

## What suspending EPA's oil and gas pollution standards means for Pennsylvania

### More Pollution Headed for Pennsylvania

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's action to suspend commonsense leak detection and repair requirements creates an immediate health and environmental threat for communities in Pennsylvania.

This loophole allows wells across the state to continue emitting methane, a powerful climate forcing pollutant, smog-forming volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) like benzene, a known human carcinogen.

In Pennsylvania, thus far over **800 new and modified wells are affected**, causing approximately an estimated<sup>1</sup>:

- 125-500 tons of methane pollution
- 35-140 tons of VOC pollution
- 1.25-5 tons of HAP pollution

And the latest state data reveal emissions have increased more than 20% over previous years.

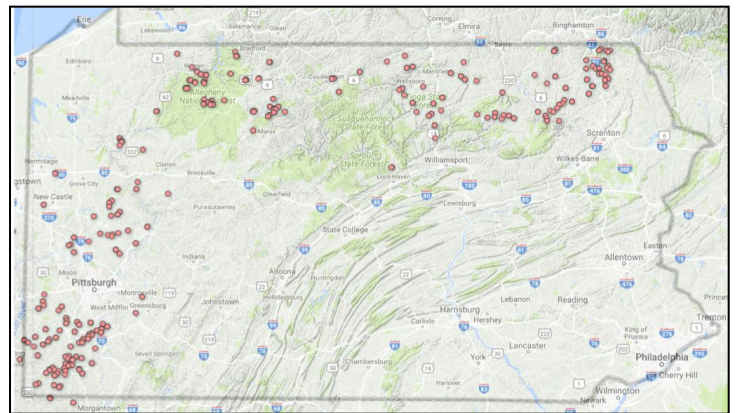
	COUNTIES	WELLS	POPULATION	EMISSIONS [TONS]		
				METHANE	VOCs	HAPs
AFFECTED COUNTIES	24	836	3,010,574	508	141	5
OZONE NON-ATTAINMENT AREA COUNTIES	6	274	2,209,566	198	55	2

<sup>1</sup> Emissions estimates represent the range of additional possible 90-day emissions. The lower bound is based on an assumption of constant reductions over time, which likely understates emission reductions given the importance of the first survey. The upper bound is a 90-day estimate based on annual mitigation percentages and field data showing that an initial survey can help to deliver much of this first-year benefit. The remainder of the emissions estimates in the factsheet are based on the annual percentages

### Current State Standards

Leak detection and repair requirements in Pennsylvania include quarterly inspections for compressor stations permitted after mid-2013.

Pennsylvania also has a voluntarily leak detection program for well sites and is in the process of updating its standards.



### Affected Well Sources in Pennsylvania

New wells are being drilled every day that, because of Administrator Pruitt's action, will not need to perform common sense leak detection and repair.

Affected wells in the state of Pennsylvania have generated:

- over **\$400 million** in estimated revenue
- nearly **150,000,000 Mcf** of gas
- over **100,000 barrels** of oil

Sources: Drillinginfo; U.S. EPA; U.S. Census (2016); EIA; Pennsylvania DEP

For more information, please contact Stacy MacDiarmid at 512-691-3439 or [smacdiarmid@edf.org](mailto:smacdiarmid@edf.org)