**Title:**

Streamlining Methane Standards Compliance Across U.S. and International Regulations

**Problem being addressed/Value statement:**

Conflicting methane emissions regulations across federal, state, and international levels are creating an urgent and costly challenge for U.S. natural gas producers. Operators must navigate overlapping and often inconsistent requirements—from the EPA’s OOOOb/c rules to New Mexico’s natural gas waste rule to the EU’s Methane Regulation. Each of these frameworks imposes distinct monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) standards, forcing companies to duplicate efforts, invest in multiple reporting systems, and manage complex legal obligations.

The root problem is regulatory misalignment, which wastes time and resources, increases compliance costs, and introduces uncertainty into investment and operational planning. Without coordination, U.S. producers face growing difficulty in maintaining access to critical export markets—especially the European Union, which imports roughly $13 billion in U.S. LNG annually and is poised to enforce strict penalties on non-compliant methane imports. Failing to act risks isolating American producers, weakening U.S. competitiveness, and undermining global emissions reduction efforts due to inefficient data collection and inconsistent standards.

This initiative provides data tools, analyses via reports, and an educational workshop component to enable policymakers and industry to harmonize reporting frameworks and identify efficient compliance strategies across all regulatory levels.

**Objective:**

This project will deliver interactive data tools, analyses, and convenings to support alignment of methane emissions reporting and verification standards across regulatory levels. The initiative will:

* Analyze and compare key differences between major regulatory frameworks (EPA, state-level, EU).
* Facilitate a multi-stakeholder dialogue series, bringing together regulators, industry, and experts, to explore pathways for harmonization.
* Provide XX policy briefs and implementation guidance to inform rulemaking and industry response.

The goal is to enable more efficient, cost-effective methane compliance strategies that reduce redundancies and help preserve global market access for U.S. operators.

**Industry need:**

The global natural gas industry is under increasing pressure to reduce methane emissions and demonstrate transparent, verifiable climate performance. As major economies implement stricter emissions standards and carbon-related trade policies, the need for coordinated methane reporting frameworks becomes urgent. Without harmonization, producers will face growing operational and reputational risk, stalling investment in emissions reduction technologies and jeopardizing climate goals.

U.S. producers are particularly vulnerable given the fractured domestic regulatory landscape. There is a clear need for tools and guidance that help navigate this complexity and support industry-wide consistency and credibility.

**Business value:**

This project directly supports natural gas producers, midstream operators, and exporters by: reducing compliance costs through streamlined reporting guidance and tools, avoiding trade penalties by helping U.S. companies meet EU import standards, improve decision-making by clarifying regulatory expectations and minimizing legal uncertainty, preserving market access to key LNG customers (especially in the EU).

Additionally, the project’s policy-integrated workshops and stakeholder engagement will foster a shared understanding between regulators and industry. By building a trusted network of decision-makers, technical experts, and operators, the initiative accelerates the alignment of methane rules and reduces the lag between policy development and practical implementation. This collaborative forum will help close the feedback loop between what regulations require and what is feasible in the field through two-way conversations among key stakeholders.