

3256

Kathy Cooper

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 3:46 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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pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

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JUL 31 2020

Independent Regulatory
Review Commission

The enclosed comment was received as part of the following testimony:

Testimony name: Public Hearing 3 - Proposed #7-544

Testimony date: 6/25/2020 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:

Bryn Hammarstrom
(bryn@fea.st)
39 Chatham Valley Ln
Middlebury Center, PA 16935 US

Comments entered:

Oral comments given at 25 June 2020 hearing. See emailed written comments below:

To whom it may concern, My name is Bryn Hammarstrom, RN, of 39 Chatham Valley Lane, Middlebury Center, Penn. 16935, and I was #40 giving public comment on 6/25/20 from cell phone # 607-331-3755. Since I was speaking from a rough outline/ notes, this is an approximate reconstruction of what I planned to say, altho I reached 5 minutes before finishing: ""I'm Bryn H... [name and address]...: a resident of Tioga County since 1971, when I moved here as a 24 year-old hippie/ back-to-the-lander. I'm a retired RN, having worked over 30 years in Philadelphia hospitals, and under Gov. Wolf's offer have reactivated my license and returned to work part-time in a Temple Univ. Health System hospital to help during the Covid-19 pandemic.

-Penn's Woods have suffered under the Shale-Gas boom, just as this region was about to be marketed as the "Pennsylvania Wilds". The prospect of tax money for state and local governments, and wealth for landowners and gas-field workers, quickly outweighed the original greener [and healthier] concept.

-The crisis for our planet, and Pennsylvania's role, are documented daily in the news media. In Nov.2017, PSU Extension Service newsletter proclaimed, "... Over 3 million Abandoned Wells in USA, and Up to 750,000 in Penna. Alone"

https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fextension.psu.edu%2Fabandoned-wells-in-pa-what-is-a-reasonable-estimate%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR1zeoPXC9_QRcqsarnNGmBugGC0COjLKpA-qpda3G6vXcw3wzb6kT2pls8&h=AT3kltuVe8JbzDkVk7hwDu_8c_TzteRYlcO5uZ4xO19W4-cgkTLACHGIjggvrPw5z00sR_IjvW07L-ZHUzGf-oFAytdXR6I5jzQ3KJg4Rk0suItPaCSFOVINj3A21SmG41SJtn9FYeRO7jeRxxmx3TQcmgfbclid=IwAR3NaGBMchTUvwhGtHkhfdpWzbnuyq1xvb1g425Gr3gWNKe6X-1ng6VOgUo

-In April of this year, US News and World Report wrote, "Penna. Faces New Wave of Abandoned Oil and Gas Wells", that in 3 years "two companies have abandoned about 3000 wells in and around Allegheny National Forest, walking away from clean-up responsibility..."

https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fextension.psu.edu%2Fabandoned-wells-in-pa-what-is-a-reasonable-estimate%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR1zeoPXC9_QRcqsarnNGmBugGC0COjLKpA-qpda3G6vXcw3wzb6kT2pls8&h=AT3kltuVe8JbzDkVk7hwDu_8c_TzteRYlcO5uZ4xO19W4-cgkTLACHGIjggvrPw5z00sR_IjvW07L-ZHUzGf-oFAytdXR6I5jzQ3KJg4Rk0suItPaCSFOVINj3A21SmG41SJtn9FYeRO7jeRxxmx3TQcmgfbclid=IwAR3NaGBMchTUvwhGtHkhfdpWzbnuyq1xvb1g425Gr3gWNKe6X-1ng6VOgUo

-Just last week Reuters wrote: "Special Report: Millions of Abandoned Oil Wells Are Leaking Methane, a Climate Menace"

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-And this week, the Insurance Journal wrote, "Millions of Abandoned Oil and Gas Wells Pose Environmental, Health Risks", altho their main [but unmentioned] concern is clearly financial responsibility!

<https://www.insurancejournal.com/news/national/2020/06/23/573159.htm?fbclid=IwAR1eW-fHt6a0leri1V1-Umy6Ug1uSwCtKippYC4LVdPyv3zYf0EFLKwAZII>

-So I'm here to support the measures most are endorsing tonite: (1) NO loophole [from regulation] for 'low-producing' wells, which several have pointed out may account for OVER 50% of our state's oil and gas methane pollution. (2) Wellpad inspections must be regular, frequent, and mandatory for ALL wells. (3) All emission sources covered under current DEP standards MUST continue under any/ all revised standards.

-Several well-paid industry spokesmen have given their spiel tonite. Probably yesterday they were pitching "Clean Coal", but now they crow that Penna. air is "cleaner than the start of the Industrial Revolution". But most [those not paid by Big Oil/ Gas] now understand that Methane is FAR WORSE than CO2.

-This is NOT in any way to THEIR credit, but to consumer- [and market-] driven demand for CLEAN, RENEWABLE energy. Just as Big Tobacco LIED to Americans for 50 years that tobacco is safe(sic), so the Shale-Gas sellers are hoping for a prolonged time before Penn's Woods residents say NO MORE...

-... and before our planet, our E/earth, has been rendered uninhabitable.