

Air quality impacts from energy development Tom Ryerson



"Unconventional" gas production - a new CSD focus since our last review in 2008:

Advent of *horizontal drilling* and *high-pressure hydraulic fracturing* has led to major changes in the U.S. energy portfolio, with poorly known impacts on air quality & climate





Decreasing power plant CO₂ emissions... de Gouw *et al.,* 2014

...from an increasing supply of natural gas Peischl *et al.,* 2015

"Unconventional" gas production areas

AQ impacts: Increased CH_4 emissions. Summer *and* winter(!) O_3 formation.

CSD response:

- apply expertise in field measurements and atmospheric chemical modeling
- provide timely scientific information to industry, policymakers, and the public



CH₄ emissions from energy development



CSD has led multiple field studies quantifying CH₄ emissions from oil & gas production regions

2010: California Research at the Nexus of Air Quality and Climate Change (CalNex)
2011: Nitrogen, Aerosol Composition, and Halogens on a Tall Tower (NACHTT)
2012–14: Uintah Basin Winter Ozone Studies (UBWOS) - co-led with GMD
2013: Southeast Nexus (SENEX)
2014: Twin Otter Projects Defining Oil/gas Well emissioNs (TOPDOWN) - co-led with GMD
2015: Shale Oil and Natural Gas Nexus (SONGNEX) ← currently active

Our work quantifies CH₄ emissions from regions accounting for 65% of unconventional shale gas production in the U.S.



Talks by Trainer, 4-2; Ahmadov, 4-5



... are a fraction of U.S. total CH₄ emissions



Keeping an eye on the big picture CSD field projects have provided constraints on all major CH_4 source types in the U.S.

We collaborate with other agencies, academic researchers, and industry to better understand the total U.S. CH₄ emissions budget

This work addresses the President's Climate Action Plan goals for "improved understanding to reduce emissions"







CSD has led multiple field studies assessing O₃ formation from oil & gas emissions

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CSD research results

Summer: Oil & gas contributes about half of the initial VOC reactivity leading to O_3 formation in the Denver non-attainment area

Perver-Julesburg Basin over 30,000 of 8 gas wells Boulder Denver

Gilman et al., ES&T, 2013





Edwards et al., Nature, 2014

See talks by Jessica Gilman, 4-2 Jim Roberts, 4-3 Christoph Senff, 4-4 Ravan Ahmadov, 4-5

CSD research has quantified oil and gas emissions' impacts on both summer and winter O₃

