

# Methane Emissions at German Gas Infrastructure – Results, Challenges and Opportunities

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### **German Findings of CATF measuring campaign**

- Measurements at 15 sites
   between February and May 2021
- Compressor stations, storage facilities, refineries etc.
- Emissions at all sites some rather small, some more significant





## **German Findings of CATF measuring campaign**

Example 1: Compressor Station in Rothenstadt, Bavaria,

filmed 04 April 2021





#### German Findings of CATF measuring campaign

Example 2: Compressor Station in Mallnow, Brandenburg,

filmed on two occasions

**12 February 2021** 

27 April 2021







## Methane emissions findings – reactions from regulators

- DUH contacted responsible state authorities in June and July 2021 with footage of sites in Lower-Saxony, Brandenburg, Thuringia, Saxona and Bavaria
- DUH asked for an investigation of found leaks, including consideration on legal steps against operators where necessary
- Reaction of authorities was manifold.
   Last response was received by DUH end of October. All responsible regulators did answer
- Legal review of reactions by DUH in progress



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Methan-Emissionen der Gasverdichterstation Mallnow / Einleitung aufsichtlicher Maßnahmen sowie Prüfung Ordnungswidrigkeit bzw. strafrechtliches Vorgehen

Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren,

gemeinsam mit unseren Projektpartnern von der Clean Air Task Force hat die Deutsche Umwelthilfe in den vergangenen Wochen und Monaten in Deutschland stichprobenartig Anlagen der Erdgas-Infrastruktur auf Methan-Leckagen untersucht. Verwendet haben wir dazu eine Optical Gas Imaging-Camera (FLIR GF320), mit der Methan-Emissionen sichtbar gemacht werden können.

Untersucht haben wir im Rahmen dieses Projektes u.a. die Verdichterstation von Gascade in Mallnow. Wir haben dort an drei Terminen (12. Februar 2021, 27. April 2021, 7. Juni 2021) erhebliche Emissionen aus der Hauptnotentlüftung festgestellt. Hinzu kamen an zwei der genannten Termine weitere Emissionen u.a. aus der Kompressorentlüftung auf dem Dach. Trotz des monatelangen Abstands zwischen unseren Aufnahmen wurden anscheinend keine Maßnahmen getroffen, um das Leck zu beheben, aus dem offenbar dauerhaft Methan ausströmt.

Exemplarisch fügen wir Aufnahmen von allen drei oben genannten Terminen zu den Emissionen aus der Hauptnotentlüftung an.

Methan ist ein extrem klimaschädliches Treibhausgas. Über einen Zeitraum von 20 Jahren ist es laut IPCC 87 Mal so klimaschädlich wie CO2. Die von uns dokumentierten Emissionen tragen daher in nicht unerheblichem Maße zur Klimakrise bei. Sie müssen auch vom Betreiber bzw. den zuständigen Behörden dokumentiert werden, in die Berichterstattung zu Klimagasen der Bundesrepublik Deutschland einfließen und natürlich so schnell wie möglich abgestellt werden.

Als zuständige Aufsichtsbehörde möchten wir Sie auf diese Emissionen hinweisen. Wir fordern Sie auf, die notwendigen aufsichtlichen Maßnahmen zu veranlassen sowie Schritte zur Ahndung einer





## Methane emissions findings – regulator responsibilities

 As a federal state, there are different regulators for each federated state and subsequent sub-regulators on sub-state level

Site	State	State regulator	Sub-regulator
Compressor Station Rückersdorf	Thuringia	Landesamt für Umwelt, Bergbau, und Naturschutz Thüringen (Außenstelle Weimar)	Landratsamt Greiz
Compressor Station Mallnow	Branden- burg	Landesamt für Umwelt (LfU) Brandenburg	-
Several sites in Lower-Saxony	Lower- Saxony	Niedersächsisches Ministerium für Umwelt, Energie, Bauen und Klimaschutz	-
Compressor Station Rothenstadt	Bavaria	Bayrisches Landesamt für Umwelt (LfU)	Stadt Weiden



### Methane emissions findings – reactions from regulators

#### Responses from regulators showed:

- Jurisdiction unclear at times which institution regulates the site had to be researched by contacted regulator first
- 2. In some cases, operators did not know about found leakages
- 3. In **no case** did operators **report emissions** to respective regulator emissions **are not part of national inventory** reported to UNFCCC
- Regulators stated a variety of legal bases depending on where emissions occurred exactly
- 5. Uncertainties about how emissions thresholds are defined and when a leak needs to be reported by the operator to regulators circumventing thresholds is possible, e.g. by subdividing certain parts of facility
- 6. Industry exerts influence on regulating bodies reference to interest groups in replies to DUH by regulators



### Methane emissions findings – reactions from regulators

#### **Consequences** of measuring campaign:

- Several operators tightened frequency of their emission monitoring
- Several operators improved scrutiny of monitoring
- Some regulators will put stronger emphasis on methane emissions as part of regular checks of gas infrastructure
- Many of found leaks were closed due to our campaign





## Conclusion – what needs to happen in Germany?

- Monitoring by regulators must be tightened more frequent checks of infrastructure to detect leaks as soon as possible
- Monitoring of gas infrastructure needs to be more thorough, i.e. through mandatory use of infrared cameras
- Federal Environment Agency needs to rely more on measurements instead of calculations
- Thresholds for reporting of emissions to regulators by the operator must be reviewed
  - New information on climate warming effect of methane to be taken into account
  - GWP20 in addition to GWP100 included into national inventory
  - Issue of operators evading reporting of emissions must be tackled
- Political debate on fossil gas exit date needs to be accelerated



## Conclusion – what needs to happen on EU level?

- EU methane legislation needs to consider emissions inside and outside of Europe, as well as emissions from the petrochemical industry
- Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) as well as Leak
   Detection and Repair (LDAR) programs need to be mandatory
- Ban on routine venting and flaring
- Methane pricing model needs to be introduced, alongside an emissions performance standard for imported fossil gas
- → EU Parliament with Own Initative Report calls on Commission to go beyond its original ambition laid out in its Methane Strategy proposal of December 2020



# Study "Implementing a methane pricing model for the EU gas market"



- Evaluation of different models for methane pricing including feasibility analysis
- Combination of methane import fee, EUinternal excise duty on methane and an emissions performance standard judged as best model
- Methane emissions can be reduced significantly with right mix of measurements & sufficient data base



## Thank you!

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