

Natural Gas Flare

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Recent studies, including aircraft-collected samples in the United States, have shown high variability in nitrogen oxides emission estimates from natural gas flares.



[Ref: Medium]

About Natural gas flaring:

- **Natural gas flaring** is a prevalent practice in the **oil and gas industry**, primarily used to dispose of the excess natural gas extracted during oil production.
- This process involves the **burning of natural gas** associated with oil extraction, converting hydrocarbons into carbon dioxide (CO₂) and water (H₂O).
- The primary objective of flaring is to **reduce the climate impact** of releasing methane directly into the atmosphere and to mitigate safety risks associated with the accumulation of natural gas at extraction sites.

Environmental and Health Implications

- **Nitrogen oxides (NO_x)**, such as nitric oxide (NO) and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), are significant byproducts of the natural gas flaring process.
- These gases are **highly reactive** and play a crucial role in the formation of **ground-level ozone** and **fine particulate matter**, both of which are detrimental to human health and the environment.