

Task 3.0 Prioritization of MCWs

Methane Mitigation Grant

Virginia Well Prioritization Process

Virginia's prioritization process started by reviewing all wells that meet the criteria set out by the grant definitions. By definition, the Commonwealth currently has more than 8,000 marginal producers. Reservoir pressures are abnormally low in the Appalachian Plateau in Virginia, which accounts for the high percentage of marginal producers.

To further narrow down this number, Virginia focused on shut-in wells. Of Virginia's 434 documented shut in wells, approximately 250 meet grant criteria.

Virginia's process prioritizes shut-in wells. Top priority wells are those that have been shut in for 15 years or more. The next level are wells that have been shut in for one year up to fifteen years. A third tier of wells have been identified consisting of wells producing less than or equal to 5 Mcf/day.

A breakdown of the priorities is as follows*:

Priority 1: 26 wells

Priority 2: 224 wells

Priority 3: 377 wells

**note: Exact numbers may be adjusted with further verification that well conditions meet specified criteria. Well listing is attached.*

Virginia does not require operators to submit methane emission measurements, so this isn't taken into account at this time. Through current discussions with operators, many are monitoring their sites and equipment. As we work with these operators to choose which wells they are prioritizing, we are stressing the importance of wells with known emissions. Emission data will be required as part of the operator application submittals. Internal prioritization will then factor in known emission measurements.

Updates will be added to this Task as Virginia Energy works through the process with individual operators.

July 2025 Update:

Virginia Energy has worked with two operators, Mountain V and Diversified Energy, to prioritize wells to be plugged. Meetings were held in July of 2025 to finalize potential wells to be plugged within the calendar year. Each operator plans to plug five wells, all of which meet the prioritization qualifications of either Priority 1 or Priority 2 wells.

Of the ten wells currently being proposed, seven are Priority 1 and three are Priority 2. Priority 2 wells were approved based on proximity and/or emission data. Further data will be published on the website once official agreements are in place.