

Kathy Cooper

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 11:06 AM
To: Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; IRRRC; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; regcomments@pa.gov; ntroutman@pasen.gov; timothy.collins@pasenate.com; gking@pahousegop.com
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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The enclosed comment was received as part of the following testimony:

Testimony name: Public Hearing 3 - Proposed #7-544
Testimony date: 6/25/2020 12:00:00 AM
Testimony location: WebEx

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:

Elizabeth Schongar
(elschongar@yahoo.com)
138 Parkhurst Street
Pittsburgh, PA US

Comments entered:

Oral comments given at 25 June 2020 hearing. See emailed written comment below:

Hello, I am Elizabeth Schongar, a concerned citizen of Pittsburgh Pa. I strongly support the proposed methane rule, and would like to see it extended to all low producing wells and to regularly scheduled inspections regardless of the results of prior inspections. This rule is essential for our health, for our farmlands, and most important, to work toward flattening the trend of global warming. Regarding health, I know I suffer every time there is poor air quality in my neighborhood, with a scratchy throat and sinus issues. Poor air quality is implicated in increased cancer rates, increased asthma, and increased cardiovascular disease. As we reduce methane emissions from wells, we will reduce emission of other organic volatiles which contribute significantly to ill health. Regarding farmland: Western Pennsylvania's fracking fields

sit in some of the country's best farmland. These areas need to be preserved as healthy places to raise families, raise livestock, and grow food. Reduced methane leakage, along with the resulting reduction in other volatile organics, will help preserve this essential farmland resource and support agricultural businesses. Finally, and most importantly, lowering methane emission is essential to reducing global warming. This must be a key focus when deciding how to regulate all industries that contribute significantly to global warming. Economists talk about the risks associated with external costs that neither the buyer nor seller has to factor into the cost of a transaction. Appropriate government regulation such as this creates a fair market, where participants are free to participate and set prices while ensuring that all costs are considered in each transaction. And including all producing wells and having regular inspections increases the market fairness while improving the results.

In summary:

I strongly support the proposed methane rule, and would like to see it extended to all low producing wells and to regularly scheduled inspections regardless of the results of prior inspections.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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