

# SÉRIE DE CONFÉRENCES EN HYDROGÉOLOGIE

## Quand :

mercredi, 12 septembre 2018

12h15–13h15

## «Methane emissions and groundwater impacts of oil and gas development»

**AVEC** • *Mary Kang* • **McGill**

## Résumé :

Oil and gas wells can act as conduits for fluid leakage to overlying aquifers and gas emissions to the atmosphere. Leaking fluids include methane, other hydrocarbon gases (e.g., ethane, propane), oil, and water. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas with a global warming potential 34 to 86 times that of carbon dioxide; therefore, reducing methane emissions can substantially reduce global warming. Millions of abandoned oil and gas wells exist across Canada, the United States and abroad as a legacy of decades to more-than-a-century of oil and gas production. Recent studies show that these abandoned wells are emitting methane to the atmosphere and contributing to groundwater contamination. In this talk, field studies quantifying and characterizing methane emissions from abandoned wells will be presented - in particular, their role in regional greenhouse gas emissions and methane emissions reduction strategies. Then, the quality and quantity of deep groundwater across southwestern U.S. will be discussed, along with their implications on oil and gas development.

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