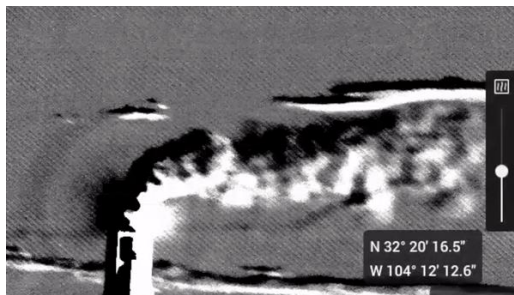


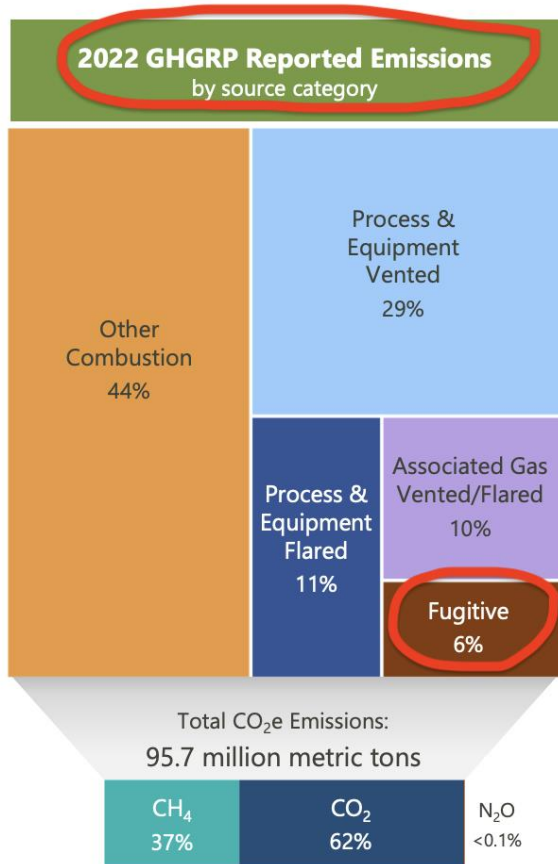


**New Mexico
RADIOACTIVE AND HAZARDOUS
MATERIALS COMMITTEE**

September 13, 2024

**Sharon Wilson
Oilfield Witness**





Methane emissions are standard operating procedure for O&G

The majority of methane emissions are not accidental leaks but planned releases.



The Oil Industry Must Obey the Laws of Physics

Pressure releases are required “to protect the equipment.”



Gay Lussac's Law - states that the pressure of a given amount of gas held at constant volume is directly proportional to the Kelvin temperature. As temperature increases, the gas pressure must be released.





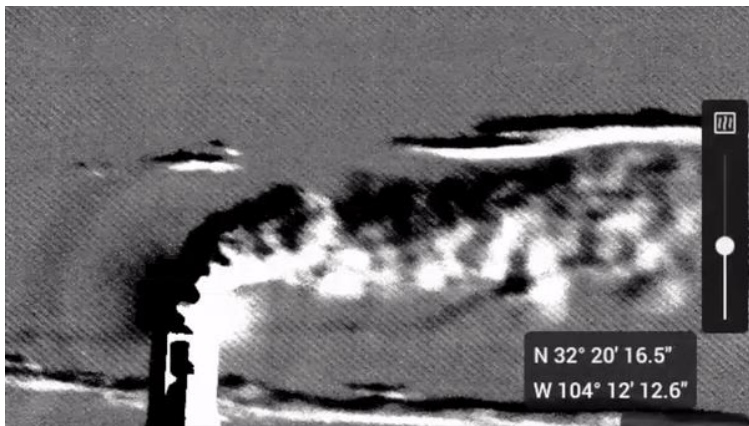
The industry doesn't have a methane problem, they have a physics problem.

Physics: The Gas Law

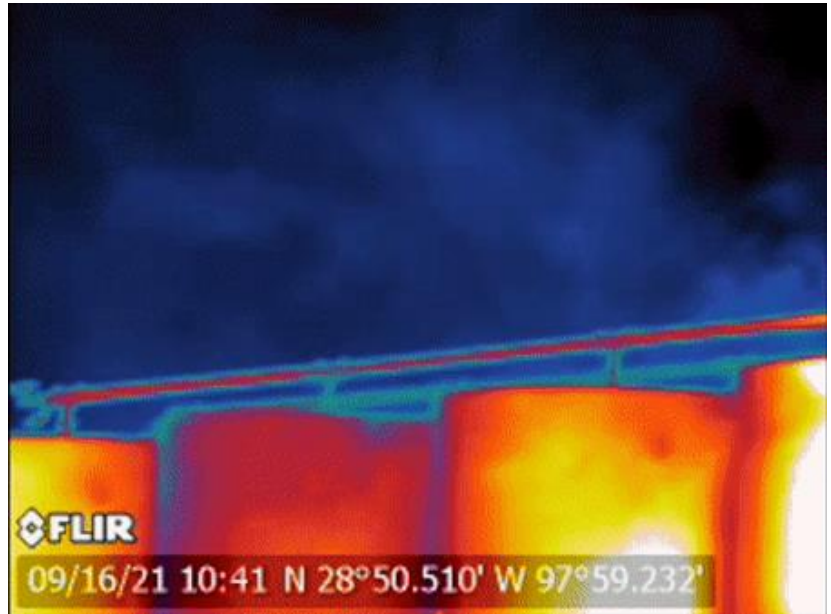
**The industry's solution:
Technology such as**

Vapor recovery systems!





“We find vapor recovery systems failing 75-80% of the time.”
~Tim Doty former TCEQ regulator





**Unattended flares
are often unlit.**

**Unattended equipment
often malfunctions.**



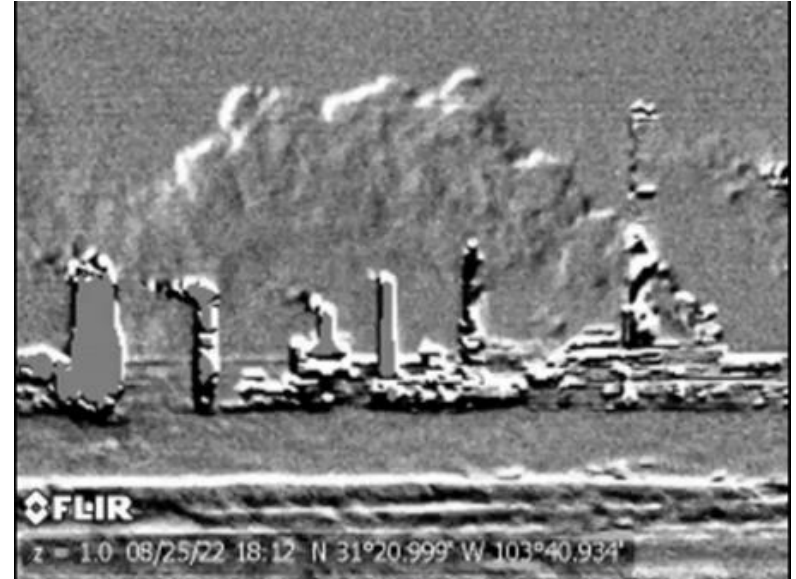
Chevron Man O War



BLOWDOWNS



Intentionally using our atmosphere as a dump.



Oil production requires pollution

In December 2023, researchers at The University of New Mexico published a study which **linked industrial air pollution to the state's above-average rates of babies born with low birthweight.**¹

In March 2024, the journal GeoHealth published a paper found that oil and gas pollution exposure from the U.S. onshore oil and gas industry is estimated to cause **7,500 premature deaths and 410,000 asthma exacerbations annually.**²

1 “Industrial Air Pollution and Low Birth Weight in New Mexico, USA,” Journal of Environmental Management 348 (December 15, 2023), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvman.2023.119236>

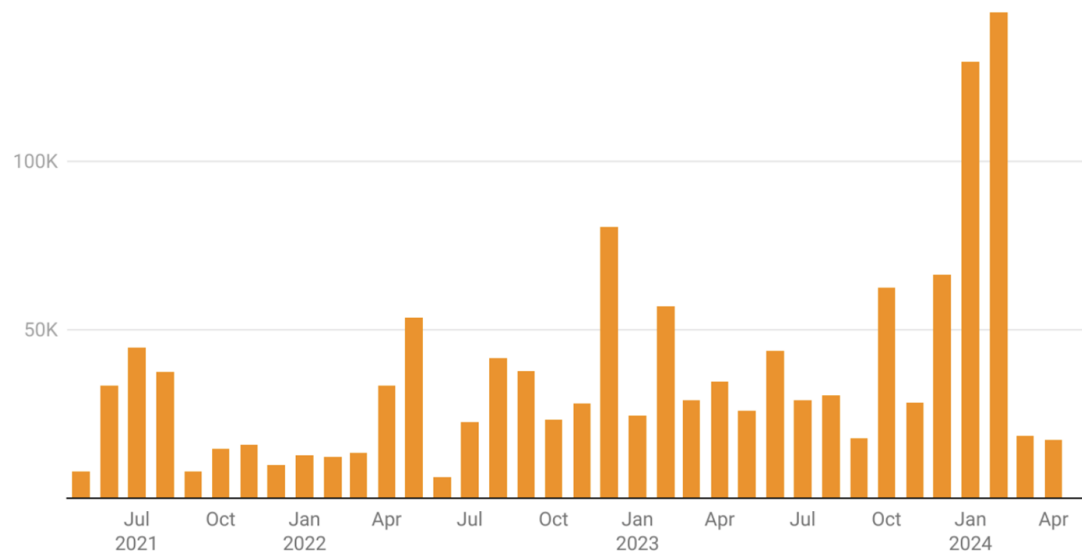
2 “Air Quality and Health Impacts of Onshore Oil and Gas Flaring and Venting Activities Estimated Using Refined Satellite-Based Emissions,” GeoHealth (Mar 6, 2024), <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38449816/>



Methane emissions have gotten worse since new regs

Gas Vented in NM Since Start of State Methane Rule

Reported amounts of natural gas released into the atmosphere by oil and gas producers, May 2021 to April 2024.



All amounts are in Mcf, or thousands of cubic feet, the industry standard

Chart: Jerry Redfern • Source: NM Oil Conservation Division • Created with Datawrapper



New study shows exported LNG is worse than coal

“Overall, the greenhouse gas footprint for LNG as a fuel source is **33% greater than for coal.**”

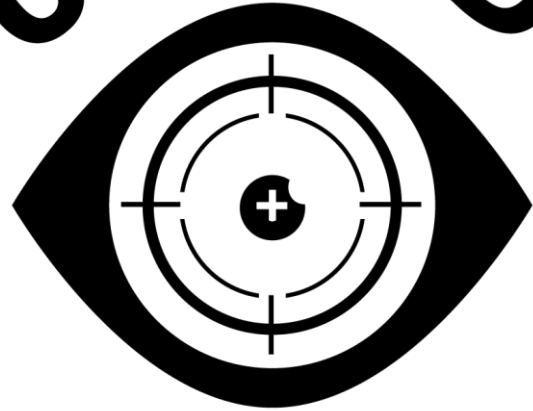


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