

EU Regulation – Leak Detection and Repair

Context

- Norwegian legislation has for a long time focused on leak detection, GHG reduction and flaring prohibition (low waste).
- In an upstream context where methane has already seen quite a lot of attention, EU Regulation seems to presume little is in place, which adds a lot of prescription and at worst no improvement.
- To merge this context with the Regulation is challenging due to the prescriptive (rather than functional) nature, benefits are incremental at best.

Obstacles

- Subsea – commercial unavailability of methods to quantify methane emissions underwater.
- Above sea level – insufficient recognition of good performance.
- Structuring of Type 1 and Type 2 survey definitions has painted us into a prescriptive corner:
 - Automated systems in practice unattainable.
 - Locks in current and inefficient technologies.

Way forward

- Evolve legislation with focus on leak volumes (leak rate \times time to detection).
- Make real provisions for automated leak detection systems.