

SCIENCE / METHANE

Go to Grid | Next Story

White House Takes Third Step to Ease Greenhouse Gas Rules

Administration plans to weaken restrictions on the release of methane gas

By **John Johnson**, Newser Staff
 Posted Sep 11, 2018 7:47 AM CDT

[f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [124 comments](#)



Oil pumps and natural gas burn off in Watford City, N.D. (AP Photo/Charles Rex Arbogast, File)

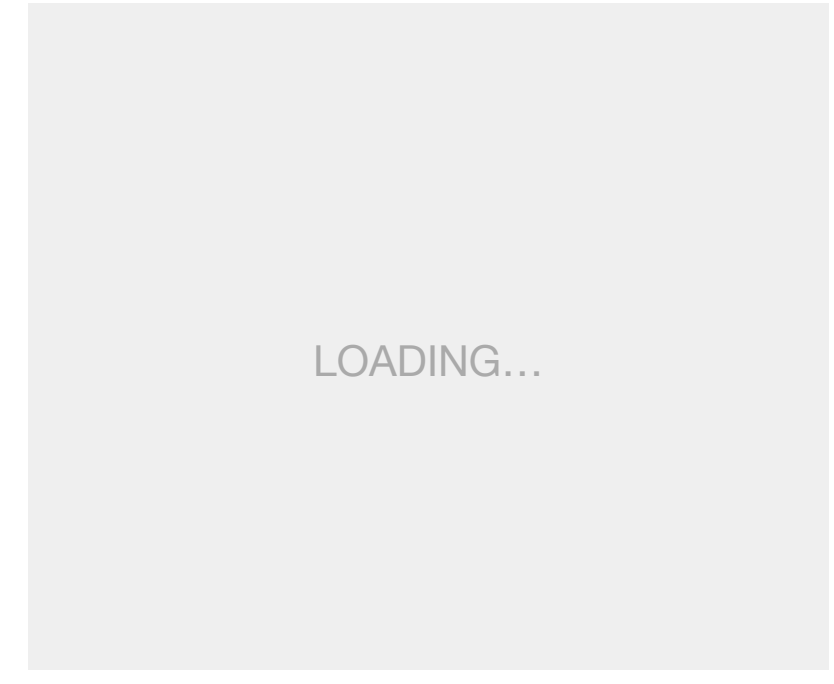
(NEWSER) – The Trump White House thinks the previous administration went overboard on rules about greenhouse gases, and it's about to make its third big move to correct that. After earlier moves on carbon dioxide pollution from [autos](#) and [coal plants](#), this time it's all about methane, reports the [New York Times](#). The EPA is expected this week to unveil its proposal to weaken rules on how companies track and repair methane leaks, giving them more time to do both, reports the [Wall Street Journal](#). Separately, the

Interior Department is poised to roll back a restriction on the venting of methane at drilling sites. Environmentalists say the upshot will be that more heat-trapping methane will be released into the atmosphere, while industry leaders say it's needed relief from unnecessary red tape.

"It all depends on who you trust," Kathleen Sgamma, president of the Western Energy Alliance, tells the *Times*. The Obama "administration trusted environmentalists. This one trusts industry." A former member of that Obama administration has a different view: "They're taking them down, one by one," says former EPA official Janet McCabe, referring to the Obama-era rules on climate change. The [Hill](#) reports that the two biggest sources of methane emissions are natural gas drilling and the raising of livestock. It notes that over the summer, the EPA exempted farmers from a rule requiring that they report methane emissions from cattle. (Maybe seaweed [can help with the latter?](#))

My Take on This Story

[Show results without voting](#) | [Report a story error](#)



Popular on Newser

- Willie Nelson Irks Some Fans With Concert First **1**
- Iconic Store Is Saying Goodbye **2**
- Woman: In High School, Kavanaugh Tried to Assault Me **3**
- Modern Family Is Killing a 'Significant' Character **4**
- School's 'Safe Space' for White Students' Sparks Backlash **5**