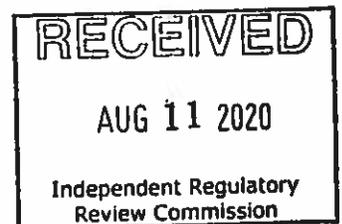


3250

Kathy Cooper

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 12:49 PM
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:

Gail Neustadt
(gail.neustadt@gmail.com)
1503 Grand Cypress Lane
Presto, PA 15142 US

Comments entered:

My name is Gail Neustadt and I'm a resident of Presto, Pennsylvania in Allegheny County. I want to thank the Environmental Quality Board for the opportunity to speak at this public hearing. Although I am a member of many non-profit environmental groups, today I am speaking for myself as a private citizen.

I wasn't sure where to start. Perhaps with my own personal health issues resulting from exposure to fracking waste left in an unsecured landfill next to my home. Perhaps with some citations in a litany of accidents caused by the gas/oil industry. Or maybe with the several reasons PA needs to tighten its gas/oil regulatory screws already in place and/or add others to repair a poorly conceived of and dangerously developed industry.

But no, I've decided to start with what should have been the responsibility of our state and local governments but, alas, was not. If only our elected officials had adhered to Pennsylvania's Environmental Rights Amendment, we wouldn't need to further regulate a rogue industry that never should have been permitted. And so I begin with Article I, Section 27 of our state constitution—the Environmental Rights Amendment ratified on May 8, 1971 which states: "The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people."

Given the spoliation of our precious water now laced with chemicals and radioactivity, the pollution of our once clean air from carbon and methane, the harm done to our land through deforestation and the dramatic increase in human illnesses like cancer, heart disease, asthma, birth defects, blood disorders, and others, it is obvious that our elected officials have run roughshod over a monumental Constitutional Amendment.

This sorry state of affairs re the gas/oil industry began about 10 years ago with the discovery of a faster way to drill and capture the blood of Mother Earth by using the new technique of horizontal hydraulic fracking. At that time, simple need for energy was replaced by greed and a quest for power by unscrupulous companies. Going forward, the thirst for money and power grew to such an extent that natural gas was overproduced creating a huge supply without having established a reasonable demand.

You all know the history of how and why we are here today. But I will remind you that it started around 7 years ago when Governor Corbett struck a deal with Royal Dutch Shell to build a petrochemical plant in Beaver County with the promise of stimulating jobs in the area. It was a very big business mistake, one that could have been reversed but, nevertheless, a mistake which Governor Wolf is furthering.

We are here today because of bad business decisions made and not corrected. We don't need more plastic but we do need to make an energy paradigm shift. The Shell site should be a solar farm surrounded by a green industrial park. We should not continue to pollute and destroy our water, air, land and health for an industry whose business model is based on smoke and mirrors, pollution and devastation.

Because the gas/oil industry is in financial turmoil; because this industry is subject to human error and that human error causes a need for tighter regulations when the DEP doesn't even have the people power to carry out the current regulations; because this industry is driven by greed and a thirst for power; because plastic is no longer the magic word it was in 1967; and, of overarching importance, because we have brought humanity to the brink of extinction if we don't divorce ourselves from the insane attachment to fossil fuel which is destroying us ... we need to STOP, LOOK and LISTEN. Mother Nature has given us many warnings ... massive increases in fires, floods, earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, draught and now COVID-19, a pandemic and perhaps, a final warning to change our systems and our behaviors. A bandaid of regulations that has no adhesive and is not large enough to absorb the leaking will not be enough to save us now. Ban fracking in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Thanks for listening to my concerns and opinions

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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