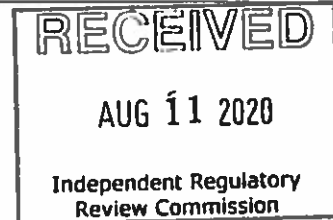


3256

Kathy Cooper

**From:** ecomment@pa.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, August 7, 2020 12:49 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:

Lois Bower-Bjornson  
Clean Air Council (loisbjornson@gmail.com)

, PA US

Comments entered:

Hello All,  
I trust that everyone is safe, healthy and doing well.

Please see attached comment letter from 28 impacted residents. I have the privilege of working with these residents and making their voices heard.

There is a great need for residents of Pennsylvania like myself and those on this list to strengthen the proposed rules to protect those of us living in the shale fields from past and future leaking of methane, volatile organic compounds (VOC's) and climate change disasters.

**Impacted Residents Demand Stronger Air Pollution Rules for the Oil and Gas Industry**

We are Pennsylvania residents impacted by the oil and gas industry. For decades, this industry has polluted our air, water, and land, harming the health of our families. Each year, Pennsylvania's oil and gas industry leaks 1.1 million tons of methane per year.

Harmful volatile organic compounds (VOCs) leak alongside methane, threatening our families with potentially severe health impacts such as cancer, birth defects, threats to pregnancy, and damage to the central nervous system. It is unconscionable that operators have been allowed to harm our families with this unchecked air pollution for so long without our government holding them accountable.

It is encouraging that the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has proposed a rule to reduce methane and harmful VOCs from existing natural gas infrastructure. However, in order to better protect the health of my family, DEP must strengthen the proposed rule by removing industry loopholes.

We demand DEP strengthen the rule in the following ways:

Close the loophole 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.

Ensure this proposal includes requirements for all emission sources covered in DEP's already adopted standards for new oil and gas sources.

By strengthening the rule in these critical ways, DEP can adopt standards that will greatly reduce methane and VOC pollution and better protect our families, schools and communities today and safeguard our climate for tomorrow.

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

Comments Attachment: [Clean Air Council Signers.pdf](#)

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Shirley

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