



For Immediate Release
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**Progress Muscatine Releases “The Final Rule”
Episode Seven of *Know Better. Do Better.***

(Muscatine, Iowa) “The Final Rule” makes the connection between Muscatine Power and Water, a community-owned utility, and the Environmental Protection Agency’s final rule regarding air pollution emissions from the crude oil and natural gas industries.

According to the EPA, the rule, “will sharply reduce emissions of methane and other harmful air pollution from oil and natural gas operations — including, for the first time, from existing sources nationwide.”

Natural gas is 70% to 90% methane. Methane is a greenhouse gas and is known as a “super pollutant” because it is 80 times more powerful at trapping heat when compared to carbon dioxide.

“The final rule is historic and will lead to significant changes in the natural gas industry, and air pollution emissions,” said Jessica Brackett, President of Progress Muscatine, “the problem is that Muscatine Power and Water is trying to move forward without including - either at their community forums or at their board meetings - the impact this rule will have on the natural gas industry, or MPW’s plans.”

Specifically the rule will:

- Set New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) to reduce methane and smog-forming volatile organic compounds from new, modified and reconstructed sources
- Provide *Emissions Guidelines* for states as they make plans to limit emissions
- Set standards to target methane emissions *for the first time*

- Require the natural gas industry to provide *actual measurements* instead of *calculated estimates* of methane leaks
- Require all ages of equipment to be regulated - not just equipment built in 2015 or after.
- Require the natural gas industry to actively search for methane leaks in 100,000s of wells and other oil and gas infrastructure

The final rule was released on December 2, 2023, and went into effect May 7, 2024.

At the MPW Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday, June 25, a vote is expected on two significant issues: a plan to build a natural gas powered CHP plant, a strategy in alignment with 4% of all new U.S. grid capacity in 2024; and a steam sales contract with Grain Processing Corporation, the one MPW customer in need of steam from the CHP plant.

In April 2024, the board meeting time changed from 5:30pm to 4:00pm. All meetings are in the MPW auditorium. Public comments are welcome.

Know Better. Do Better. is an educational video series prompting viewers to observe a problem or situation, learn something, and visualize a better path forward.

Progress Muscatine is a multi-issue 501c3 non-profit organization. The mission of Progress Muscatine is to empower Muscatine County residents to identify problems and work toward sustainable solutions for the common good.

All episodes of *Know Better. Do Better.* can be found at www.ProgressMuscatine.org or on [YouTube](#).

Additional information about the EPA's final rule can be found [here](#).

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