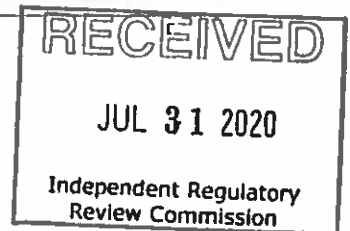


3254

Kathy Cooper

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:

Emily Petrucci
(emily.petrucci@gmail.com)
404 Taylor Street
Media, PA 19063 US

Comments entered:

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

. I'm a resident of Media, Pennsylvania, about 13 miles west of Philadelphia. I am speaking today to urge the Department of Environmental Protection to finalize the most protective methane and volatile organic compound rule to cut air pollution from existing oil & gas operations, to protect the health & safety of all Pennsylvanians, and to combat climate change.

This rule must include inspections and repairs to wells that produce lower amounts of oil & gas, because these wells are responsible for more than half of the industry methane pollution in Pennsylvania. The rule should also eliminate any allowance for operators to reduce the frequency of inspections. Frequent and regular inspections are needed to discover large &

uncontrolled leaks, which can occur at any time and are not correlated with past inspection results. In fact, a recent analysis estimated that Pennsylvania's natural gas operators emit more than 16 times the methane they report to the state Department of Environmental Protection.

My husband and I have two daughters, 13 and 9. If you live in the Philadelphia area, you'll find that "unhealthy ozone" days have become commonplace as part of our weather forecast. I am a healthy 41 year old mother with no history of chronic illness, and over the past two years, I have been experiencing asthma for the first time in my life. The American Lung Association's most recent State of the Air report has once again issued failing grades to the Philadelphia region for poor air quality. Methane leaks, along with volatile organic compounds such as benzene are harmful to our health and can contribute to the ground level ozone and smog that we see in the Philadelphia area. This produces damage to the lungs. Vulnerable populations such as older adults, people with underlying health conditions, pregnant women, children, and communities of color are at increased risk, and this has never been more clear than during the current Covid 19 pandemic. Additionally, methane is a highly potent greenhouse gas-80 times more potent than carbon in the first 20 years after it is released. As parents, record heat has been threatening the ability of our children to safely attend outdoor camps, play sports, and enjoy the lazy days of summer we remember from days passed. Methane is responsible for 25% of the human-made global warming we see today.

Decades from now, our children and grandchildren will look to the decisions we make today. They will ask us what we did in the critical moment to help safeguard their health and their future, and I want to be able to say that I fought for them. I implore you to use your positions of power for good and allow your decisions to be guided by science and prudence. Thank you.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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