Message

**From**: Groendyke, Todd [Groendyke.Todd@epa.gov]
**Sent**: 2/26/2021 1:08:23 PM
**To**: Harris-Young, Dawn [Harris-Young.Dawn@epa.gov]; Lamberth, Larry [Lamberth.Larry@epa.gov]
**CC**: Wise, Allison [Wise.Allison@epa.gov]; Russo, Todd [Russo.Todd@epa.gov]; Dressler, Jason [Dressler.Jason@epa.gov]; Kemker, Carol [Kemker.Carol@epa.gov]; Jenkins, Brandi [Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov]; Newman, Keriema [Newman.Keriema@epa.gov]; Taylor, Kevin [Taylor.Kevin@epa.gov]
**Subject**: RE: Regulatory requirement?

Yes. Thanks.

Sincerely,

Todd Groendyke
Chief, South Air Enforcement Section
Air Enforcement Branch
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division
U.S. EPA Region 4
Tel: (404) 562-8262

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**From:** Harris-Young, Dawn <Harris-Young.Dawn@epa.gov>
**Sent:** Friday, February 26, 2021 8:07 AM
**To:** Groendyke, Todd <Groendyke.Todd@epa.gov>; Lamberth, Larry <Lamberth.Larry@epa.gov>
**Cc:** Wise, Allison <Wise.Allison@epa.gov>; Russo, Todd <Russo.Todd@epa.gov>; Dressler, Jason <Dressler.Jason@epa.gov>; Kemker, Carol <Kemker.Carol@epa.gov>; Jenkins, Brandi <Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov>; Newman, Keriema <Newman.Keriema@epa.gov>; Taylor, Kevin <Taylor.Kevin@epa.gov>
**Subject:** RE: Regulatory requirement?

Hi Larry/Todd,

Is the statement below still accurate for the Gainesville, Fl methane gas release from earlier last year?

Thanks,
Dawn

*The location of the release has been identified as just to the northeast of Gainesville, Florida. The EPA has reviewed these reports and has initiated an investigation into this release. Our preliminary findings indicate that the release may have occurred from maintenance operations at a natural gas compressor station located in Brooker (Bradford County), Florida. The EPA is continuing to investigate the cause of this release and whether any Clean Air Act requirements were violated as a result of the release.*

**From:** Groendyke, Todd <Groendyke.Todd@epa.gov>
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 20, 2021 10:12 AM
**To:** Harris-Young, Dawn <Harris-Young.Dawn@epa.gov>; Lamberth, Larry <Lamberth.Larry@epa.gov>

**Cc:** Wise, Allison <Wise.Allison@epa.gov>; Russo, Todd <Russo.Todd@epa.gov>; Dressler, Jason <Dressler.Jason@epa.gov>; Kemker, Carol <Kemker.Carol@epa.gov>; Jenkins, Brandi <Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov>; Newman, Keriema <Newman.Keriema@epa.gov>; Taylor, Kevin <Taylor.Kevin@epa.gov>
**Subject:** RE: Regulatory requirement?

Hi Larry/Dawn:

Yes, the statement below remains accurate.

Sincerely,

Todd Groendyke
Chief, South Air Enforcement Section
Air Enforcement Branch
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division
U.S. EPA Region 4
Tel: (404) 562-8262

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**From:** Harris-Young, Dawn <Harris-Young.Dawn@epa.gov>
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 20, 2021 10:09 AM
**To:** Lamberth, Larry <Lamberth.Larry@epa.gov>
**Cc:** Wise, Allison <Wise.Allison@epa.gov>; Russo, Todd <Russo.Todd@epa.gov>; Groendyke, Todd <Groendyke.Todd@epa.gov>; Dressler, Jason <Dressler.Jason@epa.gov>; Kemker, Carol <Kemker.Carol@epa.gov>; Jenkins, Brandi <Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov>; Newman, Keriema <Newman.Keriema@epa.gov>
**Subject:** RE: Regulatory requirement?

Hi Larry,

Is the statement below still accurate for the Gainesville, Fl methane gas release from earlier last year?

Thanks,
Dawn

*The location of the release has been identified as just to the northeast of Gainesville, Florida. The EPA has reviewed these reports and has initiated an investigation into this release. Our preliminary findings indicate that the release may have occurred from maintenance operations at a natural gas compressor station located in Brooker (Bradford County), Florida. The EPA is continuing to investigate the cause of this release and whether any Clean Air Act requirements were violated as a result of the release.*

---

**From:** Lamberth, Larry <Lamberth.Larry@epa.gov>
**Sent:** Friday, November 13, 2020 7:50 AM
**To:** Jenkins, Brandi <Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov>; Newman, Keriema <Newman.Keriema@epa.gov>
**Cc:** Harris-Young, Dawn <Harris-Young.Dawn@epa.gov>; Wise, Allison <Wise.Allison@epa.gov>; Russo, Todd <Russo.Todd@epa.gov>; Groendyke, Todd <Groendyke.Todd@epa.gov>; Dressler, Jason <Dressler.Jason@epa.gov>; Kemker, Carol <Kemker.Carol@epa.gov>
**Subject:** RE: Regulatory requirement?

Morning Brandi. The statement below is still accurate. We issued an information request letter.

Larry L. Lamberth
Deputy Director
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division
United States Environmental Protection Agency
14th Floor Sam Nunn Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Telephone: 404-562-8590
Cell: 404-769-5583
Fax: 404-562-8566

---

**From:** Jenkins, Brandi <Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov>
**Sent:** Thursday, November 12, 2020 6:15 PM
**To:** Newman, Keriema <Newman.Keriema@epa.gov>; Lamberth, Larry <Lamberth.Larry@epa.gov>
**Cc:** Harris-Young, Dawn <Harris-Young.Dawn@epa.gov>; Wise, Allison <Wise.Allison@epa.gov>
**Subject:** FW: Regulatory requirement?

Keriema/Larry,

Can you all let me know if the below statement is still accurate for the Gainesville, Fl methane gas release from earlier this year?

Thanks – Brandi

*The location of the release has been identified as just to the northeast of Gainesville, Florida. The EPA has reviewed these reports and has initiated an investigation into this release. Our preliminary findings indicate that the release may have occurred from maintenance operations at a natural gas compressor station located in Brooker (Bradford County), Florida. The EPA is continuing to investigate the cause of this release and whether any Clean Air Act requirements were violated as a result of the release.*

---

**From:** Naureen Malik (BLOOMBERG/ 731 LEX) <nmalik28@bloomberg.net>
**Sent:** Thursday, November 12, 2020 11:34 AM
**To:** Jenkins, Brandi <Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov>
**Subject:** RE: Regulatory requirement?

HI Brandi, I hope all is well. I wanted to follow up on whether the EPA concluded its investigation into Florida gas. If so, what were the findings? Otherwise, when could it be concluded and should I check back with you to find out what the outcome was?

Thank you,
Naureen

Naureen S. Malik
Energy Reporter
Bloomberg News
731 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10022
W: (212) 617-7784
M: (917) 300-9756
WhatsApp/Signal: (703) 587-4432

From: Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov At: 08/20/20 11:38:38
To: Naureen Malik (BLOOMBERG/ 731 LEX )
Subject: RE: Regulatory requirement?

Naureen,

At this time, this is an ongoing investigation. As a matter of practice, we don't comment on ongoing or potential investigations.

Please attribute the statements to an EPA Region 4 Spokesperson.

Thank you,

Brandi Jenkins, Director

Outreach and External Engagement Office

EPA Region 4

404-562-9124 (office)

678-575-2148 (cell)

Twitter: @EPASoutheast

Facebook: U.S. EPA Southeast Region

Webpage: EPA Region 4 (Southeast Region)

**From:** Naureen Malik (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <nmalik28@bloomberg.net>
**Sent:** Thursday, August 20, 2020 11:31 AM
**To:** Jenkins, Brandi <Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov>
**Subject:** RE: Regulatory requirement?

Hi Brandi, I appreciate it, thank you. Is it OK to cite you by name? It's something we always ask.

Also, do you have what the actual reporting requirement is?

---

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From: Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov At: 08/20/20 11:25:35

To: Naureen Malik (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM: )
Subject: RE: Regulatory requirement?

Good morning Naureen,

Thank you for your patience. At this time, I don't have much of an update. Below is a response that can be attributed to an EPA Spokesperson.

*The location of the release has been identified as just to the northeast of Gainesville, Florida. The EPA has reviewed these reports and has initiated an investigation into this release. Our preliminary findings indicate that the release may have occurred from maintenance operations at a natural gas compressor station located in Brooker (Bradford County), Florida. The EPA is continuing to investigate the cause of this release and whether any Clean Air Act requirements were violated as a result of the release.*

I will let you know when we have more information to share.

Brandi Jenkins, Director

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**From:** Naureen Malik (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <nmalik28@bloomberg.net>
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 9:09 AM
**To:** Jenkins, Brandi <Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov>
**Subject:** Regulatory requirement?

Hi Brandi, good morning!

What are the reporting requirements for methane emissions for a compressor station in Florida to the EPA?

Also, do you have any updates?

Thank you,

Naureen

From: Naureen Malik (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) At: 08/18/20 07:45:05

To: Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov
Subject: RE: Bloomberg News request re Florida methane release

Hi Brandi, any luck yet? Is the EPA investigating or taking any action? Did Florida Gas have to report the emissions? Even a heads up timing would be great.

Thank you!

From: Naureen Malik (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) At: 08/11/20 15:38:31

To: Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov
Subject: RE: Bloomberg News request re Florida methane release

I understand! Is there a general timeline I can share with my editors?

---

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From: Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov At: 08/11/20 15:36:00

To: Naureen Malik (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM: )
Cc: region4press@epa.gov
Subject: RE: Bloomberg News request re Florida methane release

Good afternoon Naureen,

I apologize for the delay. We are still looking into this and I will get you a response as soon as possible.

Best,

Brandi Jenkins, Director

Outreach and External Engagement Office

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**From:** Naureen Malik (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <nmalik28@bloomberg.net>
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020 7:30 AM
**To:** Jenkins, Brandi <Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov>
**Cc:** region4press <region4press@epa.gov>
**Subject:** RE: Bloomberg News request re Florida methane release

Good morning, I just wanted to check in the request. Would it be possible to get an update today or what kind of timeline do you see?

Also, are companies required to report methane emissions like they have to for say CO2, sox and nox?

Thanks!

From: Naureen Malik (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
At: 08/07/20 13:04:40

To: Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov
Cc: region4press@epa.gov
Subject: RE: Bloomberg News request re Florida methane release

Hi Brandi,

Happy Friday! Just checking in if you've gotten any feedback on when you may have an update. My editor was asking as we're working on another story. I know you're working on it, thank you again!

---

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From: Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov At: 08/06/20 11:01:32

To: Naureen Malik (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM: )
Cc: region4press@epa.gov
Subject: RE: Bloomberg News request re Florida methane release

Hi Naureen – I'm working with my colleagues and will get you a response as soon as possible.

Best,

Brandi Jenkins, Director

Outreach and External Engagement Office

EPA Region 4

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**From:** Naureen Malik (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <nmalik28@bloomberg.net>
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 5, 2020 4:05 PM
**To:** Jenkins, Brandi <Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov>
**Cc:** region4press <region4press@epa.gov>
**Subject:** RE: Bloomberg News request re Florida methane release

Hello, just following up. Florida DEP said they don't have jurisdiction over such releases of methane on an interstate line. Are there requirements that companies

report such incidents to the EPA's regional office at least? I'm having trouble finding out which agency has oversight and what the reporting requirements are.

Was the EPA aware of the May 2 release already when I emailed and Florida DEP sent over the likely cause?

If the EPA has jurisdiction, are such incidents typical or was there something unusual about it? Is the EPA looking into it or preparing/issuing any citations? What are the ramifications?

Thank you,

Naureen

From: Naureen Malik (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) At: 08/03/20 18:04:35

To: Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov
Cc: region4press@epa.gov
Subject: RE: Bloomberg News request re Florida methane release

Thank you Brandi! Does the EPA have jurisdiction over such emissions? Was the agency aware of the emissions before our inquiry? Will it investigate it or is it considering any citations? Im must trying to figure out what the reporting requirements are, how unusual is this, especially if not

reported, and are there any additional steps to be taken?

Appreciate your help with this!

---

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WhatsApp/Signal: (703) 587-4432

From: Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov At: 08/03/20 17:35:30

To: Naureen Malik (BLOOMBERG/NEWSROOM: )
Cc: region4press@epa.gov
Subject: RE: Bloomberg News request re Florida methane release

Hi Naureen,

We are looking into this and have checked with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. They sent us the below statement:

*On May 2, 2020, the Florida Gas Transmission Pipeline performed non-routine maintenance at its Brooker facility in Bradford County to repair the combustion turbine, which caused upstream natural gas (methane) to be vented to the atmosphere. Interstate pipelines are regulated at the Federal level. I recommend*

*reaching out to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or the U.S. Department of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.*

I will keep you posted.

Brandi Jenkins, Director

Outreach and External Engagement Office

EPA Region 4

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Facebook: U.S. EPA Southeast Region

Webpage: EPA Region 4 (Southeast Region)

**From:** Naureen Malik (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)

<nmalik28@bloomberg.net>
**Sent:** Friday, July 31, 2020 8:46 AM
**To:** Jenkins, Brandi <Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov>
**Subject:** Bloomberg News request re Florida methane release

Hi Brandi, resending my request. Any guidance would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you

Naureen
----- Original Message -----
From: NAUREEN MALIK
To: jenkins.brandi@epa.gov
At: 30-Jul-2020 10:28:33

> Hi Brandi, we published this story earlier this week about a mysterious methane leak in Florida. Has the EPA by any chance received any reports, identified it or taken any action?
>
> Thank you,
>
> Naureen

Naureen S. Malik
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No One Is Owning Up to Releasing Cloud of Methane in Florida (1)
2020-07-28 15:27:31.639 GMT

By Aaron Clark and Naureen Malik
(Bloomberg) -- It was 12 miles wide, invisible to the naked eye and traveled across six counties to Florida's largest city. And it's still unclear who — or what — was responsible.
The mysterious plume of methane, estimated to total 300 metric tons, was released north of Gainesville between May 2 and
May 3, when it reached Jacksonville, according to Bluefield
Technologies Inc., which analyzed data from the European Space
Agency's Sentinel-5P satellite.

A global-warming agent that's 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide, methane has become a major source of concern for environmentalists and climate-minded investors who are stepping
up pressure on energy companies to curb emissions of the gas

from oil fields, pipelines, gas storage facilities and power plants. Satellite observations are beginning to make those leaks more transparent. Last year, Montreal-based GHGSat Inc. identified a giant methane cloud apparently from an oil and gas field in Turkmenistan, billing it the first discovery of an unknown industrial methane release from space.

"This capability means we no longer need to fight climate change blindfolded," Yotam Ariel, the founder of Bluefield said. "We now have a tool to directly see what was once invisible and channel resources to reduce emissions quickly and effectively."

The source of the Florida emission remains unknown, however. Its volume was equivalent to roughly 1% of total daily emissions from the U.S. natural gas system in 2018, Stanford University professor Adam Brandt said. Its epicenter was in Alachua County, according to Bluefield. The cloud moved over six counties in northern Florida that are home to more than 1.5 million people.

Staff at the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department "are unaware of any incidents that may have contributed to methane emissions" on those dates, Stacie Greco, a coordinator at the agency, said in response to a public records request. The county doesn't have an air quality program and deferred reports of air emission violations to the state's environmental agency. Alachua didn't receive any reports of

hazardous material spills on those days, she said.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection, which tracks emissions and issues air permits, said it's working to track down the source of the release.

"This scale seems like an industrial facility, power plant, or gas compression or handling system," said Brandt, who studies methane emissions and called it "a significant leak."

While the technology to spot leaks is improving, there can often be the challenge of pinpointing the perpetrator. There aren't many industrial facilities nearby and among the closest potential heavy-emitter candidates are a natural gas pipeline system and power plants, public records show.

On April 24, Gainesville Regional Utilities requested an exemption for air permitting to replace a steam turbine generator at its J.R. Kelly power plant, which is less than 12 miles south of the epicenter of the methane cloud. The request was made because the switch would not result in an increase in usage or capacity of the plant, the utility said in a filing made to with Florida Department of Environmental Protection filing in June. "Consequently, the proposed work does not need an air construction permit to proceed," GRU said.

GRU didn't disclose the date for replacing the turbine, but said it planned to file performance test reports for the project on or after July 1, within 60 days of competing those tests.

At the southwestern rim of the plume, the utility owns two

more power plants. The 471-megawatt Deerhaven Generating Station
has units running on natural gas and coal that began operating in 1972 to 1996. Nearby is the 103-megawatt Deerhaven Renewable
Generating Station, which burns woody biomass.
Energy Transfer LP's Florida Gas Transmission has natural
gas pipelines circling the area where the methane was detected and a compressor station north of the site. The company didn't report any planned or unplanned outages at compressor station No. 16 in Bradford County, according to pipeline notices.
Weyerhauser Co., the Seattle-based forest products company, owns the land at the center of the May 2 methane emissions
event, said Christine Berish, development review manager for Alachua County's Department of Growth. "We don't have any development projects in that area."
GRU, Energy Transfer and Weyerhauser didn't respond to requests for comment.

--With assistance from Hannah Dormido, Samuel Dodge and Cedric
Sam.

To contact the authors of this story:
Aaron Clark in Tokyo at aclark27@bloomberg.net
Naureen Malik in New York at nmalik28@bloomberg.net
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Simon Casey at scasey4@bloomberg.net
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Bernadette Walker

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