

14-0469

APR 11 2014

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

MOTION

It was recently reported that the Obama Administration will propose rules to reduce methane gas emissions at landfills and coal mines in order to improve the air quality. To guide this effort, the Administration will direct the federal Environmental Protection Agency to study the impact of methane gas emissions from these sources.

Methane gas is a colorless, odorless hydrocarbon that is the primary element of natural gas. It is produced through the decomposition of organic materials; however, it is considered a significantly more harmful greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide.

The City's landfill operations capture and transmit methane gas as a revenue enterprise. In addition, methane gas plumes exist underground in various parts of the City. In is critical that these sources do not leak and cause a potential threat to public health and the environment.

In order to protect City residents and the environment, the Bureau of Sanitation and the Department of Building and Safety should report as to the status of methane gas operations and known methane gas plumes in the City. They should also report as to steps they take to identify and control methane leaks.


I THEREFORE MOVE that the Bureau of Sanitation and the Department of Building and Safety be directed to report to the Council in 30 days as to the status of methane gas operations and methane gas plumes in the City; and the steps they engage in to identify and control methane leaks.


PRESENTED BY:


PAUL KORETZ

Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY:




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