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Methane Studies Guide Provides Fact-based Insight for Policy
Decisions, Natural Gas Leaders Say

(Washington, D.C.) Leaders of the Natural Gas Council (NGC) today released an
independent, objective and fact-based guide to more than 70 different analyses of methane
emissions from natural gas systems. The report, “Finding the Facts on Methane
Emissions: A Guide to the Literature,” was authored by ICF International and identifies
several recurring findings among the different reports.

“The report identified some commonalities and overarching themes that the Natural Gas
Council hopes policymakers will use to inform their decisions on methane released from
natural gas systems,” said Dena Wiggins, president and CEO of the Natural Gas Supply
Association (NGSA).

“Finding the Facts on Methane Emissions” finds that the methodology used in each of the
75 studies has a large effect on the study’s conclusions. Direct measurement (“ground up”)
studies found that a few super-emitter sites represented a disproportionate share of industry
emissions; ambient measurement studies (“flyovers”) showed a wide range of results
affected by weather and other potential methane sources; and lifecycle analyses showed
lifecycle emissions of natural gas to be 40 to 50 percent lower than that of other fossil fuels.
The report further noted the important contribution of natural gas to reducing carbon
dioxide and other criteria pollutants.

“The goal of this extremely thorough literature review is to dispel some of the confusion
that has resulted from the many conflicting studies. These studies used different
methodologies and drew different conclusions that might affect the public’s perception of
natural gas,” said Don Santa, president and CEO of the Interstate Natural Gas Association
of America (INGAA).
In addition to providing a guide to the existing studies of methane emissions from natural
gas systems, the Natural Gas Council urged policymakers to remember the important
contribution of natural gas in reducing CO₂ and other greenhouse gases. ICF chronicled
the declining percentage of methane emitted from natural gas systems despite an increase
in production and consumption since the 1990s. On April 15, the Environmental Protection
Agency released its Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gases 1990-2014, which shows that
emissions from natural gas systems in total have declined by 15 percent since 1990 and
have declined by 43 percent per unit of natural gas produced.

“This report is a necessary contribution to the fact-based discussion surrounding our
nation’s clean and secure energy future. It adds to the growing body of data that supports
natural gas as a foundation fuel, capable of helping us meet our national goals of boosting
our economy, improving our environment and increasing our energy security.” said Dave
McCurdy, president and CEO of the American Gas Association.

Kyle Isakower, vice president of regulatory and economic policy for the American
Petroleum Institute, said: “Oil and natural gas producers have every incentive to capture
and sell methane, and we will continue to make substantial progress to reduce emissions
voluntarily. Safe and responsible development of energy from shale has helped America
become the world leader in reducing emissions, with carbon dioxide emissions down to
near 20-year lows.”

Mark Sutton, president and CEO of the Gas Processors Midstream Association said,
“While industry overall continues to decrease its methane emissions even as production
has increased, our hope is that this study can be a useful reference tool for policy makers.”

The full report and a one-page summary are available here.

The Natural Gas Council collectively represents the majority of the companies that
produce, transport and distribute natural gas in the United States. It includes leaders from
the American Gas Association, the Independent Petroleum Association of America, the
Interstate Natural Gas Association of America, the Natural Gas Supply Association and
the American Petroleum Institute, following its combining with the former America’s
Natural Gas Alliance in 2015. The NGC was formed in 1992 to provide a forum for
leaders in the natural gas industry to discuss common concerns, and to advocate the
removal of impediments to the efficient production, processing, transmission, distribution
and consumption of natural gas.