



October 2, 2025

VIA E-FILING (<https://www.regulations.gov>)

Lee Zeldin, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460
EPA Docket Center, Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2025-0162

Federal eRulemaking Portal: <https://www.regulations.gov>

Re: Comments of the Ohio Oil and Gas Association on U.S EPA's Interim Final Rule – Extension of Deadlines in Standards of Performance for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources and Emissions Guidelines for Existing Sources: Oil and Natural Gas Sector Climate Review Final Rule Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2025-0162

Dear Administrator Zeldin:

On July 31, 2025, U.S. EPA published notice of an interim final action (the "Interim Final Rule") to extend certain deadlines prescribed under U.S. EPA's final rule: *Standards of Performance for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources and Emissions Guidelines for Existing Sources: Oil and Natural Gas Sector Climate Review* (89 FR 16820; March 8, 2024) (the "2024 Methane Rule"). The Interim Final Rule extends the deadlines for certain provisions related to control devices, equipment leaks, storage vessels, process controllers, and covers/closed vent systems under Subpart OOOOb of the 2024 Methane Rule; extends the date for future implementation of the Super Emitter Program under the 2024 Methane Rule; and extends the state plan submittal deadline in Subpart OOOOc of the 2024 Methane Rule. The Ohio Oil & Gas Association ("Association" or "OOGA") is pleased to provide the following comments on the Interim Final Rule, **including requests that U.S. EPA amend the Interim Final Rule to: (1) include a 540-day extension to file the initial annual report required under Subpart OOOOb; (2) extend the compliance deadline for NHV monitoring requirements by 540 days (as opposed to limiting the extension to November 28, 2025).**

The Association is one of the largest and most active state-based oil and natural gas associations in the United States and has been the representative of Ohio's oil and gas producing industry since 1947. OOGA's members are involved in all aspects of the exploration, development, production and marketing of crude oil and natural gas resources in Ohio. The Association's members often rely on OOGA as their primary source of information on industry trends, activities, tax changes, legislation and regulatory issues. OOGA frequently participates in federal and state regulatory actions affecting the oil and gas industry.



The Association has been actively involved in U.S. EPA's development of the regulatory framework governing emissions from oil and gas sources since the New Source Performance Standards ("NSPS"), 40 CFR Part 60, Subpart OOOO regulations were first proposed in 2011. This decade-plus rulemaking has been shaped by a seemingly unwavering effort to force a square peg into a round hole – that is, applying the traditional principles of the NSPS program to the oil and gas industry absent recognition of and tailoring to the unique aspects of the oil and gas industry's operations and related emissions profiles. The end product – the 2024 Methane Rule – is a regulatory regime that is, in large part, overly burdensome, unworkable, and technically unsupported.

Many of the Association's members have operations that are subject to and directly affected by Subpart OOOOb (and will be affected by Subpart OOOOc) of the Methane Rule, with many others indirectly affected. The Interim Final Rule provides necessary regulatory relief, and the Association applauds U.S. EPA for providing such relief. With U.S. EPA's acknowledgement of the diverse and complex nature of the oil and gas source category, the challenges associated with applying the regulatory requirements of the Methane Rule, and the burdens placed operators to comply, the Interim Final Rule is the first step toward the round peg for the round hole. While the Association generally supports the Interim Final Rule for extending compliance deadlines under the 2024 Methane Rule, the Association notes that the Interim Final Rule does not in any way alter the underlying substance of the 2024 Methane Rule. OOGA's members with affected facilities under Subpart OOOOb must still comply with the overly burdensome and unsupported emission control, monitoring, reporting, recordkeeping and testing requirements prescribed thereunder – albeit with more time to do so in certain instances. This creates an additional layer of complexity as regulated entities are put in the precarious position of having to figure out how to plan for such delayed compliance.

The Association understands that U.S. EPA is actively working on a rulemaking for the reconsideration of the 2024 Methane Rule, and that comments related thereto are outside the scope of the Interim Final Rule rulemaking. That the Interim Final Rule in and of itself adds further complexity and uncertainty to the 2024 Methane Rule is relevant here, however, and the Association urges U.S. EPA to proceed with reconsideration and revision of the 2024 Methane Rule expeditiously.

With respect to the Interim Final Rule, specifically, the Association submits the following comments/requested amendments.

Extension for Initial Annual Report under Subpart OOOOb

First, the Association requests that U.S. EPA amend the Interim Final Rule to include a 540-day extension for compliance with the initial annual reporting requirement under Subpart OOOOb. The process of collecting the data and preparing these reports is resource- and time-intensive, thus placing a significant burden on OOGA's members, particularly on the small businesses that will be forced to redirect limited resources toward



compliance with the reporting requirement. Providing a 540-day extension for compliance with the initial annual reporting requirement is consistent with the 540-day extension provided for other requirements under the Interim Final Rule, and reflects the amount of time realistically necessary to gather, review, organize and present the significant amount of information required to be included in the annual report. Such an extension is also necessary and appropriate in light of U.S. EPA's reconsideration of the 2024 Methane Rule which may include revision to (or elimination of) the annual reporting requirement.

The Association respectfully urges U.S. EPA to promptly amend the Interim Final Rule to provide a 540-day extension for compliance with the initial annual reporting requirement in order to provide needed regulatory certainty pending U.S. EPA's reconsideration of the 2024 Methane Rule.

Control Devices/NHV Monitoring

The Association appreciates U.S. EPA extending the compliance dates related to net heating value (NHV) monitoring of flares and enclosed combustion devices (ECDs) under 40 CFR 60.5417b(d)(8). However, only extending the compliance date until November 28, 2025 is not sufficient to avoid the compliance-related challenges cited by EPA. OOGA members have encountered significant supply chain issues which are not expected to be resolved any time soon, and certainly not in time to comply with the extended November 28, 2025 deadline.

The Association requests that U.S. EPA amend the Interim Final Rule to provide for a 540-day extension (i.e. until January 22, 2027) to comply with the NHV monitoring requirements for flares and enclosed combustion devices. Such an extension is consistent with the other extended deadlines under the Interim Final Rule, and is necessary for regulated entities to avoid non-compliance that is entirely outside their control.

The Association appreciates the opportunity to comment on and suggest amendments to the Interim Final Rule. We look forward to continuing to work with U.S. EPA in its development of rules governing emissions from the oil and gas sector that are reasonable, technically supportable, and consistent with the Clean Air Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie Kromer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephanie Kromer
Director of Legislative & Regulatory Affairs
Ohio Oil & Gas Association