



Maryland
Department of
the Environment

Mitigation Working Group

*Developing an MWG Recommendation on Methane
Emissions*



MDE Presentation
Mitigation Working Group Meeting
August 22, 2016

Topics

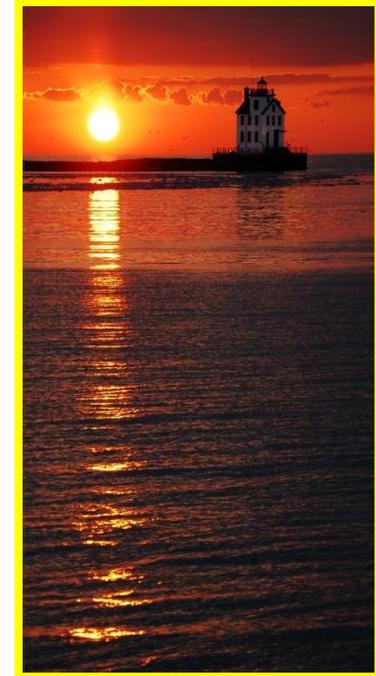
- Background and Schedule
- MDE Straw-Proposal
 - Potential recommendations for the Mitigation Working Group (MWG) to forward to the full Commission (MCCC) on methane emissions for the 2016 MCCC report
- Discussion



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2016 MWG Methane Meetings

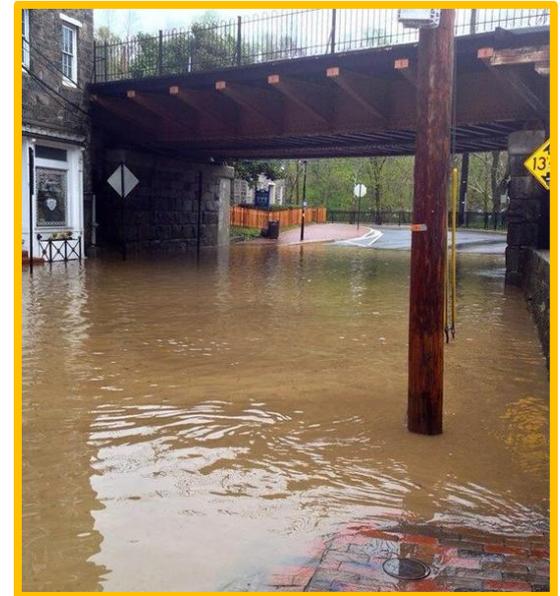
- June 27
 - Methane Part 1 - Learning session
 - Balanced set of speakers
 - Some discussion.
- August 22 (Today)
 - Methane Part 2 - Discussion
 - Begin to develop MWG recommendations on methane emissions
- October 24
 - Methane Part 3 - Finalize MWG methane emissions recommendations
 - Review other MWG recommendations for the MCCC 2016 report
- November 28
 - All MWG recommendations for 2016 MCCC report final



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An MDE Straw Proposal for Discussion

- MDE staff has listened to experts at earlier meetings and received input from many MWG members
- This straw proposal tries to capture what we have heard from MWG and Commission members on the issues associated with methane emissions
- MDE Straw Proposal has 3 pieces:
 1. What can Maryland do to minimize methane emissions at existing facilities in the State?
 2. What can Maryland do to address methane emissions in upstream states?
 3. How can Maryland ensure that if hydraulic fracturing happens in Maryland ...
 - that methane emissions are significantly reduced or eliminated?



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Minimizing “In-State” Methane Emissions

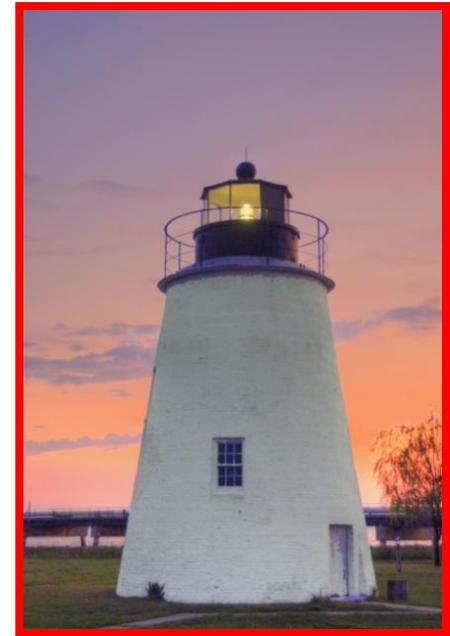
- MDE has already begun to work on updated regulations to minimize methane emissions at a first set of priority sources
 - Landfills
 - Compressor Stations
 - Waste Water Treatment Plants
- Will be working with MWG on 2nd set of potential actions
- Builds from work in other states like Colorado and Pennsylvania
- Make this a recommendation to the MCCC



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Addressing “Upstream” Methane Emissions

- Recommend to the Commission that the State push EPA and other states to adopt the strongest possible regulations to minimize methane emissions in areas outside of Maryland
- Do not penalize our own process in Maryland by discounting greenhouse gas emission reductions taking place because of natural gas
 - Some have argued that methane emissions at upstream operations linked to natural gas should be used to reduce Maryland’s in-state emissions reductions
 - MDE believes that this is counterproductive to our in-state efforts
 - Would also require a change in the law to make this kind of “life-cycle” emissions accounting to take place
- Potential recommendation: Acknowledge this issue in the MCCC 2016 report but use it to drive the strong action outlined in bullet number 1 above



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Methane Emissions and Hydraulic Fracturing

- Hydraulic fracturing in Maryland will be a major area of discussion over the next year
- MDE draft regulations would establish some of the most stringent controls on emissions at hydraulic fracturing operations in the Country
 - Top-down best controls on all emitting sources including fugitive methane emissions from leaks
 - A zero-methane requirement that requires drill pad site emissions to be “offset” by an equivalent reduction in methane emissions from other sources
- Potential Recommendation: The MCCC should support MDE’s draft regulations
- MDE recognizes that some MWG and MCCC members may be pushing for an outright ban
 - This may make this a difficult issue to develop a consensus recommendation



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Summary of Potential Recommendations

1. In-State Emissions

- MDE tightens up methane emission requirements for existing sources

2. Upstream Methane Emissions

- Push for very strong controls on upstream methane emissions through federal rules or rules in other states
- Acknowledge the role of upstream methane, but do not discount in-state reductions associated with fuel conversions



3. Hydraulic Fracturing

- Support the draft MDE regulations

4. Are there other recommendations that the MWG should consider?



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Questions and Discussion



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