



The EPA is holding public hearings in Pittsburgh, Denver and Dallas this month to hear from people just like you on their proposal to cut air pollution from the oil and gas industry.

This is a great opportunity to finally tell those in charge that we all deserve to breathe clean air! Let them know that clean air and a healthy environment can be a reality, and that it takes leadership and commitment to make it happen.

EPA Hearing Locations

Pittsburgh, PA

Date: Tuesday, September 27, 2011 (9am–8pm)

Location: David L. Lawrence Convention Center
Rooms 315 and 316
1000 Ft. Duquesne Blvd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
Tel: (412) 565-6000
<http://www.pittsburghhcc.com>

Denver, CO

Date: Wednesday, September 28, 2011 (9am–8pm)

Location: Colorado Convention Center
Room 207
700 14th Street
Denver, CO 80202
Tel: (303) 228-8000
<http://denverconvention.com>

Arlington, TX

Date: Thursday, September 29, 2011 (9am–8pm)

Location: Arlington Municipal Building
City Council Chambers
101 W. Abram Street
Arlington, TX 76010
Tel: (817) 459-6122
<http://arlingtontx.gov/cityhall>

What to Expect at the Hearings

Representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will attend each hearing. The doors will open at 9am; you can attend any time between 9am and 8pm.

When you arrive, if you have not already registered to speak, you'll be asked to add your name to a list of speakers and you'll be given an approximate time to speak. You will have five minutes to deliver your comments. There will be breaks for meals provided from 12:30pm to 2pm, and 5pm to 6:30pm.

Preparing for the Hearings

- To guarantee yourself a time to speak at the hearing, contact Joan C. Rogers at Rogers.JoanC@epamail.epa.gov or (919) 541-4487 at least 2 business days before the hearing. Include the time you wish to speak, your name, affiliation, address, email, and phone number.
- Compose your comment prior to the hearing. Personalize your comments. Let EPA officials know why strong air rules are important to you and your family.
- Keep your comment related to the issue at hand: the EPA is proposing cuts to oil and gas industry emissions.
- Use our talking points (on the reverse side of this page) for more information.
- Bring an extra copy of your comments so you can leave them with EPA officials.

Details of the EPA's Plan

The EPA estimates their plan will have the following results:

- Reduce cancer-causing air pollutants such as benzene, by 38,000 tons—a 30% reduction.
- Reduce volatile organic compound (VOC) pollution by 540,000 tons—a 25% reduction. VOC emissions lead to smog formation.
- Reduce methane pollution by 3.4 million tons—a reduction of 26%. Methane is a greenhouse gas that is over 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide. This will be like shutting down 15 coal-fired power plants.
- Generate a net savings of \$30 million annually due to decreased waste of natural gas.



Use these talking points to personalize your comment—why is clean air important to *you*?

A Big Step Forward.

The EPA's proposal is a step forward for public health and the environment. The rules promise hundreds of thousands of tons of pollution reductions from drilling operations and the controversial technique known as hydraulic fracturing, or fracking. Smog-forming volatile organic compounds, cancer-causing toxic pollutants, and methane (a potent greenhouse gas) will be reduced. The EPA should stay strong in ensuring that all reasonable measures are taken to control these harmful emissions.

Public Health Needs These Rules.

Oil and gas drilling is increasingly threatening public health and the environment. Fracking has enabled the industry to drill in places that have never before been drilled. Our air quality challenges are mounting by the day. Rural areas of the country are now suffering the same air quality problems as some of the largest cities in the country. Existing rules are inadequate and out-of-date. The EPA must ensure our safeguards are not just keeping pace with drilling but putting protections in place for communities before the drilling starts.

Consider The Cumulative Impacts.

The problem isn't just each one oil and gas well, but it's hundreds or even thousands across the landscape. The EPA must ensure the collective impacts of oil and gas drilling are fully addressed, especially for local communities that are facing a drilling onslaught.

The Rules Aim For Efficiency.

The EPA estimates that the proposed pollution control measures will save the gas industry \$30 million per year by preventing waste of natural gas. These controls are already being successfully used by some companies. The rules help get the rest of the industry up-to-date and start to ensure a consistent level of air quality protection nationwide.

Ensure Our Safety Net Is As Strong As Possible.

The EPA should strengthen the proposed limits on air pollution when it finalizes its plan. The EPA must control methane directly. The oil and gas industry is the largest U.S. source of methane. Greater reductions in methane emissions, smog forming compounds, and toxic air pollutants than those proposed by the EPA are necessary and possible using currently available technologies. Local communities, and especially children, living near these facilities urgently need stronger protection from unacceptable cancer and other health threats from the oil and gas industry. The EPA should use its authority to ensure that existing, outdated equipment does not continue to pollute the air. The EPA should also set limits for all toxic emissions, including hydrogen sulfide from wells. And the EPA should ensure that the public really knows what is going into their local air.

Finally, the EPA needs to get rid of the part of the rule known as the malfunction defense so that industry can't get away with polluting at unlawful levels without paying any penalty, while communities suffer the consequences.