



# Interfaith Power & Light

A Religious Response to Global Warming

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, August 18, 2015

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### **Faith Community Supports EPA's Proposed Methane Pollution Standards**

*Religious leaders applaud move to protect public health*

**SAN FRANCISCO** – Faith leaders from around the country voiced strong support today as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the first-ever proposed rules to regulate methane emissions from oil and gas sites. As a toxic pollutant and potent greenhouse gas able to trap 80 times as much heat over a 20-year period as carbon dioxide, faith groups have identified methane pollution as a serious public health risk in need of regulation.

#### **The Rev. Sally Bingham, president and founder of Interfaith Power & Light (IPL) said:**

“The EPA’s standards are a much needed step toward addressing climate change and answering God’s call to be stewards of Creation. The proposed standards will reduce the harmful impact of pollution created by the oil and gas industry. Thousands of IPL members across the nation called for stronger standards, so we are encouraged by this move to protect our communities and our climate. IPL is hopeful the Administration can now move swiftly to curb emissions from existing sources.

“Existing fracking sites are still a major risk and contributor to climate change. It is imperative that we accelerate the move to clean sources of energy, like wind, solar and energy efficiency, while continuing to establish policies that minimize emissions from existing oil and gas infrastructure.”

#### **Sister Joan Brown, executive director of New Mexico IPL stated:**

“In New Mexico, methane emissions from industry are so high that a giant methane cloud was discovered over our state last year. As people of faith we cannot remain silent while unnecessary pollution spills into our air, so I am encouraged that the EPA is moving to reduce this insidious problem that is so dangerous for our environment, our people, and our climate. Following in the footsteps of Pope Francis, who calls us to address pollution and climate change, we are working to keep New Mexico enchanting by embracing methane regulations for the benefit of our brothers and sisters here and around the world.”

#### **Rabbi Daniel Swartz, president of the board of Pennsylvania IPL said:**

“Methane emissions trap heat and contribute to the formation of ground-level smog that disproportionately impacts children, the elderly and the poor. Justice demands that we protect these vulnerable populations from the health implications of this pollution.

"Here in Pennsylvania, we support the EPA's proposed methane emissions regulations as a move towards a healthy, just and sustainable future, liberated from reliance on pollution-generating fossil fuels."

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