

Issue: Environment

Legislator: Governor Tom Wolf

Date: January 19, 2016

Content: Remarks by Governor Wolf at Facebook Town Hall on Climate Change, Energy, and the Environment

TRANSCRIPT:

Harrisburg, PA - Today, we are announcing a new way forward that protects our environment, reduces climate change and helps businesses by reducing waste of a valuable product.

Methane, the primary component of natural gas, has been identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as the second-most prevalent greenhouse gas emitted in the United States from human activities. It has more than 25 times more warming power than carbon dioxide.

Sec. Quigley and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has developed a cost-effective strategy to reduce methane emissions from the oil and natural gas industry. These “best-in-class” measures that Pennsylvania will require are already used by industry-leading companies, required by Federal regulations, or mandated by other states.

The best companies understand the business case for reducing methane leaks. Methane that doesn’t leak into the atmosphere can be used for energy production. DEP will develop and implement four emission-reduction measures to focus on both gas production and transmission, requiring efficiency upgrades for equipment, implementation of best practices, and more frequent use of leak-sensing technologies.

The changes in regulations and permitting are designed to improve product delivery efficiency and streamline permitting. The costs of these requirements will be a fraction of a percent of the industry revenues in Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania is the second-largest producer of natural gas in the nation behind Texas, and we are uniquely positioned to be a national leader in addressing climate change while supporting and ensuring responsible energy development, creating new jobs, and protecting public health and our environment.

These regulations will improve our air, address the urgent crisis of climate change and help businesses reclaim product that is now wasted. It is a win-win for everyone.

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