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Methane and GHG Emissions Management Issues in LNG - Policy, markets, and companies - February 2026

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Introduction

The monthly report, in this latest edition, outlines global advancements in methane management and greenhouse gas reduction strategies within the energy sector, notably in the LNG industry, as of February 2026.

Internationally, contrasting regulatory developments were observed in Europe and North America, while climate agendas were set by Türkiye for the upcoming global summit. In the Japanese private sector, Osaka Gas and Mitsui & Co. are pioneering innovative irrigation techniques in Southeast Asia to lower agricultural methane emissions.

[Global Developments]

EPA (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) announced in the middle of February the rule eliminating both the 2009 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Endangerment Finding and all subsequent federal GHG emission standards for all vehicles and engines of model years 2012 to 2027 and beyond.

United States lawmakers - all Democrats - wrote a letter in early February urging the European Commission to resist the pressure to water down rules for the oil and gas sector. The letter said ceding to demands from DOE (U.S. Department of Energy) to exempt United States oil and gas from the methane regulation "would be a misguided approach."

MiQ announced in the middle of February that the NO5-A gas development in the Dutch-German North Sea, operated by ONE-Dyas, had received the top "Grade A" rating under MiQ's methane emissions standard, the first certified gas project in the North Sea. An independent audit by Intertek verified both the emissions data and the methane management systems. The facility is powered by renewable electricity from the Riffgat offshore wind farm. bp will market the certified gas to European customers.

The Turkish government identified emissions reductions in the waste sector as the top priority in its COP31 "action agenda" in the middle of February. The draft lists a total

of 14 priority areas and will incorporate feedback from other countries before its publication in March. The “action agenda” is designed to promote real-world climate action separately from the formal negotiations, which at COP31 are expected to be led primarily by Australia as the presiding country.

[Developments in Japan]

Osaka Gas announced in early February that its study on reducing methane emissions from rice paddies in Vietnam and the Philippines had been selected for a METI (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry) subsidy program. The project aims to cut emissions by 30% through the use of the water-saving rice cultivation technique Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD) irrigation. In collaboration with an environmental DNA analysis company, the project will also examine water and soil conditions to quantitatively assess impacts on ecosystems.

Mitsui & Co. announced in the middle of February that it had launched a methane emissions reduction project in Bangladesh through the use of the water-saving rice cultivation technique Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD), in partnership with the NGO Bangladesh Bondhu Foundation.

JERA announced in early February that it had signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Japan’s Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and QatarEnergy on cooperation for additional LNG supply to Japan in emergency situations.

Japan's Hokkaido Electric Power Company (HEPCO) announced in late January its new energy supply chain plan focusing on the Tomakomai area. The company works on "(1) full-scale entry into the gas business," and will continue to consider "(2) installation of next-generation LNG power sources and development of an LNG and ammonia terminal handling ocean-going vessels" and "(3) carbon neutrality through next-generation energy."

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