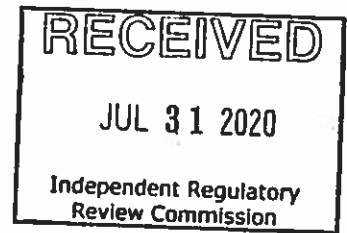


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Testimony for Control of VOCs Emissions from Oil and Natural Gas Sources:

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I'm a retired pediatrician speaking as a private citizen.

I want to start with a "what if question".

1. "What if", one year ago today, the best scientists in America somehow knew for certain the covid pandemic with all its human tragedy, disruption and economic cost would occur in the coming months. And better yet, let's say politicians actually listened to them!
Just imagine, the covid epidemic is well contained or maybe even prevented!

"Well, today the best scientists in America know for certain man-made climate change is real with temperatures and greenhouse gasses at "tipping point" levels. They know the enormous human tragedy, disruption and economic cost already occurring.

Let's say, politicians actually listen to them.

Just imagine, the impending climate catastrophe is averted!

1. Man-made climate change caused by the burning of fossil fuels is "settled science.
2. It is a much greater threat than the Covid pandemic.
3. It is an "existential threat" to billions of people living and not yet born.

--Pennsylvania is among the top methane and greenhouse gas producing states.

--Pennsylvania already has some of the worst air quality in the nation.

--Oil and gas wells produce methane and VOCs.

--Methane is 80 times more potent than CO2 in the first 20 yrs. It is responsible for 25 % of man-made greenhouse gas. (1)

--A 2018 analysis found methane leakage rates 60 percent higher than reported by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The study concluded that natural gas is just as damaging to the climate as coal over a 20-year time frame. (1)

-- Leaks and venting occur at all phases of the supply chain (1)

-- Fugitive gas emissions account for 13 million metric tons of methane and VOCs.(4)

--There are hundreds of thousands of abandoned oil and gas wells in Pennsylvania. Will these wells leak in the years ahead? (5)

--VOC air pollution increases ground level ozone worsening problems like asthma, emphysema and heart disease-- VOCs like benzene can contribute to heart, liver, kidney blood and central nervous system injury and can cause cancer.

--A recent issue of JAMA and the June 19th edition of the NY times reported on a recent study.

Women exposed to high temperatures and air pollution are more likely to have premature or stillborn babies from ozone or other fine particulate matter from the burning of fossil fuels. (3)

- Oil and gas are precious finite resources formed millions of years ago. In a few hundred years, we are arrogantly burning up these precious resources. Might these nonreplaceable gifts be needed by future generations for uses we have not even imagined.

The Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) must:

1. Reduce or close the loophole that frees low-producing wells from controls. Low producing wells are responsible for much of the methane pollution from oil and gas sources in Pennsylvania.
2. Eliminate provisions that allow self-inspection or reduced frequency of inspections. Leaks can happen at any time. Regular frequent inspections are necessary.

Governor Wolfe MUST finalize a strong rule that cuts methane and VOC pollution from existing oil and gas infrastructure.

Thank you.

Mario Sangillo MD

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