METHANE EMISSIONS — HUMAN AND ECOLOGICAL HEALTH RISK BASED RANKING AND PRIORITIZATION TOOL

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There are numerous confirmed cases of well casing leaks in Alberta, which are associated with the emission of methane and other natural gas components. There is need for a methodology that can be used to rank wells in terms of risk potential and thus timeliness for mitigation. The ranking tool could serve as a common platform for incorporating historical, current, and potential future information, while not imposing a process standard. In this way, the tool could be reviewed at intervals by companies developing their own risk prioritization schemes.

Policy Issue

Improving the understanding of the impacts of surface casing vent flows. Gas migration from wellbores is a potentially significant liability and cost issue that requires greater technical understanding of causal mechanisms and potential environmental impacts.

Knowledge Gap

Environmental impacts from surface casing vent flows with respect to shallow aquifers and greenhouse gas

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