

DEVELOPMENT OF A VOLUNTARY GLOBAL FLARING AND VENTING STANDARD FOR ASSOCIATED GAS

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The Global Gas Flaring Reduction Public-Private Partnership (GGFR) was formed under World Bank sponsorship in 2002 to address widespread venting and flaring of associated gas, i.e., natural gas associated with crude oil production. Such venting and flaring are estimated to result in non-utilisation of 100 billion cubic meters of gas per annum, and produce significant emissions of air pollutants and greenhouse gases. Over the last year, one of the GGFR's key initiatives has been to evaluate the feasibility of a voluntary gas flaring standard for petroleum production operations worldwide and, if feasible, to develop the detailed design for the standard. Virtually all of the major international oil companies and the national governments of many nations with significant flaring have joined the GGFR Partnership and are providing information needed to ensure the practicality and workability of the standard. The conclusion of the first phase of the project was that a global standard is feasible and potentially advantageous to industry, governments and external stakeholders. Phase II developed the details of the standard, including initial flaring/venting reduction requirements, long-term goals for further improvement and monitoring, reporting and verification requirements to ensure compliance with the standard among participating organizations and transparency of the resulting data. It is believed that the resulting standard has the potential to effectively reduce worldwide gas venting and flaring and the associated emissions, encourage development of local and international gas markets and provide companies and countries with flexibility to comply in a manner that reflects project-specific or country-specific circumstances.