

Terryl Eckert

David Easterling, a climate scientist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for 30 years, has studied extreme rain and says that the flooding in North Carolina from Hurricane Helene which in some places dropped 20 inches of rain was "bind boggling" (Lauren Sommer, NPR: ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, October 3, 2024). This rainfall happening is more than a 1 in 1,000 year event. It's happening because the earth is getting warmer and the heat in the atmosphere holds more moisture. The cause of which is mainly from the burning of fossil fuels. Because of new federal legislation rainfall records at NOAA will now be updated to show nationwide how climate change will make rainfall heavier. Old data can not be used to project future happenings. From North Carolina to Wyoming new legislation is necessary to control man's imprint on the warming of the earth.

I am in favor of the Wyoming DEQ's efforts to improve and expand new rules under Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations. The new rules would apply to methane emissions from oil and gas development, a contributor to at least 25% of earth's warming. With the addressing of methane emissions, these regulations would also make gas more cost effective in competition with the green sources of energy. And the International Energy Agency has advised that 45% of methane emissions can be scaled back at no cost. Along with these positive new guidelines, poor air quality and the alerts that come with it can be decreased.

Our children and grandchildren should not have to be using inhalers and other medicines to be able to breathe. I know because at times mine are. Whether it's heat related excess rain or polluted air quality from methane emissions, climate is being affected by our use of fossil fuels and we need to change course and develop new strategies to deal with these challenges affecting all of us. Thank you for your attention to my comments.