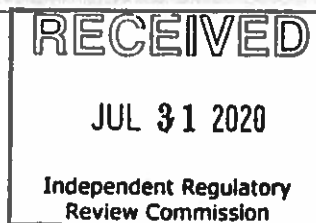


3254

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)

CAUTION: **EXTERNAL SENDER** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.



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:

Sheila Dattilo
(sdattilo59@gmail.com)
408 Independence Lane
Freedom, PA 15042 US

Comments entered:

My name is Sheila Dattilo. I reside at 408 Independence Lane, Freedom PA in Economy Borough, Beaver County. Thank you for the chance to speak with you today. I have been a resident of Beaver County since 1985 when I purchased a home in Hopewell Township. In 2005 I moved to Economy Borough. I am testifying about this rule for several reasons. I hold a Master of Education Degree in Environmental Education from Slippery Rock University, and I recently retired from the North Allegheny School District where I was a science teacher for 27 years, so I have a more than basic understanding of ecological systems in Western Pennsylvania. I understand that there is a delicate balance that must be maintained for any system to function at its peak. We can all agree that our climate is out of balance causing considerable changes to the weather patterns as well as the flora and fauna of Western PA. Of course I am concerned about the climate crisis, but I am even more concerned about the public health impacts of the natural gas industry. This imbalance is leading to increased risk for disease in humans including cancers and asthma.

In 2010, at the age of 51, I was diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer. After my surgery, it was discovered that the cancer had already traveled to my lymph nodes and dozens of nodes had to be removed. I underwent 16 chemotherapy sessions and 31 radiation

treatments.. I then received adjunct therapy of an aromatase inhibitor for 5 years. That medication caused severe joint pain that impeded my ability to live a fully active life. Further tests on my tumor indicate that I am at high risk for cancer recurrence. In addition, the chemotherapy put me into premature menopause which also led to a diagnosis of osteoporosis. In addition, simply by undergoing chemotherapy treatment, I am at increased risk of other types of cancers. I am concerned that my corner of PA is becoming a hub for the petrochemical industry and I don't like it. I fought hard to get through those years of cancer treatment so that I could continue to be well and healthy for my two children, my two step children, and my husband, as well as my students. I need you to fight hard equally hard on my behalf to keep my air and water clean.

I now have an additional reason to stay healthy, and that is my 15 month old grandson, Teddy, who I care for three days a week. He is the light of my life. His dad suffers from asthma which I fear Teddy may inherit. The Air Quality Index shows that the greater Pittsburgh region is rated as 'not good' on 229 out of 365 days. If you live in Beaver County, the air you breathe puts your health at risk. The American Lung Association in 2019 gave Beaver County an F for Ozone. Ozone is harmful to lung health. Residents in our region already suffer higher than average rates of cancer, cardiovascular disease, upper respiratory disease, and other conditions that make us among the nation's most vulnerable to adverse health consequences from these substances.

My concern is that the draft rule includes a loophole for low-producing wells that are responsible for about half of all emissions that contribute to Pennsylvania's methane problem. If these low-producing wells are responsible for 50% of the methane emissions, then it is imperative that this loophole be addressed. I suspect from what I've read that the oil and gas industry is not being responsible stewards of our environment. I think it is important to take every precaution to make sure Pennsylvania citizens can enjoy clean air and water. That can only be accomplished by holding the gas industry to the highest of standards-using strict regulations and consistent oversight. I am asking the DEP to protect Pennsylvanian's constitutional right to clean air and water by closing the loophole in the proposed rulemaking that exempts low-producing wells from the rule's leak detection and repair requirements. Eliminate the provision that allows operators to reduce the frequency of inspections if previous inspections do not reveal significant methane leaks. Research shows that large, uncontrolled leaks are random and can only be detected with frequent and regular inspections. In my experience as a middle school teacher, I didn't stop monitoring my students' academic success if they got an A on one test. It was my responsibility to do continuous checks for understanding. Please ensure this proposal includes requirements for all emission sources covered in DEP's already adopted standards for new oil and gas sources. I am relying on you to protect my environment and my health. Thank you.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

Jessica Shirley
Director, Office of Policy
PA Department of Environmental Protection