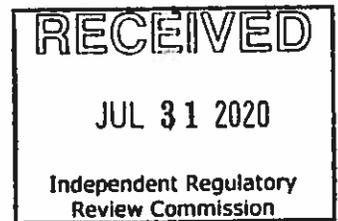


325p

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 2 - Proposed #7-544
Testimony date: 6/24/2020 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:

Kelsey McNaul
(kelsey.mcnaul@climateresponse.com)
2135 Wightman St. Apt 7
Pittsburgh, PA 15217 US

Comments entered:

Oral comments given at 24 June 2020 hearing. See emailed written comments below:

My name is Kelsey McNaul, and I am a concerned young person and lifelong resident of Pennsylvania. I grew up in Lancaster County, PA, and spent much of my time loving and enjoying the outdoors there. After graduating from college with a degree in environmental studies, I moved to Pittsburgh to job hunt in the region's active environmental nonprofit community. Moving to Pittsburgh has landed me a job I love working as an advocate in the environmental field, though I sometimes wonder about the cost of this choice to my health. Pittsburgh has some of the worst air quality in the country and consistently receives a failing grade in the region's air quality assessment. This is due to a long legacy of polluting industries in southwest Pennsylvania, and while the coal and steel industries are in decline in the region, our

air is now being increasingly poisoned by the oil and gas industry. While fracking is banned within the city limits of Pittsburgh, our position along the Ohio River settles us directly within the water and air-sheds of many oil and gas facilities. For too long, these facilities have operated with lax oversight and an overarching permission to pollute. It is welcome news to hear that the Wolf administration is seeking to tighten air pollution regulations for this industry to reduce emissions of methane and volatile organic compounds. This is a step in the right direction to hold polluters accountable and stop dangerous air leaks before they become too catastrophic. But this proposal must go further in order to truly protect our communities and climate from oil and gas air pollution. That is why I am urging for this rule to be amended to hold polluters of all sizes and all track records accountable. Much of the region's methane and VOC pollution comes from smaller conventional wells, so in order to have a real impact, this new rule cannot exempt these small producers from common sense oversight, as the proposed language currently does. Furthermore, we must be continually vigilant in holding oil and gas producers accountable; it is unacceptable to lessen the frequency of air emission inspections just because a facility has a limited history of violations. The entire point of having frequent inspections is to stop leaks (which can happen any time) early on, so absolving facilities without recent violations of frequent inspections goes against this point. I say these things as a resident who breathes the polluted air of southwest Pennsylvania, who worries for the health of myself and my neighbors, who disproportionately suffer from asthma, cancer, and respiratory conditions. I also say these things as a young person, who worries about her future. Many folks when they talk about climate change, note they are worried for their children's future, but I am talking about MY future. The climate crisis is now, and frankly it makes me think hard about whether or not I even want to have children in the future. In my lifetime of 23 years, I have already witnessed soaring temperatures and an increase in severity of droughts and storms. Therefore, oil and gas pollution not only impacts the respiratory health of my community today, but it contributes to the climate crisis, making the future less livable for myself and future generations. For this reason, I welcome our Commonwealth's proposed changes to prevent methane and VOC pollution from oil and gas facilities, and urge decision makers to strengthen this proposal to ensure that all oil and gas facilities are held accountable. Thank you.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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