

Valentine, Velvet, EMNRD

From: Davidson, Florene, EMNRD
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2021 5:27 PM
To: Valentine, Velvet, EMNRD
Subject: FW: [EXT] New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission: Public comments OCD venting/flaring rule
Attachments: Sierra Club - OCC comments on OCD methane rule.docx

Case 21528

From: Miya King-Flaherty <miya.king-flaherty@sierraclub.org>
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2021 4:56 PM
To: Davidson, Florene, EMNRD <florene.davidson@state.nm.us>
Cc: Hearings, OCC, EMNRD <OCC.Hearings@state.nm.us>
Subject: [EXT] New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission: Public comments OCD venting/flaring rule

Dear Florene and Oil Conservation Commission,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comments from our members with the Sierra Club Rio Grande Chapter on the Oil Conservation Division's proposed rule regarding regulating the venting and flaring of natural gas from oil and natural gas production and gathering facilities.

Comments are attached and please feel to reach if there are issues with the document/comments.

Thank you,
Miya

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Sierra Club Rio Grande Chapter member comments: Comment on Oil Conservation Division's proposed methane regulation

To Commission clerk Florene Davidson (florene.davidson@state.nm.us)

Submission date: January 8, 2021

Dear Oil Conservation Commission:

I am writing to support Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's call for nation-leading methane reduction rules. To achieve that goal, the Oil Conservation Commission must strengthen the Oil Conservation Division's proposed methane waste rules to eliminate unnecessary waste and pollution.

The final rule must achieve three key goals:

1. Ban routine venting and flaring and only allow such activities when necessary for health and safety, and require flaring over venting except when necessary for health and safety.
2. Require oil and gas companies to capture 98% of methane emissions by 2026.
3. Strengthen state reporting and public notice requirements to improve transparency and ensure accountability of oil and gas operations.

Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas that is responsible for about 25% of the climate change we're experiencing today. Oil and gas companies release more than 1.1 million tons of methane, which has the same climate impacts as about 25 coal-fired power plants. Methane is also the primary component of natural gas, which means when methane is wasted, it costs our schools upwards of \$43 million in royalty and tax revenue.

The 2020 New Mexico Climate Strategy: Progress and Recommendations report revealed that the oil and gas sector generates 53% of all greenhouse gas emissions in the state, more than twice the amount than previously estimated.

Critically, the Climate Strategy report finds that "Our current and proposed climate strategies will make a significant dent in our greenhouse gas emissions profile by 2030—but reaching our targets will require renewed ambition and additional action."

To achieve our goals, the Oil Conservation Commission should:

- Require "green completions" to minimize methane emissions during completions and recompletions.
- Toughen provisions to ensure that flares stay lit and work properly at all times, preventing methane from being vented into the atmosphere.

- Require operators to immediately notify persons and communities at risk when methane releases threaten public health, safety, or the environment occur.
- Deny permits to drill new wells if operators are out of compliance with gas capture requirements. Operators should be required to invest first in complying with their legal requirements to prevent methane waste and pollution before they drill new wells.
- Prohibit routine venting and flaring during pipeline maintenance and repairs and only allow for flaring if necessary for safety.
- Ensure that any leaks or repairs through the ALARM program are verified by an independent third party to ensure the integrity of the program. While voluntary ALARM holds promise in incentivizing technological innovations, these programs are not a substitute for mandatory leak detection and repair requirements, the most important tool for reducing methane leaks.
- Finally, since nearly 70% of oil and gas methane pollution in New Mexico occurs through leaks, it is also critical that the New Mexico Environment Department adopt a rule that holds polluters accountable and cuts emissions across the oil and gas supply chain. NMED's draft rule fails to protect public health and our climate by exempting 95% of wells from regulation across the state from oversight and basic leak detection and repair requirements. The Commission should make clear that the agencies must work in parallel to achieve comprehensive rules that cut methane and air pollution.

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Personal Message

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The Earth's atmosphere is a single unit and it is long past the time where it was thought of as an unlimited dumping ground for pollutants. The oil and gas industry can and should meet tougher standards.

Myself & my children like 2 breath. Thanks.

I?m wondering if this can?t be accomplished in a smaller time frame than five years.

It is so important we focus on such realizable goals in our effort to decrease greenhouse gases and work to combat global warming!!

Stop poisoning the earth NOW - you know better!

We've had 4 plus years of weak action to cub methane emissions and we need it now.

protect us please

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Taking this action to limit methane waste will have a significant effect on slowing down climate change.

Climate change is real. Act like it.

As a concerned American and New Mexican, I urge the Commission to heed the above recommendations for the safety and well-being of all of us.

Thank you for your consideration.

New Mexico used to have snow-- a lot of it. The first 15 years that I owned my house in Edgewood, I had snow for Christmas. I've had snow once in the last seven. Not only that, March used to be wind and mud season. Now there is no mud season and the winds

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We need to protect our environment not only for ourselves but for our children and future generations in New Mexico!

Without a viable planet to live on our struggles hardly matter... let's stop killing our planet now.

For the health and future of our children and grandchildren PLEASE pass strict methane capture regulations. It's a matter of public health, environmental protection and financial efficiency. Thanks, Rob Hays.

New Mexico is a beautiful state, that has great potential to find a health balance between utilizing its natural resources with recreation and tourism. But to do this, we MUST keep use environmentally safe natural resource utilization methods. It IS possible

I want my home state to lead the country into the future, not keep it tied to the polluting ways of the past. You can be among the leaders of that transition!

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I believe that climate change is the single most threatening issue of our times. Limiting methane leaks and emissions is the minimal we should be doing to avoid climate catastrophe,

Addressing the factors that contribute to climate change is critical to our future. Please act now to protect our environment and our shared future.

Our children are counting on us to do the right thing. Now.

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We in NM are blessed with rich natural resources that can be developed without cost to environment - methane is NOT one of these - we have to tighten methane controls substantially.

These rules protect the environment and the public from health assaults and the effects of climate change. Please do all possible to be responsible in this decision and offer protections to the citizenry. Short-term gains should not trump long-term conce

We are still very dependent on oil and gas for our economy. But this should not be accomplished to the detriment of the health of us and our planet. The draft rule allowing 95% of wells to be exempted is embarrassing for your administration to have deve

These rule changes are essential to combat the current climate emergency!

We need to fix this NOW!

We must strengthen methane reduction laws now. The planet can't wait.

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This is a very important issue because I want not just my kids but future generations to be able to inherit a cleaner planet to live on. With all that has happened this past year we need to make some changes, good changes, all around. Thank you.

I am 66 years old and have difficulty breathing. I need clean air in order to live.

Protect us!! Protect our children!!

I can't believe we are having to urge for methane reduction!

Don't weaken. Strengthen!

As a mother, I hope that my children will be able to live in New Mexico their whole lives (should they want to, of course!). Preserving our climate and environment with strong methane-reduction rules that are strictly enforced is a crucial requirement fo

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I have grandchildren who need to be able to breathe!

The incompetence of the oil and gas industry is affecting us all. It stems from laziness and sloppiness because OUR rules are not strong enough to discourage their waste of this resource. Please act to strengthen the rules.

Michael Capeless
Albuquerque, N

We have been behind other states for too long and have let our environment suffer. We can?t let our beautiful state deteriorate knowingly.

we don't have the luxury of wasting that much energy, let alone releasing it as a pollutant. C'mon, this is simple.

It is obscene to allow oil and gas companies to increase their profits at the expense of our health. Please force them to clean up!

The truth stands alone!

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As a physician and primary care provider, i am keenly aware of the impact that climate change and pollution is having on the health of both children and adults . It is imperative that we have as strong a regulation as possible to curb methane waste.

This is urgent, especially here in New Mexico. Let?s work together to get a grip on global climate chaos. Keep Nee Mexico enchanted, I beg you!

We in New Mexico witness the increasingly disastrous effects of global warming, the direct result of our behavior. We in New Mexico know the health consequences of poorly regulated, careless work in the oil patch. We see our northern neighbor make money f

Please, Let's not downplay the importance of air quality.

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Please, everything we do now matters and impacts the future generations. Be apart of the people that stood for change! Stand up for what you know is right!

Air pollutants endanger everyone especially the poor.

As a physician I am deeply concerned about the effects of methane on health, especially the health of our children. Also, climate change will have a profound effect on the health of all people and methane plays a significant role in climate change. It is

Methane pollution is one of the worst contributors to climate change which is so clearly damaging our planet very seriously, and New Mexico is one of the worst methane polluters on this planet. Please tighten all the rules to essentially eliminate all the

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We must reduce greenhouse gases, particularly methane as it is such an "efficient" greenhouse gas. If we do this proposal of reducing the release of methane it will help the environment and increase sales of products, so at least marginally help the p

Reducing methane emissions is a very important step in dealing with climate change!

New Mexico is a place of natural beauty. Our clear blue skies are one of the biggest comments people remark on when they visit our state. Let's keep up with and go further to protect our skies, land, water and people safe from any forms of pollution (lik

Please adopt strong protections, to help protect air and environment quality for current and future generations.

The op-ed in the Guardian (Jan 7) : "Global healing could stabilize if net zero emissions achieved, scientists say" offers hope for our children, but only if we urgently reduce greenhouse gas emissions. What we do now will make a huge difference. "...

Helen Huntley helenhuntley@comcast.net

Please strengthen the proposed methane regulation to protect our health and our climate. Thank you.

Mario Manzo mpmanzo@windstream.net

It's not enough to be fouling precious, priceless, irreplaceable groundwater with grotesquely and deadly toxic chemicals? Oh no, we're going to throw away valuable resources and vastly exacerbate climate warming while we're at it. Does anyone value life

Clay Woody woodykla@aol.com

We must stop killing our families and our environment with this dirty energy. Mankind is heading directly for extinction and this is one reason.

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Please help protect the air we all depend on to breathe!
Reduction is essential as we all share air.

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I urge you to support methane regulation to reduce greenhouse gases and elevate our Land of Enchantment as a leader in protecting the environment. Thank you.

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It is way past time to stop treating methane as an expendable waste product and start treating it as a valuable resource! If it costs too much to capture all of it during the fossil fuel extraction process, then the extraction should be terminated!

It is past time to end the venting and stop the blame something else game. Get responsible for our actions.

Please do everything you can to curb methane and oil pollution. Our future depends upon you.

The air that we breathe is essential to our lives and good health. The imbalances of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere is reeking havoc on our country due to its effect on our climate and weather. Please do all that you can to protect our health and our

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This issue matters to me. As a resident of the state of New Mexico and an American citizen, it is time to figure out how we can manage oil and gas production in a manner that is not detrimental to our environment and health which includes MY environment a

We all have a duty to our children and grandchildren to keep the world we live in as safe as possible--continued good for us to live in. We don't have another world to live in!

I am a scientist educated as a physicist. I read the scientific literature on climate. It is more than obvious that our climate is changing for the worse and we are the cause. Methane is a powerful green-house gas.

Doing anything other than what is best for our planet is criminal and reckless to ourselves and future generations. Do the right thing and Strengthen Proposed Methane Rules instead of only thinking of your pocketbooks!!!

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Enough?handle methane waste or desist.
Keep fossil fuels in the ground.

It's now abundantly clear that climate change is the biggest threat to civilization since our species transitioned from hunting and gathering. Oil production and methane waste is a major contributor to that threat. It has to reduced far more quickly tha

Please help save our environment and keep people healthy.

I think Methane emissions is a dangerous health problem, and we must do better to control it, or eliminate it.
Curb methane gas pollution!

Please think beyond now and think GENERATIONS out

As a lover of nature in New Mexico my home I ask that the commission do everything in its power in its proposed methane waste rules to Eliminate all unnecessary waste and pollution at every juncture of the process

Please be part of the change we need for our children's sake.

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We need to create stricter methane reduction rules and provide for greater penalties for violations and prompt enforcement.

I want to leave a healthy Planet for my nine grandchildren. We must act now to strengthen the Methane rules!

Let's keep New Mexico the beautiful state it is.

As a long-time New Mexico resident, I'm committed to helping to keep our blue skies clean and clear.

Methane is one of the worst greenhouse gases. We need to protect our health and that of the earth's. As we have learned during the pandemic, clean air has a direct impact on our lungs.

I want to ensure that our state is environmentally friendly for future generations.

The amount of pollution in the air in Albuquerque is very high. The fracking, etc. I am sure adds to this, if not the main cause.

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These provisions are the MINIMUM that are required to protect public health and allow New Mexico to transition to a sustainable future.

We must care for the Earth, upon which we live, and depend upon for our very lives. We must remember that we are not separate from the Earth, but rather, part of it.

Please look at the data and see how severe our climate changes are. Accept the regulations that could help change our demise.

The health and well being of the American people must be honored. Money over humanity is despicable.

We need to take every action to reverse climate change immediately. We can no longer live like children playing with their toys in the attic while unaware that the house is on fire. Thank you.
NO methane waste should be allowed!

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You have a chance to help heal Earth and us! Please take it. Our lives depend on it.

Please make the rule sufficient to protect our air and water from oil and gas leaking and flaring. I am sick of seeing the pollution in my state.

Need to dedicate more federal money for environmental protections & get with the program on climate change after the last 4 years of damage that has been done, some of which will never recover. Hard to believe that one administration could be so destructi

oil and gas are becoming obsolete sources of energy, simply the environmental cost is too large

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Time to move on. Time for you all to work on actually securing NM's future, not lining pockets. Embrace a new future, Renewables. Oil production and use must be reduced.

Our air is the very foundation of Life along with water so we must protect it from being polluted. if we are going to extract things from the earth we must do it in a way that causes least harm

Top priority for the planet and all on it.
Stop the level of pollution this industry creates.

We are nearing the tipping point on climate change. We must take action now!

Reducing methane rates would be in the best interest of New Mexico communities and residents' health. Thank you for strengthening methane waste rules,

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Methane is one of THE worst gases contributing to climate change - which in turn has already had devastating effects on many people's lives - from fires to floods and hurricanes. Plus - in contributes to air pollution which impacts my wife's asthma big t

It is super important to me to do what we can to regulate this potent gas and show others how to clean up the mess we've made so future generations have clean air to breathe. Plain and simple. Get it done. Enough pollution and death!!!!!!!!!!!!

A good start, but it needs to be strengthened.

Remember that all of these actions look towards the future . We must take the long view

Thank you.

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It pains me to know that the oil & gas produced in NM that fuels my car and heats my home is causing physical harm to people and the planet from methane & VOCs that are unnecessarily leaked & vented. THIS MUST STOP!

Commission Members, climate change is real and continues to impact humans in New Mexico and throughout our country. Require oil and gas companies to capture 100 percent of methane in the near future. Thank you

Please strengthen these rules so that we may all breathe!

At this point in time in the history of the planet you as government representatives must make the hard decision and be unlike Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana and not gift the oil and gas industry more breaks on methane leakage and flaring

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The fate of the earth rests in our many decisions. This is one of those decisions that will affect us all far into the future. Please, choose life-affirming regulation over quick quick profit.

The harm methane gases are doing to the communities and environment are out of control. Stronger rules have to be enacted and enforced. People over profit!

New Mexico should be a leader in renewable energy and conservation. We can show the world how to phase out fossil fuels and energy.

If humanity is to survive, every one of us must do everything we can to protect our home. Our climate problems keep getting worse which tells me that we aren't doing nearly enough to mitigate the damage. It is incumbent on those making the rules and regul

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Please remember that our most valuable resources here in New Mexico are clean air, clean water, and healthy citizens!! Methane released by oil and gas companies threatens all three of these important resources. The released methane is equivalent in nega

Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas that is responsible for about 25% of the climate change we're experiencing today.

Personally, I am experiencing climate change here in Taos. In my past decade living here:

? Our winters are shorter, our snowfall amoun

Methane is such a significant contributor to climate change, it is vital that companies be required to significantly limit the release of this gas. Doing so is for the greater good.

New Mexico has a methane problem and its time for NM to step up and clean up the industry

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We all know what the big problem is here! The answer is ?fix it?! The real solution is to eliminate every harmful waste spilled into our environment!

You get the picture! Do the right thing! It?s time to go green.

As a long-time citizen of New Mexico, I have seen to growth of the oil/gas industry in this state and this region. As we work on a long-term transition to a fully clean energy economy, there are options for more responsible development--including rules th

I was camping at Brantley Reservoir and the entire night sky was lit up from flaring and when the wind died down, the entire campground was filled with the unhealthy and noxious odor of methane coming from the venting. I left ASAP, but I couldn?t imagine

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These oil and gas companies are dinosaurs. They are exhausted companies. They're akin to being ossified, unable to move into a new direction of green energy because they're stuck in a rut. It's time to give them an ultimatum: either grow in a green direct

For all the arguments proffered by industry about the good done by the energy industry and the essential resources they provide, this argument is specious and doesn't address the simple fact that having goods and resources are of little importance if the

Even though I believe oil and gas is very important for our economy I also feel is necessary to begin phasing out fossil fuel?s on a timely manner and moving towards more renewable resources. This cannot happen overnight but it needs to begin now so we ca

I am extremely concerned about our climate and environment and how it not only affects this generation but how it will affect future generations. Please strengthen your rules today!

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Methane releases also poses major risks to the Native Americans living in the northwest part of New Mexico, which is the largest methane hotspot in the United States. I have a Navajo colleague who grew up near Counselor and whose family is still there, an