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## **Controlling VOC Emissions from Oil & Natural Gas Sources**

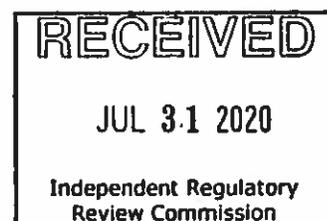
First I would like to thank the Environmental Quality Board and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning the control of VOC emissions from oil and natural gas sources.

I have a very personal concern about the gasses and chemicals which are emitted from volatile organic compounds from oil and natural gas sources.

Whether it is from household products, drinking water, cleaning agents, fuel, and/or other sources, people can be exposed to very high levels and elevated concentrations of pollutants over long periods of time.

Known negative health impacts include but are not limited to:

- Eye, nose, and throat irritations
- Headaches
- Loss of coordination
- Nausea
- Allergies
- Asthma
- Damage to the liver, kidneys, and the central nervous system
- Visual disorders
- Memory problems
- Cancer



It is easy to conclude that these negative health outcomes impact people's health, comfort, work performance, and other activities of daily living.

Of particular concern to me is the toxicity of formaldehyde, diesel exhaust, styrene, methane, benzene, zylene, and toluene which are suspected and known carcinogens.

My family and I have experienced the direct results of these dangerous materials. Having lived in the greater Philadelphia area and its suburbs for my entire life, 75 years, I have been exposed to many of the toxins and have experienced some of the aforementioned health impacts, especially allergies, asthma, and COPD. Due to these conditions, I need on-going medical monitoring and care and daily multiple medications.

Secondly, in 2009 my wife was diagnosed with a "rare blood cancer" reportedly connected with benzene. One of the first questions she was asked was, "Where have you been during the last 30 years?" At that moment in time, environmentally related health impacts suddenly became even more real to our family.

My wife's answer was "PENNSYLVANIA!" She is a life-long resident of Pennsylvania – drinking Pennsylvania water, breathing Pennsylvania air, working in Pennsylvania, and enjoying many hours of outdoor recreation in Pennsylvania. She's fought a tough battle – endured harsh, challenging chemotherapy to get rid of the blood cancer, but she'll never be the same.

Treatment for that "rare" blood cancer has seriously compromised her immune system, changing our lives forever. And for some people, like two fellow life-long Pennsylvanians I have known, that "rare" blood cancer reportedly related to benzene has meant death.

It also makes us question how any of us can be safe against the toxins added to our environment every day. Toxic chemicals spewed into our environment have catastrophic consequences. People get sick! People die!

Perhaps my greatest concern beyond the direct personal impacts on our life and health is the outrageous philosophy of the current Federal administration, as well as politicians in Pennsylvania. When public officials deny negative environmental and health impacts caused by inadequate regulation, the petro-chemical industry benefits, to the detriment of the people of Pennsylvania.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this very personal subject. I implore you to take appropriate actions to protect and benefit the health and welfare of Pennsylvania citizens. It's time to place people above profits.

I love being a resident of PENNSYLVANIA. It is a beautiful place filled with kind, generous, hard-working people with abundant wildlife and beautiful scenic places.

- This PENNSYLVANIA needs to be preserved and protected
- The laws in PENNSYLVANIA that protect the well-being of all who live within its borders need to be enforced.
- There are very real consequences to violations of environmental laws and protections – PENNSYLVANIANS are harmed.
- It's time – in fact its way past time... No one else should get sick or die because laws are being ignored and outright violated again and again and again!
- No one should be at peril because they live in PENNSYLVANIA
- People matter! People's lives and well-being matter? Keeping PENNSYLVANIA a safe place to live matters – for all of us now and for future generations~

Thank you! This concludes my testimony.