

## **Colorado already a couple steps ahead of the feds on methane emission regulations**

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Colorado proved once again that it leads the way when it comes to oil and gas regulations — specifically regarding methane emissions.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency came down with a final set of rules that will regulate methane emissions from new oil and gas facilities across the nation. The rules are based on Colorado's own rules requiring companies to contain up to 95 percent of methane emissions from storage tanks, operations and equipment.

Actually, Colorado's laws remain even more strict than the new rules handed down by the EPA. Where the EPA will require companies to inspect facilities at least every six months and make repairs promptly, Colorado already requires somewhere between four and 12 inspections annually, depending on the size of the operation.

In Colorado, the regulations seem to be trending in the right direction.

"The rules over the last two years are working," said Dan Grossman, the Rocky Mountain regional director for the Environmental Defense Fund. "They're proven. Companies are complying and methane pollution is being reduced."

And the EPA rules are only in place for new facilities. The organization is still working on a plan to handle existing facilities. In Colorado, the rules address both new installations and structures that already exist.

We like the fact that Colorado is leading the way in keeping businesses productive while keeping a close eye on the environment.

— *The Tribune Editorial Board*