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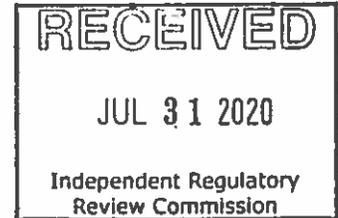
Testimony for the Control of VOC Emissions for Oil and Natural Gas Sources. This is a written copy of testimony given on June 25, 2020.

Digging in Dirt

Building a Sand Castle

Riding a Bike

- Sliding
- Climbing
- Swimming
- Running
- Jumping



All the while Breathing...

At birth we take our first breath. A bellowing cry that announces - "Here I am...." Dying of Black Lung from working in the Anthracite mines near Frackville, PA my Grandfather took his last breath. And, now, while breathing, we are testifying for the Control of VOC Emissions from Oil and Natural Gas Sources.

Natural gas has been touted as clean energy, but methane – the principle component in natural gas -- and other toxic pollutants leak through the supply chain from extraction to consumption. Methane is a greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change and has been implicated in health risks.

I speak as a resident of the Susquehanna Watershed in York, a mother, a United Methodist Women Climate Justice Advocate and an elementary teacher. It is not acceptable to allow natural gas pollution from oil rigs, fracking sites, compression stations and pipelines to contaminate our children's air and drinking water. Children suffer the most from the health impact of this pollution. Since approximately 53,000 children in PA live within 1 mile of a permitted fracking site we have a moral responsibility as residents of PA to be caretakers of God's creation and to demand strong protections and safeguards from pollution associated with the oil and gas industry. Therefore, since DEP's mission places the highest value on public health and safety:

I urge the Department to make the following improvements to the proposed rule:

- Close the loophole that exempts low-producing wells from the rule's leak inspection requirements.
- Eliminate the provision that allows operators to reduce the frequency of inspections if previous inspections reveal that only a small percentage of components is leaking. Frequent and regular inspections should be required. Like a woman who previously testified that in PA we have to get our cars inspected annually!!
- Ensure this proposal includes requirements for all emission sources covered in DEP's already adopted standards for new oil and gas sources.

Still Breathing...

As a child, being outdoors made me feel close to God; it still does. Children's understanding of God is strongly shaped by their experience of Creation.

- If the air is polluted when children are playing outside, their health and well-being will be compromised.
- Their sense of awe and imagination will be compromised.
- Consequently, their experience of God will be compromised.

If the PA Department of Environmental Protection and the residents of PA work together, making mud pies or gardening can be healthy. And, maybe, playing outside will connect us to the Creator of this amazing home we call Planet Earth.

As long as we have breath, let's work toward a Just Transition to 100% renewable energy in PA!

Thank you for the opportunity to publicly participate in the regulatory process.

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