

Stephen Hoffman

#3256

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 5:52 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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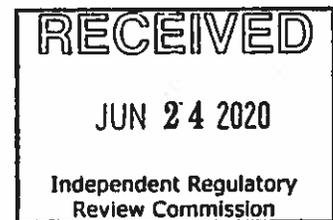


Re: eComment System

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:

Marie Kessler Kaminski
Fridays for Future Pittsburgh (mariekesslerk@gmail.com)
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Comments entered:

My name's Marie Kessler Kaminski, from Pittsburgh's North Side. I'm 18 and a recent high school graduate. I am commenting on behalf of Fridays for Future Pittsburgh. Earth Day, April 22, 2010, Deepwater Horizon—a BP oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico—exploded. The subsequent spill, large enough to be photographed from space, was a result of the oil industry's gross negligence and lack of oversight and accountability on every level—from corporate to local government to state to federal. At the time, I was nine years old, but it demonstrated how little the oil and gas industries could be trusted to self-regulate and to protect citizens and wildlife. PA's oil and gas wells' inaccurate self-reporting, only further proves this. Yet, a decade later, on Earth Day's 50th anniversary—the capped Deepwater Horizon well still bled oil. Chemicals from clean up continue to linger in the tissues of surrounding marine life—will still linger another decade from now. Maybe even longer. And while Pennsylvania doesn't have offshore rigs, we do have enough oil and gas wells to make up for it. These wells leak pollutants, like methane, to the detriment of residents' short and long-term health, our native wildlife, and our environment. That's why it's imperative the part of this rule allowing oil and gas to reduce the frequency of inspections be eliminated—even if previous results show no significant leaks. Research shows that leaks are random—unpredictable based on past results. Only with frequent and regular inspections can leaks be detected and prevented, saving our commonwealth's citizens and from further adverse health effects like cancer, heart

and lung disease, and other pollution-related health problems. Additionally, this rule should be amended to include wells producing lower amounts of oil and gas. Not only are these smaller wells responsible for more than half of oil and gas' methane pollution in the state of Pennsylvania, it is also extremely important that, especially amidst a pandemic and ongoing black lives matter protests, my state acts in the best interest of its citizens and its environment—that my state shows it's serious about protecting the health of those most affected by methane and VOC pollution—elderly, children, and people of color. I was ashamed to discover that Pittsburgh—proudly proclaiming itself as “The Most Livable City”— is one of the worst cities for black people, largely due to many majority-black communities being located near oil and gas wells and their health, as a result, suffering because of it.

I was ashamed to discover that, even though our air's improved since our steel-making past, our state's air quality is still one of the worst in America—I see it in my mother, who has developed asthma since moving to Pittsburgh 20 years ago. We must do better.

This rule, once revised to include comprehensive changes will be a positive step forward towards making Pennsylvania a healthier, safer, and more environmentally conscious place. Protect the health of Pennsylvanians.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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