

Flora Cardoni, PennEnvironment Deputy Director
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Public Comments for Citizens Advisory Council and Environmental Justice Advisory Board Meeting
In regards to “40 CFR Part 60, Subpart OOOOc– Emissions Guidelines for Greenhouse Gas Emissions
from Existing Crude Oil & Natural Gas Facilities” Presentation

My name is Flora Cardoni. I am the Deputy Director with PennEnvironment, the statewide, citizen-based, environmental advocacy nonprofit and I’m based in Philadelphia. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments today on behalf of thousands of PennEnvironment’s citizen members across the state who are clamoring for real action to tackle the climate crisis and protect our health. In order to do that, it is essential that we rein in harmful methane pollution from Pennsylvania’s oil and gas sector.

It is estimated that each year, oil and gas companies operating in Pennsylvania release 1 million tons of methane.

This methane pollution is a major contributor to the climate crisis. That’s because methane is a potent greenhouse gas that traps over 80 times as much heat as carbon dioxide over a 20 year period. We simply cannot address climate change properly without reining in methane pollution.

In addition to contributing to the climate crisis, oil and gas activities and infrastructure crisscrossing Pennsylvania and country also lead to the release of dangerous toxic pollutants such as volatile organic compounds (often called “VOCs”). These emissions present significant health risks, including worsening asthma and other respiratory diseases, increased risk of developmental problems in young children, immune system damage, and even cancer.

Methane is also a major contributor to ground-level ozone, also known as smog. Studies show that smog pollution damages the lungs, and long-term exposure to smog is linked to millions of premature deaths globally each year.

That’s why PennEnvironment was thrilled when the U.S. EPA’s proposal to rein in harmful methane pollution was finalized last December. We are happy that this rule will help curb dangerous climate-warming emissions, limit harmful smog pollution, and reduce the release of pollutants known to worsen asthma and other respiratory diseases.

But there is more to be done.

As the [second-largest fracked gas producing state in the nation](#), Pennsylvania has an outsized responsibility to reduce climate and air pollution from the oil and gas sector. Given this, PennEnvironment encourages the Shapiro Administration and the Pennsylvania DEP to be as bold and ambitious as possible when coming up with a plan to reduce methane here in the Commonwealth. Whether that is a strong state implementation plan for EPA’s methane rule here in the Commonwealth, or, ensuring methane protections through a formal state rulemaking process, we need the strongest possible plan.

By setting a robust standard that exceeds federal requirements, Governor Shapiro and the PA DEP can turn the Commonwealth into a climate leader and help protect the health of the [nearly 1.5 million Pennsylvania families who live near oil and gas operations](#).

We need the strongest possible methane reduction plan to fully protect our health, tackle climate change, and build a safer and stronger Commonwealth. And I am confident the Governor and DEP will rise to the occasion to do so. Thank you.