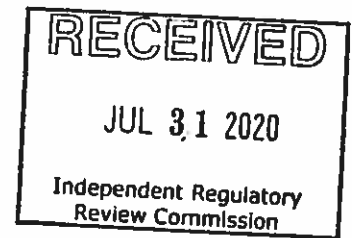


3256

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:

Jessica Bellwoar
(jess.bellwoar@gmail.com)
1441 S Beulah Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147 US

Comments entered:

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

My name is Jessica Bellwoar, and I'm a citizen of South Philadelphia. I grew up between Delaware County and Reading in Berks County, where I spent a lot of time outside in public parks and our lands as a child with my cousins and family. When I visit my family in Reading, I can smell the difference in air quality compared to Philadelphia. The air pollution in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh should not define our state -- and yet it does in many ways. Our state continues to give tax-breaks to these massive companies and we're paying for it as citizens. We'll continue to pay for it as these superstorms, hurricanes, and massive flooding increases.

My family in Reading also faces air pollution plus the dangers of living near oil and gas wells, and

risks associated with climate change like massive flooding. I worry about my grandmother, aunt, uncle and two young cousins who live half a mile from Mariner East II pipeline and within range of other oil and gas facilities around Reading. What can we do when these facilities leak methane and VOC pollution into our communities? Because we know leaks will happen -- it's not a matter of if but when.

It's baffling that we are continuing to invest in fossil fuels and fracking technologies without fully regulating the toxic pollutants going into our climate, air, and human bodies. We can't continue to put the oil and gas industry's profits over the public health of everyday Pennsylvania -- and continue to do so in the middle of pandemic!

Millenials like myself will inherit Pennsylvania's environmental and public health problems -- and we'll be paying for those consequences with taxpayer dollars and our human bodies. We have an opportunity now to stop more methane & VOC emissions from entering our atmosphere. I urge DEP to act and strength the proposed rulemaking to protect our environment, human lives, and all future generations. It's time to start preparing for the next century and thinking about our children and protecting our health.

I urge the Department to make the following improvements: close the loopholes & maintaine high-level of inspections

1. Close the loophole in the proposed rulemaking that exempts low-producing wells from the rule's leak detection and repair requirements. Low-producing wells are responsible for more than half of the methane pollution from oil and gas sources in Pennsylvania and all wells, regardless of production, require routine inspections.
2. Eliminate the provision that allows operators to reduce the frequency of inspections if previous inspections do not reveal significant methane leaks. Research shows that large, uncontrolled leaks are random and can only be detected with frequent and regular inspections.
3. Ensure this proposal includes requirements for all emission sources covered in DEP's already adopted standards for new oil and gas sources.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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