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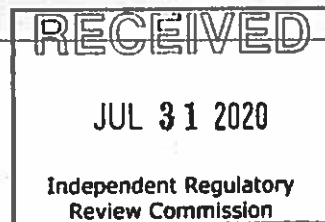
Kathy Cooper

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**From:** ecomment@pa.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 5:57 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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**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:

Teresa Baumgardner  
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Aliquippa, PA 15001 US

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Comments entered:

Methane leaks across Pennsylvania's entire oil and gas supply chain have created a million-ton methane problem that threatens our health, accelerates climate change, and imperils our children's futures. The evidence is in: Methane leaks and VOC emissions mean more premature births and birth defects for our children; more heart problems, cancers, asthma, and susceptibility to the likes of COVID-19 for us all; and more weather extremes, from rain bombs to droughts, for our farmers. In turn, the climate change that methane contributes so heavily to is increasing our risk not only for or more flooding and wildfires, but also for heatwaves, smog, and insect-borne diseases," according to the SWPA EHP.

Given that 25 percent of our climate-warming pollution is traceable to methane, we urgently need to close the loopholes in this rule-making, starting with loopholes for low-producing wells that account for half of all emissions statewide.

We also need to ensure that operators remain responsible for conducting frequent inspections of equipment even when previous inspections have not revealed significant leaks. Because methane leaks can happen at any time and are unrelated to previous performance, this loophole for inspections makes no sense.

If this regulation will indeed, as DEP estimates, reduce methane emissions from oil and gas operations by 75,000+ tons per year and VOC emissions by more than 4,400 tons, that is a step in the right direction. But neither climate pollution nor Gov. Wolf's climate goals can be addressed with half measures: The people of Pennsylvania need a strong final rule that is free of loopholes for the oil and gas industry is critical. Please protect us by enacting that strong final rule.

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No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Shirley

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