

METHANE: Are you following the latest guidance from EGLE ??

The State of Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) has a new methane monitoring guidance document titled Development on or Near Methane Generating Sources, dated April 10, 2025.

The guidance defines a methane-generating source as “subgrade soil, waste, groundwater, or other material that is actively generating methane above 25 % of the Lower Explosive Limit (LEL).” Methane sources can come from historical municipal landfills, decomposing peat or other buried organics such as animal waste, leaves or wood.

Methane is not toxic, but it is dangerous. Fire and explosion can result when:

- methane accumulates in a confined space at concentrations between 5%
- (the LEL) and 15 % by volume in air (50,000 to 150,000 ppmv),
- oxygen is present, and an ignition source exists (e.g. electrical outlets, appliances, static electricity, pilot lights, or open flames).

As methane can accumulate beneath and into buildings, soil gas sampling (exterior and/or interior sub-slab) can be conducted to evaluate the potential presence and concentrations of methane in soil gas on your property. The new guidance document includes new action limits and guidance for developing a conceptual site model for properties near methane-generating sources. Every site requires its own customized solution and ASTI Environmental has a long history of working on or near sites with methane-generating sources across the State of Michigan.

To discuss your particular site with one of ASTI Environmental’s talented technical staff, please contact Doug Brown at 810/599-8131 or dbrown@asti-env.com.