

## Project Profile

<b>Project Name:</b>	Defining Alternative Leak Detection and Repair Programs for B.C. Study
<b>Project Number:</b>	ER-Meth-2027-02
<b>Proponent:</b>	Highwood Emissions Management Inc.
<b>Funding Envelope:</b>	Environmental Research--Methane
<b>Timeframe:</b>	June 10, 2026, to October 30, 2026

### Project objectives

The objectives of this project are to identify and define the technical and regulatory parameters necessary to evaluate and enable equivalent alternative Leak Detection and Repair (LDAR) programs in British Columbia (B.C.), with the goal of supporting more flexible, cost-effective, and operationally efficient compliance with fugitive methane emission regulations.

The project is recommended and overseen by the BC Oil and Gas Methane Emissions Research Collaborative (BC MERC).

### Project description

This project aims to evaluate how B.C.'s existing LDAR regulatory framework could accommodate equivalent LDAR programs. It will analyze available data and define the key parameters necessary to assess alternative approaches—such as technology performance, survey frequency, facility type, and site-specific conditions (e.g., electrification).

The project will comprise five activities:

1. **Parameter and Data Analysis** - Identify and analyze key parameters relevant to an equivalent LDAR program (e.g., detection threshold, survey frequency, facility characteristics, site-specific conditions).
2. **Alternative LDAR Program Design** - Develop example alternative LDAR programs that could be used by B.C. operators to support applications for alternative LDAR programs.
3. **Technology Assessment** - Evaluate commercially available and near-market detection and measurement technologies for their potential to meet or exceed the BC Energy Regulator's (BCER) LDAR performance objectives for a comprehensive LDAR survey as defined in BCER Drilling and Production Regulation Section 41.1.

4. **Equivalent Emissions Reductions** –Provide recommendations for applicants on how to demonstrate an alternative LDAR program design results in equivalent or greater reduction in natural gas emissions as compared to current existing measures.
5. **Regulatory Considerations** – Outline the work practices in an alternative LDAR program that are needed to ensure the timely repair of detected leaks.

### **Project deliverables**

The deliverables from this project include the following:

1. Final report containing:
  - a. A summary of methods, assumptions, analysis and recommendations.
  - b. A consolidated set of findings, guidance and recommendations supporting the evaluation and implementation of alternative LDAR programs in B.C.
2. Presentation on findings and implications to the BC MERC.