



## ENERGY

### Federal Methane Pollution Action Called Too Modest

July 29, 2014 5:06 p.m

Voluntary methane reduction initiatives the Energy Department (DOE) rolled out Tuesday drew something of a “meh” from environmentalists. Some activists said nice things about the plan but added it doesn’t go far enough. “These new initiatives and commitments are an important step. But voluntary commitments can only take us so far – we need coordinated federal and state regulations to address methane pollution and tighten emissions standards,” said Environmental Defense Fund President Fred Krupp. Mickey Moritz of the Center for Biological Diversity ditched the niceties: “I think the plan is too aspirational and lacks enforceable, substantive measures.” But there may be more to come. Beyond the DOE measures, EPA is weighing possible regulations to curb methane from the oil-and-gas sector. And the DOE plan itself contemplates efficiency standards for new natural gas compressors.

-- Ben Geman