the testing of proposed advanced methane detection technologies. Applicants can perform field testing at test sites of their choosing, or by working with owners/operators of regulated sites.

Are there guidelines for the testing a company needs to do to confirm the method performance of their technology?

There are no guidelines regarding the testing requirements since different advanced methane detection technologies will have different requirements. The reviewers will request evidence showing that the technology/method work under the envelope of operation indicated in the application materials. Peer-reviewed and controlled blinded studies are encouraged to be submitted as supporting evidence that the technology/method works.

Can additional data be added to the application once it is submitted?

Yes, and in certain circumstances the reviewers may request additional documentation.

When will the EPA contact me about their decision?

Refer to [§60.5398b\(d\)\(1\)\(i\)](#) and [\(iii\)](#) for a response to this question.

