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My name is Joan Farb and I live in Newtown, Bucks County, Pa. Thank you for this opportunity to speak at this virtual hearing about DEP's proposed regulations to limit climate-warming methane pollution and harmful combustible organic compounds from existing oil and gas operations .

Methane is a main component of natural gas and contributes 86 times more than CO<sub>2</sub> to atmospheric warming in a short period of time according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reported in Scientific American on December 22, 2015

One of the effects of climate change is more intense storms causing flooding, power outages, downed trees and wires resulting in property damage and bodily injury and possibly even death. On June 3, there was such a storm. My family was fortunate unlike 66,000 Bucks County residents who lost power including a friend of mine.. Also, there was property damage in our area from the fallen trees and branches .

By regulating the methane emissions from the oil and gas activities will help lessen such detrimental effects of climate change . However, all the wells need to be regulated, not just those producing 15 or more barrels daily since they only produce 50% of methane emissions.

According to a recent updated research report from the Environmental Defense Fund, it was found that 1.1 million tons of methane were emitted annually from Pa wells which was 15 times higher than reported to the DEP from the companies.

In the May 14 2020 State Impact article Hillary Hull, senior manager for research and analytics for the Environmental Defense Fund said that companies reported their emissions less because it is

determined by EPA devised formulas which estimate how much a gas well will leak based on what kind of equipment the company is using. It does not account for leaks from malfunctions and abnormal processes which emit most of the industry's methane. .

Since such leaks are unpredictable, there should be no reduction in the frequency of inspections in the regulation to limit climate-warming methane pollution from oil and gas operations . For example, U.S. News reported on September 24, 2017, the Harmony Compressor Station in Susquehanna County leaked more than 200 hundred tons of methane in two hours on September 2, 2017. An average compressor spews out less than half that amount in a year. The compressor operator did not notify the County Emergency Management Agency since it was considered "a small leak" and there was no state investigation because a permit at that time for compressor station did not cover methane emissions.

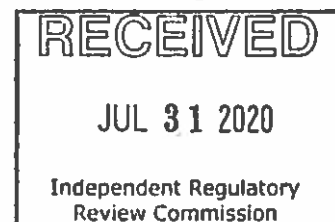
In conclusion , I am asking the DEP to have all gas and oil operations regulated and the frequency of inspections not reduced. By doing so, it will help Governor Wolf 's climate goals to reduce Pennsylvania's greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by 2050 and thus , mitigate the effects of climate change in Pa..

Thank you

References

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