



ECRB views on methane emissions

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ECRB GWG is working on a review of practice in EnC Contracting Parties with regard the regulatory treatment related to methane emissions from natural gas infrastructure.

- Legislative obligations imposed on TSOs/DSOs,
- Determination of methane emissions,
- Distinction between different sources of methane emissions,
- Regulatory treatment of network losses, leak detection and repair,
- Strategies for methane emissions abatement.

- Legislative obligations regarding methane emissions usually included in high level documents (Laws, Strategies), not imposing obligations directly to system operators,
- Most of the contracting parties rely on IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) Guidelines for GHG Inventory keeping (methane included),
- Different authorities are included in the process of reporting or data gathering (Ministries, EPAs, Tax authorities, statistical bodies but not NRAs),

- Methodologies for emissions quantification either do not exist or rely on IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories,
- Actual measurements of methane emissions are rare (standard emission factors are applied) as well as reporting obligations,
- Different infrastructure is subject to observation,
- No distinction is made between fugitive emissions and venting (with few exemptions).

- NRAs approve network losses up to a certain level. Reimbursement for losses through tariff- but losses include many different things besides methane emissions.
- Pipe leaks exist as most frequent reason for network losses,
- NRAs can trace maintenance costs related to pipe repairs. Regulatory framework envisages losses reduction as a possible way for methane emissions abatement.
- Practice (procedures, frequency) regarding LDAR sometimes not defined in legislation or given in network codes, technical standards for both TSOs and DSOs, and sometimes in internal acts of system operators,
- NRAs rarely have LDAR data.

- There are no common rules concerning methane emissions quantification- obligation to measure/determine and report should be established,
- Principles what infrastructure is to be surveyed should be in place- transmission, distribution (all or just above a certain threshold)?
- Leak detection and repair practices usually exist, as well as prohibition of unnecessary venting- but this is often not within the competences of NRAs,
- Are system operators incentivized enough to reduce losses?

- In order to incentivize methane emissions abatement NRAs should be able to recognize efficiently incurred costs attributed to methane emissions, pipe repairs caused by leakages, variations in quality of service related to time response in case of emergencies, technologies applied for emissions reduction,
- Once there is a starting point in emissions determination, what are possible future targets for emissions reduction- set for all sector participants or each company should have its own targets?
- Since there is a tendency to determine methane emissions in the whole gas chain, LNG terminals, storages, production and final use of gas are also necessary to be surveyed in future work.



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