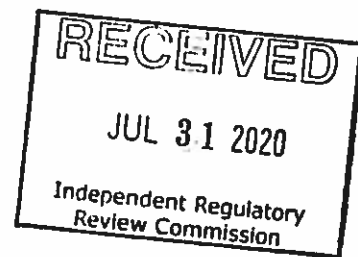


3254

Kathy Cooper

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 11:06 AM
To: Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; IRRC; 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 1 - Proposed #7-544
Testimony date: 6/23/2020 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:

Ellen Conrad
(conradellenm@gmail.com)
5412 Black st.
Pittsburgh, PA 15206 US

Comments entered:

Verbal comments given at 23 June 2020 hearing. See Below for emailed written comment:

Hi my name is Ellen Conrad and I am here, like everyone else on this call, here to ask the DEP to close the loopholes in VOC and methane emission regulations, but first I want to talk about...I don't know if many of you have an opportunity to be around Gen-Zers these days, but they are a hot mess. Their still developing brains are mushy with TikTok, Snapchat, and Instagram. If you try to talk to them in person, they look at you like you're crazy but text them, and they're suddenly super chatty. BUT despite their 21st century social skills and short attention spans, Gen-Zers give me hope and inspire me to speak today and in future events around climate change.

In my position at Green Building Alliance, a nonprofit in Pittsburgh, I work with high school students in a sustainability-based, after-school programming. Since the beginning of my role, I have had to adjust my expectations when teaching youth. At the beginning of my time working with youth, I severely underestimated the breadth of their knowledge, the depth of their observations, and the intensity of their passions. Not only do they know all the moves to "Savage", they know what's happening in the world and that climate change is their future. Their exposure to social media means that they understand the complexities of the world around them--whether that is systemic racism or the interconnectedness of climate change and other oppressed groups. These youth pull me out of dark places because of their dreams, ambitions, and decent dose of cynicism.

It is my students that I think about when I'm asking for leaders to protect the future of our youth by closing the loopholes in the draft regulations to reduce volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions, including methane, from oil and natural gas production. They know about climate change, they have nightmares about climate change, and their ability to live the same lives we live today rests in small, daily decisions of adults in power. Natural gas and oil wells that are lower producing should still be checked for methane gas leaks. This is crucial because methane is 87x more potent than carbon dioxide and these lower producing sites release more than half of total methane. All wells should be closely monitored, that means frequently and diligently for maximum protection.

If you have a child, know a child, or were a child, then you should understand that it's unfair to ask our youth to fight against adults in power for their future. The idea of youth being leaders is in some ways inspiring, but in the end it's only a reflection of the lack of leadership from those with the power to make thoughtful, small decisions with large impact to preserve our future.

Thank you for hosting this call to allow PA concerned citizens to give their comments on the proposed regulations to reduce VOCs from oil and gas production, including methane, an extremely potent greenhouse gas.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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