

## **Equivalent Measurements of Methane Gas and Carbon Dioxide**

The CAC must establish equivalent measurements of methane gas and carbon dioxide greenhouse gas emissions.

Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas. The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has established that in the first 20 years of its release to the atmosphere, methane gas is 86 times more potent in retaining heat than is carbon dioxide. Any leakage of methane above 1.5% to 2% in volume makes methane a more dangerous greenhouse gas than CO<sub>2</sub>.

While the gas industry minimizes its production, storage and transportation leakage measurements, satellite studies and ground measurements reveal that methane emissions world-wide have increased 30% since the advent of high volume hydraulic methane gas fracking in the United States.

Other studies have found that methane released from high volume gas fracking has been severely understated by the industry. NOAA also found that methane emissions have spiked in the past two years.

Representatives of National Fuel Gas claim that fracked methane gas production is aiding in the fight against climate change. They claim that carbon dioxide emissions have been reduced by some 33% since 1995. While CO<sub>2</sub> emissions may have diminished because of the lack of coal use in the United States during this, the gas industry is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. This is especially true when out-of-state points of production measurements are included.

A practical method of comparing methane and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is necessary in order to prevent methane from being labeled and treated as a “clean” fuel. There must also be established and utilized a means of measuring leakage as well as emissions through combustion in the State and out-of-state to determine real and not fictional measures to control climate change.