

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 5:38 PM
To: Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; IRRRC; eregop@pahousegop.com; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; regcomments@pa.gov; ntroutman@pasen.gov
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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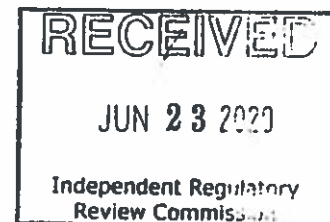


Re: eComment System

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:

Dennis Smiddle
FANS 4 HELP (nonprofit) (dennismiddle@msn.com)
631 Highland Ave.
Canonsburg, PA 15317 US



Comments entered:

As a former PA Child Care Licensing Representative with 20 years experience, a PA Personal Care Home Licensing Representative 2 years experience, a former Keystone Stars Playground Safety Trainer and a former CPSC Certified Playground Safety Inspector, both with six years of experience, I wish to comment on the poor air quality in Southwestern PA. Our Commonwealth of PA. has some of the worst air quality in the US, second only to the state of California. Also, PA ranks 2nd or 3rd in the US with the highest cancer rates. This has been a long standing health threat to everyone, living, working and playing in PA and especially for the children of PA. In fact, The American Association of Pediatrics has recognized ambient air pollution as a health threat to children since 2004, due to children's immature lungs and brains and rapid respiratory rate. And as climate change is making our summers hotter and longer, the American Association of Pediatrics has also issued a policy statement about climate change as a threat to children's health. These issue need to be addressed with the extreme urgency of now, to protect our children's health and these issues are inextricably connected with the Coronavirus which is further exacerbating the health threats to everyone in Pennsylvania and the U.S.

These links provide access to the attachments provided as part of this comment.

Comments Attachment: [Air Quality SW PA.docx](#)

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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Air Quality and Health

While many were familiar with the Child Care Weather Watch chart, providing guidance for determining appropriate weather conditions for taking children outside for outdoor learning activities and playtime, many attendees didn't realize that the rules governing child care facilities, also restrict outdoor physical activity on days with an air quality code of orange or worse.

This policy makes medical sense. The American Association of Pediatrics has recognized ambient air pollution as a health threat to children since 2004, due to children's immature lungs and brains and rapid respiratory rate. And as climate change is making our summers hotter and longer, the American Association of Pediatrics has also issued a policy statement about climate change as a threat to children's health.

Some solutions involve education, both of the child care provider as well as of the children and their parents. Clean Air Carolina's Clear the Air For Kids program provides information on options that include raising awareness of the air quality forecast through the EPA's Air Quality Flag program, encouraging drivers to turn off their cars when waiting to pick up riders free anti-idling road signs and pamphlets in English and Spanish from the NC Division of Air Quality, and creating "ozone gardens" by planting plants with leaves that turn color when exposed to high ozone levels. NASA's ozone gardens contain several types of ozone-sensitive plants: cut-leaf coneflower, flowering dogwood, buttonbush, snap beans, soy beans, and milkweed. Students

can monitor local ozone by looking in their neighborhoods for ozone-injured plants or establishing similar gardens outside their schools or in their backyards.

<https://science-edu.larc.nasa.gov/ozonegarden/garden-design.html>

Air Quality Index Reports -

<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/airwaste/aq/aqm/psipitt.htm>

Air Quality Color Chart

<https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Air/BAQ/MonitoringTopics/AirQualityIndex/Pages/default.aspx>