

3052.

Cooper, Kathy

From: RegComments@pa.gov
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2014 1:36 AM
To: Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; apankake@pasen.gov; IRRRC;
 RegComments@pa.gov; eregop@pahousegop.com;
 environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net
Cc: ra-epmsdevelopment@pa.gov
Subject: Proposed Rulemaking - Additional RACT Requirements for Major Sources of NOx and VOCs



Re: Proposed Rulemaking - Additional RACT Requirements for Major Sources of NOx and VOCs

The Environmental Quality Board (EQB) has received the following comments regarding the above-referenced proposed rulemaking.

Commentor Information:

Patrick Vogelsong

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2014 MAY 20 AM 9: 28

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Comments entered:

Pennsylvania's 67 counties suffered through a combined 485 dangerous ozone days last year, up from about 300 in 2012. Even though Pennsylvania's ozone (smog) problem is chronic, the state is proposing a new rule that will undoubtedly make the smog throughout state even worse, raising rates of bronchitis, emphysema, asthma and heart disease.

While the proposed rule is titled "Additional Reasonable Available Control Technology Requirements for Major Sources of Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)," it will actually weaken life-saving emissions limits. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) wants to adopt a system that will allow power plants to average their nitrogen oxide emissions (a key ingredient in the formation of ground-level ozone, better known as smog) over 30 days rather than the usual 1-hour and 8-hour standards. PA DEP also seeks to allow utilities to average their emissions over their entire fleet of power plants. Pennsylvanians' lungs cannot average emissions. Smog exposure during a single day or even a few hours can do serious damage, especially to vulnerable populations like children and the elderly.

I strongly oppose any rules that weaken current standards and demand that the DEP strengthen protections for the public.

Thank You,
 Patrick Vogelsong