

Stephen Hoffman

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From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2020 6:29 PM
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: Control of VOC Emissions from Oil and Natural Gas Sources (#7-544)

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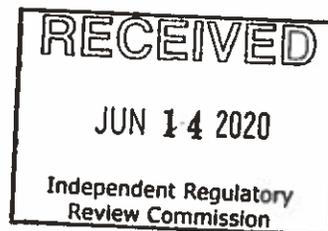


Re: eComment System

The Department of Environmental Protection has received the following comments on Proposed Rulemaking: Control of VOC Emissions from Oil and Natural Gas Sources (#7-544).

Commenter Information:

Rita Botts
(ritabotts@yahoo.com)
6599 Rosemoor St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15217 US



Comments entered:

Dear Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection,

I write to you as a Pittsburgh homeowner, out of concern for my fellow Pennsylvanians' health and racial equity.

I appreciate the intent of your proposed regulations to VOC emissions from existing shale gas drilling, processing, and pipelines. However, these regulations as drafted are insufficient. These regulations must address all wells, including so-called "low-producing" wells that, in concert, account for nearly half of the state's methane emissions. What's more, the regulations must require frequent and regular equipment inspections, regardless of the operator's prior performance. The DEP cannot rely upon industry to act voluntarily in citizens' interests: a recent Environmental Defense Fund report shows that in 2017, Pennsylvania industry reported only about 6% of the amount of methane it actually emitted.

While all citizens are impacted by VOC and methane, it's clear that some groups bear the brunt of this pollution much more than other groups. People of color and people of lower financial means are disproportionately suffering from these types of pollution, whether in the form of heart disease, asthma, or emphysema. The Centers for Disease Control has found that

individuals living with those conditions are more at risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Reducing oil and gas emissions is not simply an issue of public health or climate change, but a dire problem that must be resolved if we have any hope of achieving racial justice.

I urge you to strengthen and enact these rules as soon as possible; our Commonwealth cannot wait while new federal regulations are finalized.

Sincerely,
Rita Botts

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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