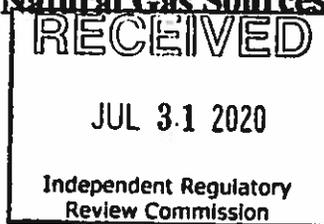


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Testimony for Control of VOC Emissions from Oil and Natural Gas Sources

June 25, 2020



Hello. My name is Laurel Beitsinger and I am a resident of Economy Borough, Beaver County, in southwestern PA.

One evening my husband and I were arriving home, when the whole sky lit up a bright orange. We thought that something catastrophic had occurred. Eventually, we found out that the bright orange glow was caused by flaring from a nearby shale gas well pad in the area.

Then I learned that the local shale gas drilling company was building a well pad just down the road from where my husband and I had lived for 48 years and had raised our family. I dreaded the pollution and volatile organic compounds we would be exposed to as the diesel trucks made thousands and thousands of trips up and down our road, not to mention the pollution that we would be exposed to once the wells were drilled 24/7 and brine was stored on site. The more I found out about what was going to happen, the more concerned I became.

I realized that we would soon be sandwiched between two well sites. We were concerned about the pollution and its effects on our health, so we decided to move. Sadly, we left our family home after 48 years and moved to another home in the borough. However, due to a lack of transparency in this industry, we recently found out that we are close to a compressor station as well as the Revolution Pipeline.

I hope my personal story illustrates how the health of my family has been constantly threatened with the methane and VOCs coming from diesel truck traffic, flaring, well pads, impoundments, compressor stations, and possibly leaking pipelines.

As you have heard from many of the speakers before me, experts have reported that Pennsylvania's oil and gas industry is leaking and venting more than a million tons of methane air pollution each year. Because we can't control the air we breathe, we depend upon our state officials and state agencies to do their jobs and protect us, our children, and our grandchildren.

Our state's proposed methane rule must be strengthened to protect our communities and the environment. There should be no industry "loopholes" for low-producing oil and gas wells, since these low-producing wells are responsible for much of the methane pollution in the state.

I am also requesting that the DEP not allow oil and gas operators to reduce the frequency of inspections if previous inspections do not reveal significant methane leaks. Inspections must continue to be frequent and regular.

In addition, the proposed rule should include requirements for **all** emission sources covered in DEP's already adopted standards for new oil and gas sources.

In summary, I ask that the DEP fully protect our health and environment with the strongest rules possible that eliminate **any** industry "loopholes." Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony this evening.

Laurel Beitsinger
554 Pioneer Lane
Freedom, PA 15042

Email: bbeits@aol.com