

Stephen Hoffman

#3256

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 6:12 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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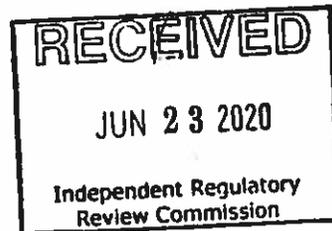


Re: eComment System

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:

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Comments entered:

Hi folks, I'm Dr. Adams Greenwood-Ericksen. I won't take the full 5 minutes - I know a lot of people want to talk, so I'll just make a couple of points, and I'll submit some written comments later.

I'd like to thank the DEP for making an effort to ensure we can still comment on public business, even while we're maintaining social distancing. Obviously it wasn't easy to figure out how to do this, and I'm sure we all appreciate the effort.

The health consequences of Volatile Organic Compound exposure are significant and well-documented. A cursory review of the literature on VOCs shows that short-term exposure has been shown to cause eye, lung, and throat damage, as well as headaches, dizziness, visual disorders, and memory problems, all indicative of various degrees of CNS and brain damage.

In addition, long term exposure to VOCs has been documented to cause not only all of those, but also chronic nausea, fatigue, motor and coordination problems, and vertigo, and has been linked to permanent damage to the liver, kidneys, and central nervous system - not to mention Cancer.

Obviously, this stuff is really bad for people, and we should do everything we can to limit people's exposure, as well as the release of VOCs into the air we all breathe.

In addition, given the enormous per-ton impact of methane as a greenhouse gas, making sure that we have clear and strong limits on how much of that escapes into the atmosphere just seems like basic common sense. Clearly there is still a demand for oil and natural gas, and people want to develop and exploit it, but that doesn't mean we need to compromise our health or the overall health and sustainability of the world we're leaving for our children.

Given the huge number of wells in PA (over 10,000, apparently), it seems to me to be obvious that we should be concerned with limiting exposure and establishing and maintaining consistent requirements for **all** wells, regardless of how productive they are.

I'm urging the DEP to close the loophole for low-producing wells, which are apparently responsible for a disproportionate percentage of VOC and Methane emissions in PA. Safety and health standards should be safety standards, no matter where a well is, who owns it, or how productive it is.

Thank you for your time and attention.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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