

From: [Charles Nunzio](#)
To: [comments, EMP](#)
Cc: [Jeff Rapaport](#); [Ken Dolsky](#); [Renee Alessio](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments - methane leakage understated
Date: Sunday, September 08, 2019 4:00:49 PM

Dear BPU,

The EMP understates the global warming impact of methane leaked during the extraction, distribution and burning of natural gas. The EMP should be using the 20-year methane greenhouse gas factor of 86 times that of CO₂, not the much lower 100-year value. That's just silly, for heaven's sake! The EMP's stated goal is for 2050, only 30 years hence. This drastically hides methane's real effect on climate change in the near term.

The Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) has done years of field measurements Their study included more than 140 researchers, four dozen oil and gas companies and a range of technologies -- ranging from sensors on helicopters, airplanes and Google Street View Cars. The study concluded that the U.S. oil and gas industry emits **nearly 60 percent more methane than current government estimates.**

EDF is now developing, for launch in 2021, MethaneSat, a satellite that will measure methane pollution from oil and gas facilities globally. They will make the data public and enable fixing leaks quickly since the data will pin-point the time and location of leaks. The oil and gas industry is estimated to be responsible for a quarter of all methane emissions caused by human activities. EDF believes they can help reduce global oil and gas methane emissions 45 percent by 2025. In EDF's Spring 2019 Special Report, Mark Brownstein states that even if we only cut this global methane by half, that would have the same impact on climate in the near term as **closing nearly all of China's coal-fired power plants.**

Reducing methane leaks is the biggest low-cost opportunity we have to slow the rate of warming in the near term. Many of these leaks are easily fixed by a guy with a wrench -- not rocket science.

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