

The letter was signed by Brad Crabtree, head of the Department of Energy’s fossil energy office, and Joe Goffman, head of the Environmental Protection Agency’s air office, and addressed to the European Commission’s top energy official Ditte Juul Jørgensen.

A European Commission spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

A spokesperson for the EPA confirmed it sent the letter with the DOE and that the EU had confirmed receipt.

The United States is the world’s top oil and gas producer, and its exports of LNG surged after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine led European countries to cut their dependence on Russian energy and seek other sources.

Methane, the main component in natural gas and LNG, is a powerful greenhouse gas and more than 150 countries, including the U.S. and EU members, have pledged to slash its emissions by 30% this decade to fight climate change.

European Union countries approved a law in May to impose methane emissions limits on Europe’s oil and gas **imports** from 2030, pressuring international suppliers to cut leaks of the potent greenhouse gas during production and transport.

The EU has not yet designed the exact methane limits, or determined how another country’s domestic methane regulations could be considered “equivalent” to its own.

The Biden Administration, meanwhile, passed [USN:L1N3CW2NF TEXT:“rules late last year”] cracking down on U.S. oil and gas industry releases of methane, which are being administered by the EPA.

On Tuesday, it finalized a [USN:L1N3MION1 TEXT:“methane charge”] on large methane leaks at oil and gas facilities.

Trump has said he plans to reverse or revoke dozens of Biden administration regulations to ease burdens and costs for the US energy industry, with methane rules among the first likely targets. On Monday, he announced that ally and former New York lawmaker Lee Zeldin would be his EPA administrator, and said Zeldin would “ensure fair and swift deregulatory decisions that will be enacted in a way to unleash the power of American businesses.”

In August, 10 US-based trade groups including the Chamber of Commerce and American Petroleum Institute flagged concerns to EU officials about their methane-related **import** requirements.

“The **importers** failing to comply with these obligations might be prevented from **importing** their supplies to the EU, and therefore the EU’s security of supply could be severely impacted,” they wrote in an Aug 2. letter.

Jonathan Banks, global director on methane at the Clean Air Task Force, an environmental group, said the EU’s standards, along with others in the works, will require U.S. suppliers to clean up regardless of any U.S. regulatory rollbacks.


“Market access will be dictated by proof of low methane emissions,” he said.

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Valerie Volcovici covers U.S. climate and energy policy from Washington, DC. She is focused on climate and environmental regulations at federal agencies and in Congress and how the energy transition is transforming the United States. Other areas of coverage include her award-winning reporting plastic pollution and the ins and outs of global climate diplomacy and United Nations climate negotiations.


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