

Submission

No 530

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Mrs Kaye Monro

Date received: 07/09/2011

Dear Sir,

At present NSW DII permit 6% of CSG wells to leak Methane (personal conversation with DII). Methane is 23 times worse GHG than CO₂ (any high school science text). The CSG industry self tests for leaks (which must raise suspicions of under testing and under reporting). The CSG industry is only required to fix leaks which are flammable: (between 5% & 15% of air). Which means that lower rate leaks continue 24 hrs a day, etc. This must amount to a substantial amount of methane rising into the atmosphere every day, unaccounted for. I could find NO time units with these leak rate figures. How is it possible to assess leakage "rates" if there are no time units? The NSW gov. must recognise that there are inherent problems in the CSG industry re Methane leaking. Leaks occur at well heads, from gas flanges and screwed joints (industry information). Until:

1. Independent leak detection (paid for by the CSG industry) is adopted
2. A time unit is added to CSG leakage figures (which may add some credibility to the CSG industry & the assessments).
3. That the industry (and gov.) take Methane leaks seriously... it may be "non-toxic", but each Methane atom does huge amounts of damage in the upper atmosphere (look it up, it makes chloroform last 100's of years etc, etc)
4. That CSG (even all) companies be fined for Methane leaks that occur as a result of their activities.

It is your duty to stop all present, and prevent all future CSG wells in NSW.