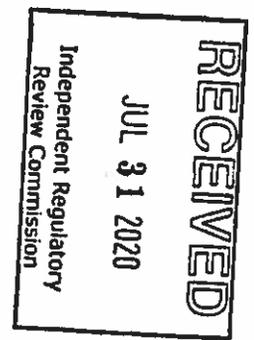


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Testimony for Control of VOC Emissions from Oil and Natural Gas Sources

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My name is Gaye Fifer and I have been living in Pennsylvania for 10 years. I am a retired public school teacher. I dedicated my career to preparing students to be active, responsible citizens who contribute to improving our society.

I recently learned that although Pennsylvania is taking many positive steps to improve our environment, our air quality is still some of the worst in the country. Bad air quality contributes to asthma attacks, cardiac disease, heart attacks & other respiratory problems, as well as making us more at risk for complications due to Covid 19. All of these medical issues will prevent students from growing up healthy and able to move Pennsylvania forward. Treating these medical issues will cost us lots of money that we could be investing in schools and jobs.

Pennsylvania is the third-largest greenhouse gas polluting state in the nation. Pennsylvania is also the second largest natural gas producing state in the country, and it is estimated that Pennsylvania's natural gas operators emit more than 16 times more methane than they report to the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), or more than 1.1 million tons annually. Methane is a highly potent greenhouse gas -- more than 80 times more potent than carbon in the first 20 years after it is released into the atmosphere -- and is responsible for 25% of the man-made global warming we are experiencing today.

Common-sense standards that cut harmful air and methane pollution are supported by a majority of Pennsylvanians. The Wolf administration should continue its work to advance draft rules to cut methane and air pollution from oil and gas infrastructure at a time when protecting public health and safeguarding our climate is more important than ever.

It is essential that the DEP finalize a strong existing source methane rule that is cost-effective, protects the health of Pennsylvanians, and safeguards our climate.

Specifically, the agency should:

- Reduce or close the loophole in the draft rule for low-producing wells that are responsible for more than half of the methane pollution from oil and gas sources in Pennsylvania.

- Eliminate the provision that allows operators to reduce the frequency of inspections just because previous inspections did not reveal significant leaks. Both the latest research and experience of other states demonstrate that a large, uncontrolled leak can happen at any time and can only be detected with frequent, regular inspections.

Cutting methane emissions is the quickest, most cost-effective way we can reduce emissions now and is a critical down payment on our climate and our future. Our state has a responsibility to step up and be a national leader in reducing harmful methane and air pollution from existing oil and gas infrastructure. The Department of Environmental Protection should be protecting the health & well-being of residents and our environment first & foremost. DEP must finalize a strong rule that cuts methane pollution from existing oil and gas infrastructure. Thank you.