

New Developments in Drones and Methane Detection for Monitoring, Emissions Detection, and Regulatory Compliance

Susan Nash¹

¹AAPG

Abstract

Many expected the tough 2016 fugitive methane emissions regulations instituted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to be repealed or modified by the new administration. Instead, they were upheld, leaving in place the requirement for oil and gas operators, midstream transportation providers, and others who produce, transport, or process hydrocarbons to detect, monitor, and remediate methane emissions. Regulations cover all phases of exploration and production, from drilling, completing, and producing, to processing and transporting. This presentation reviews the requirements of the regulations and discusses the ways in which drones can be utilized for accurate, efficient, and cost-effective compliance.