

**Kathy Cooper**

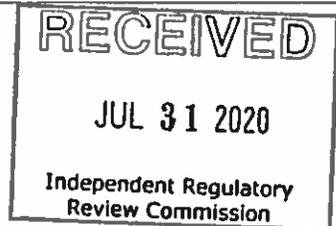
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**From:** ecomment@pa.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, July 24, 2020 11:06 AM  
**To:** Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; IRRC; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; regcomments@pa.gov; ntroutman@pasen.gov; timothy.collins@pasenate.com; gking@pahousegop.com  
**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:

Rajani Vaidyanathan  
(rajani.vaidya@gmail.com)  
941 Field club road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15238 US

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Comments entered:

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

thank you to everyone here, from pa dep. and thank you to ms swan for all her work in getting us here and keeping us informed.

I am Rajani Vaidyanathan, I live in Pittsburgh, in the fox chapel area school district in allegheny county. we have unconventional gas activity within 2 miles of our middle and one elementary school. I urge the PA DEP to finalize methane and volatile organic compound rule that cuts air pollution from existing oil and gas operations to safeguard the health of our children, families, and the climate. In these times of COVID-19, which is a respiratory syndrome, it behooves us to pay even more attention to our air quality, which is at the bottom here in allegheny county. I

have a metabolic syndrome, and my spouse has hyper tension. so we need you the DEP to help us be safe at these times, with better air pollution controls.

Our families, our children, need the most comprehensive protections so we urge the DEP to make the following improvements:

First, I would like to request the PA DEP to Include inspections and repairs of wells producing lower amounts of oil and natural gas. These low-producing wells are responsible for more than half of the methane pollution from the oil and gas industry in Pennsylvania.

I would also like to request the PA DEP, to eliminate the part of the draft rule that allows oil and gas operators to reduce the frequency of inspections if previous inspections do not reveal significant methane leaks. I am an electrical engineer, i can tell you surely, i have not done a single piece of hardware or software where i can tell with even some confidence, the time of failure. rate of failure sure, but absolutely not the itme of failure. failure is ramdom. we would like to predict, but we have not ever been able to. This is a preventive, past inspection will not always speak to the future. Research shows that large, uncontrolled leaks are random and can only be detected with frequent and regular inspections.

Methane is a very potent greenhouse gas and contributes to climate change. Where there are oil and gas activity, there is proof of methane leaking along with volatile organic compounds (VOC). VOCs such as benzene are harmful to health and can contribute to ground-level ozone or smog that damages the lungs. Pennsylvania families, Pennsylvania children, need the most comprehensive rule to protect health and the climate. Please, do it for our children!

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No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Shirley

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