

## **Fact Sheet**

### **Final Rule: Reconsideration of Standards of Performance for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources and Emissions Guidelines for Existing Sources: Oil and Natural Gas Sector Climate Review**

#### **Summary of Action**

- On April 4, 2026, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized revisions to certain aspects of the Biden-Harris Administration’s 2024 Clean Air Act rule for oil and natural gas sources, commonly known as OOOOb/c to ensure that American energy owners and operators can continue producing the cleanest energy in the world without being punished by burdensome and unworkable regulations.
- The final rule responds to several petitions for reconsideration, feedback from industry—including from a 45-day public comment period—and additional data that EPA received after the 2024 rule was issued.
- In this final rule, EPA revised requirements to allow for up to 72 hours for temporary flaring of associated gas in emergency situations at well sites. EPA is also revising requirements for monitoring and testing of vent gas from certain flares or enclosed combustion devices (ECDs). These revisions will provide flexibility to owners and operators.
- The agency’s final rule, which is part of a series of actions the Trump EPA will take on Biden-era oil and natural gas regulations, is estimated to save \$2.5 billion over 15 years, equivalent to \$208 million a year in industry compliance costs.
  - These cost savings will help lower gasoline and energy costs across the board and benefit American families.

#### **Final Revisions**

##### *Changes to Temporary Flaring Provisions*

- The Biden-era 2024 Final Rule phases out routine flaring of associated natural gas from new sources.
- After the 2024 Final Rule was published, EPA received petitions for reconsideration that suggested the 24-hour limit on temporary flaring of associated gas did not provide enough time for owners and operators to troubleshoot and repair equipment.
- After considering petitioners’ concerns along with data that was not available to the agency before it issued the 2024 Final Rule, the Trump EPA is extending the allowance for temporary flaring of associated gas in specific situations from 24 hours to up to 72 hours.
- The Trump EPA final rule also allows additional time beyond the 72 hours for emergency situations where reasonable site access is limited due to events like extreme inclement weather, temporary personnel shortage, or supply chain issues due to circumstances outside the owner or operator’s control. Owners and operators will be required to keep records and report when such situations occur.

##### *Changes to Net Heating Value Monitoring and Testing Requirements*

- The 2024 Final Rule required owners and operators to demonstrate compliance with requirements related to the net heating value (NHV) of the gas sent to a flare or ECD, while allowing for an alternative performance test option.
  - NHV is the amount of heat released when gas is burned, which is an indicator of flare performance and combustion efficiency.
- Following publication of the 2024 Final Rule, EPA received petitions for reconsideration and new data that was not available to the agency at the time it issued the 2024 Final Rule.
- The Trump EPA’s final rule:

- o Adjusts the NHV monitoring and testing provisions. Owners and operators do not need to perform NHV sampling from flares or ECD, except where inert gases or other miscellaneous scenarios are present. The final rule also removes the general exemption from NHV monitoring for associated gas for any control device used at well site affected facilities.
  - o These changes will reduce the number of required tests required by up to 141,000 per year—about 1.9 million over 15 years.
  - o Finalizes several revisions to the alternative performance test for both new and existing sources.
  - o Allows NHV grab sampling to be conducted upstream to the inlet to the control device, setting the performance test to 14 operating days with weekend and holiday breaks, and requiring block hourly averaging for continuous samples.
  - o Requires one-hour minimum sampling time for twice daily samples, except in specific cases where low and intermittent flow makes one-hour sampling infeasible.
  - o Adds clarifying language to allow the use of the sampling demonstration as an alternative to continuous monitoring for all types of air- and steam-assisted flares or ECDs.

## Background

- On March 8, 2024, EPA published a final rule expanding standards of performance for the oil and natural gas industry. The 2024 Final Rule established new source performance standards for new, reconstructed, and modified sources and Emission Guidelines for states to develop plans for existing sources.
- On March 12, 2025, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin announced the agency would do a comprehensive reconsideration of OOOOb/c to unleash energy dominance and continue the Nation’s trajectory as a leader in clean energy and emissions reductions.
- On November 26, 2025, EPA finalized an interim final rule to extend several compliance deadlines in the 2024 Final Rule to provide more realistic timelines for owners and operators to comply with the 2024 Final Rule.
- According to the Biden EPA, its oil and natural gas regulations would cost over \$18 billion. This is compared to the \$750 million already saved by the Trump EPA in 2025 by providing additional time for sources to comply with certain provisions in the burdensome OOOOb/c Biden-era regulations.
- EPA is currently developing another proposal to address additional issues raised by stakeholders in the 2024 Final Rule.

## More Information

- Interested parties can download a copy of the final rule and fact sheet from EPA’s oil and gas website under the [Actions and Notices](#) section.
- This action and other background information are also available online at <https://www.regulations.gov/>. Materials for this final action can be accessed using Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2024-0358.