

# Google Earth Engine for Methane Emissions Quantification from Orphan Wells

Deloitte's methane emissions quantification solution — built on Google Earth Engine — is a geospatial Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) analytics tool designed for organizations to monitor, quantify, and prioritize closure of problematic orphan wells to reduce methane emissions, protect water and air, and mitigate safety risks to improve human and environmental health.



## Business Challenges

Public organizations face a growing number of challenges in identifying and closing orphaned wells including:

### Monitoring and quantifying methane emissions from orphan wells

Locating and assessing the condition of orphan wells, estimating the associated methane emissions, and determining the best course of action require significant effort and resources

### Administrating and adhering to regulatory compliance

Navigating complex regulatory frameworks to ensure compliance with environmental regulations and grant requirements related to methane emissions and orphan wells; this involves state and local agencies monitoring and enforcing compliance with emission standards, permitting requirements, and reporting obligations

### Prioritizing constrained resources

Monitoring and addressing high methane emissions orphan wells require significant financial resources, technical expertise, and specialized equipment. Limited budgets and personnel can hinder the ability of agencies to effectively address these challenges

## Solution Overview

Deloitte's methane emissions quantification accelerator integrates methane emissions satellite data with robust AI/ML predictive analysis and intuitive dashboards to help agencies improve the environment and public safety.

### Satellite Imagery Analysis

Access a vast archive of satellite imagery via Google Earth Engine Data Catalog, as well as data from other satellites and drone sensors to analyze methane hotspots and emissions patterns across different regions

### Data Integrations

Integrate data from various sources including ground-based sensors, satellite imagery, and climate models, to better inform decision-making and support prioritization efforts

### Interactive Maps

Visualize orphan wells and methane emissions to explore and navigate geographic information by interacting with the map interface

### Actionable Analysis

Detect and quantify methane emissions from various sources using methane detection algorithms driven by Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning to prioritize the closure of wells based on their emission levels

### Reporting and Compliance

Leverage built-in tools for data management, analysis, and visualization to generate accurate reports for the public or to meet regulatory requirements

## Potential Outcomes & Benefits

Deloitte's methane emissions quantification accelerator assists agencies with sustainability initiatives, helping them both strategically and tactically:



**Identify and prioritize the closure of** high methane-emitting orphan wells



**Optimize financial and organizational resources** dedicated to monitoring orphan wells and well-closing efforts



**Improve regulatory reporting** with near real-time data on methane emissions for individual wells



**Protect groundwater and improve air quality** by prioritizing the sealing of orphan wells that pose a risk of contaminating groundwater aquifers or have negative effects on air quality



**Build trust with the public** by demonstrating a commitment to environmental stewardship, public safety, and responsible resource management

# Deloitte's Google Earth Engine models for methane quantification can help an organization understand, monitor, and act on near-real time information about methane emission from orphan wells.



## Understand

**Locate** and understand spatial distribution of orphan wells

**Determine proximity** to sensitive areas such as water bodies, residential areas, or protected lands

**Communicate status and progress** of orphan well initiatives in public outreach programs



## Monitor

**Monitor existing known orphan wells** and quantify current methane emission

**Monitor methane emissions** for abnormal trends or spikes



## Act

**Prioritize the closure** of orphan wells

**Measure** quality of well closure and site restoration efforts

**Conduct** post-disaster assessments

## Why Deloitte & Google Cloud

Deloitte helps organizations advance their digital transformation efforts. In 2023, Deloitte was named the Partner of the Year for Public Sector (Global), Services (North America), Security Specialization (Global), and the Generative AI Industry Solution which is a testament to our ability to develop innovative solutions that are tailored to meet the specific needs of an organization.

### LEARN MORE

#### Vishal Kapur

Lead Alliance Partner  
Deloitte Consulting LLP  
vkapur@deloitte.com

#### Meaghan Sullivan

Senior Manager  
Deloitte Consulting LLP  
mesullivan@deloitte.com

#### Anant Dinamani

Principal  
Deloitte Consulting LLP  
adinamani@deloitte.com

#### Melissa McConnell

Senior Manager  
Deloitte Consulting LLP  
memcconnell@deloitte.com

#### Aleks Ontman

Senior Manager  
Deloitte Consulting LLP  
aontman@deloitte.com



Scan for a greener tomorrow

This publication contains general information only and Deloitte is not, by means of this publication, rendering accounting, business, financial, investment, legal, tax, or other professional advice or services. This publication is not a substitute for such professional advice or services, nor should it be used as a basis for any decision or action that may affect your business. Before making any decision or taking any action that may affect your business, you should consult a qualified professional advisor. Deloitte shall not be responsible for any loss sustained by any person who relies on this publication.

All product names mentioned in this document are the trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective owners and are mentioned for identification purposes only. Deloitte & Touche LLP is not responsible for the functionality or technology related to the vendor or other systems or technologies as defined in this document. As used in this document, "Deloitte" means Deloitte & Touche LLP, a subsidiary of Deloitte LLP. Please see <http://www.deloitte.com/us/about> for a detailed description of our legal structure. Certain services may not be available to attest clients under the rules and regulations of public accounting.

Copyright © 2023 Deloitte Development LLC. All rights reserved.