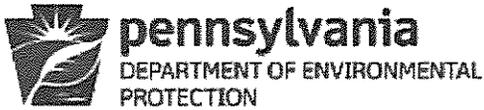


From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Sunday, May 19, 2019 6:51 AM
To: Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; IRRRC; eregop@pahousegop.com; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; regcomments@pa.gov; ntroutman@pasen.gov
Cc: c-jflanaga@pa.gov
Subject: Comment received - Proposed Rulemaking: Additional Requirements for Control of Fine Particulate Matter in the Nonattainment New Source Review Program (#7-551)



Re: eComment System

The Department of Environmental Protection has received the following comments on Proposed Rulemaking: Additional Requirements for Control of Fine Particulate Matter in the Nonattainment New Source Review Program (#7-551).

Commenter Information:

candra ledes
 we the people (candraledesma@yahoo.com)
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RECEIVED
 IRRRC
 2019 MAY 20 A 9:43

Comments entered:

The Constitution Of Pennsylvania mandates the protection of clean air, and supersedes all other rules law and codes. It is a fundamentality important issue for all of the people. You elected officials have the power to affect positive changes to improve the air quality for anybody with a pair of lungs!

this is a summary of some steps that need to be taken in no particular order.

1. Make vehicle smog/emission tests required across the entire Commonwealth for all vehicles. And make the tests tougher to pass since newer technology can allow for that. Even include motorcycles and scooters because they pollute even worse than cars do.
2. Ban the sale of combustible motorized equipment such as chainsaws weed whackers, etc, or require all motorized items such as chainsaws etc be equipped with emission control devices such as catalytic converters. Small motors are highly underrated as a source of extremely toxic and noxious pollution. If you wouldnt use these devices inside your house you shouldnt use them outdoors either.
3. Create a permanent burn ban in all regions for burning of yard wastes etc. I find it completely absurd that this was EVER legal.
 here is a copy for example of codes regarding burning. They are unenforceable because nobody would actually be able to prove what or was not being burned. The entire allowance for burning needs to be banned per the Article in the Pa Constitution listed for reference at the bottom of this pagg.

"Burning is permitted in the Township on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fires should be attended at all times and completely extinguished after burning is completed. No such fires shall be closer than twenty-five (25) feet from any building or from any adjoining property line.

Prohibited Items

Items prohibited to be burned under township ordinance include non-combustible materials and rubbish, trash, garbage, rubber, or any material that will cause unreasonable smoke or unreasonable odors. Furthermore, out-of-door fires shall not include leaves, leaf waste, and materials the Township has designated for separation and recycling."

so what, are human beings suppose to just hold their breath from 8am until 5pm? If you give them an inch they will take a mile, nobody that is burning is actually following any of these unenforceable rules about prohibited items. All burning at private residence needs to be banned.

3. Its time to stop going with the flow of the nation and BAN THE SALE FIREWORKS. Its time to declare independence from the noxious toxic pollution that fireworks cause. I cannot even believe what an absurd tradition the burning of toxic chemicals is. Fireworks should not be available for sale during any time of the year. They cause countless fires and are killing fish by polluting the lakes rivers and streams. The amount of lighting just one firework is about the equivalent of lighting a thousand cigarettes. If you wouldnt light a firework inside your home, then you shouldnt light one outdoors either. They are plenty of safer better ways to celebrate than the use of dangerous fireworks. There is no such thing as a "Safe and sane" firework, because they all involve the combustion of toxic chemicals. If it was a long standing tradition for people to use guns to shoot bullets into the sky to celebrate 4th of july, or any holiday, and it resulted in death and destruction, would it be continued to be allowed, or outlawed? I would prefer bullets being shot in the air since they dont pollute the air nearly as much. Tons of fires, which cause more pollution , are caused by fireworks. if you had a crystal ball and knew your house would be amongst the ones burned down from fireworks, would you still think the benefits of keeping them legal, outweighed the risks?

There is tons of information readily available on the internet about how toxic fireworks are, but here is a quick reference :

<https://www.thoughtco.com/toxic-fireworks-pollution-1204041>

Fireworks Can Be Toxic to Humans

Depending on the effect sought, fireworks produce smoke and dust that contain various heavy metals, sulfur-coal compounds, and other noxious chemicals. Barium, for instance, is used to produce brilliant green colors in fireworks displays, despite being poisonous and radioactive. Copper compounds are used to produce blue colors, even though they contain dioxin, which has been linked to cancer. Cadmium, lithium, antimony, rubidium, strontium, lead, and potassium nitrate are also commonly used to produce different effects, even though they can cause a host of respiratory and other health problems. Just the soot and dust from fireworks alone is enough to lead to respiratory problems like asthma

4. Ban the use of fossil fuel combustible vehicles by all governments and government agencies. Require they use either electric or fuel cell/hydrogen powered vehicles. Stop allowing the suppression of limitation of advanced clean technologies like fuel cells which can create hydrogen gas and have no emissions whatsoever .

5. Ban the sale of toxic over the counter aerosol and non-aerosol sprays such as bug spray and other toxic pesticide sprays. Regulate or ban the sale of super toxic aerosol and non aerosol sprays sold in automotive stores , including but not limited to, fuel injector cleaners, and engine starting spray. There are alternatives to these products that are sold as a liquid rather than a spray.

6. Maybe its just a dream, but we will know we have succeeded in saving the environment, the day that combustible cigarettes are banned from sale and only vape type electronic cigarettes are legal for sale in this Commonwealth.

7. Ban the sale of charcoal for BBQ use . There are more environmentally friendly alternatives to charcoal available in this day and age.

Stop allowing for the treatment of the atmosphere as a garbage dump!
Stop selling out and allowing economic pressures to dictate the amount of pollution allowed for. For each thing you ban there is safer cleaner alternative to replace it and any "lost revenue". Peoples health are priceless and cannot justify harming someone's health because of economic reasons. The state pays millions in Medicaid claims arising from health care needs of those afflicted, which could be save if the environment was less toxic to humans.

Doing one or more of these actions listed above will result in much cleaner air for the people, as the Constitution mandates:

§ 27. Natural resources and the public estate.

The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people.

(May 18, 1971, P.L.769, J.R.3)

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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