

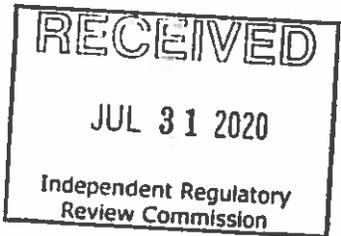
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**Kathy Cooper**

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**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:

Gerald Walsh  
(gwalsh14@gmail.com)  
51 Hutchison Rd.  
Claysville, PA 15323 US

Comments entered:

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

I appreciate our living in a state that has it in its constitution article 1 section 27 which is intended to protect our health and the environment and hope that this vision can be realized through government oversight of the oil and gas and other industries  
I am a retired software engineer and have worked primarily in the Pittsburgh area. Before the advent of COVID-19 we had spent every Friday for almost 7 months sitting in front of the city and county building in Pittsburgh in support of Fridays For Future. We became even more concerned about the environment after seeing the climate changes in seasons in Ireland which we were visiting regularly.  
We live in Washington County and moved here to the country 30 years ago to be in a place that

had healthy air and our own private natural spring water. More recently we have been very concerned about the quality of the air and water as they are actively fracking in our area. We are well aware of the 64 instances of rare cancers which have occurred in our 4 county area. My wife and myself have both had symptoms which are often indicative of fracking effluents contaminating our water. We have since switched to purchasing natural spring water to eliminate the low-grade illness and dizziness we were experiencing.

In our daily walks we pass two locations in which the liquid natural gas pipeline crosses the road. As we passed one of these recently, we were able to smell aromatic hydrocarbons (perhaps benzene or toluene) emanating from one of these lines. It was reported and should be fixed at this time. However, these lines are known to have a frequent problem with methane and volatile organic compounds leaks. Not only our health but the health of our neighbors and your constituents are in question here and we hope you will do the right thing. We feel it is incumbent upon the EPA to extend the regulations to verify that ALL existing sites, not just new sites, are regularly checked for emissions.

So far I have only been speaking of the personal and direct effects of methane and VOC leakage upon human health.

Our nation is currently experiencing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and I am certain that none of us wish to see this repeated. However, according to the World Health Organization's webpage on climate change and human health they indicate, "Changes in infectious disease transmission patterns are a likely major consequence of climate change." I also would mention that Scientists have recently been Saying that Ignoring Link Between Climate Change And Increasing Threat Of Pandemics Is 'Dangerous,'.

Methane emissions are 80 times more potent than CO2 emissions in effecting climate change over a 20 year period. Methane is also believed to be responsible for approximately 25% of the global warming we are experiencing today. A recent analysis indicated that Pennsylvania's gas industry is underreporting existing methane gas leaks by a factor of 16. For all these reasons I believe it is critical that ALL existing gas wells, pipelines and compressors be regularly inspected including old, as well as new and those with low output. Thank you for your attention.

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No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Shirley

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