

**Response to Comments  
Full Document**

**Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality  
Air Quality Division  
R-27 Proposed Rulemaking**

*(Environmental Quality Council Hearing  
Held on November 17, 2016)*

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**Comment from: Ginger Stout**

P-1

Ginger Stout

October 20, 2016

Administrator  
Air Quality Division  
200 West 17th Street  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Dear Administrator:

I am writing to express my support for the Wyoming DEQ Air Quality Division's recommendation to incorporate the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's New Source Performance Standards into the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations. These rules are critical to reducing methane emissions and reducing other pollutants that impact the health and wellbeing of our citizens.

P-1-1

While I strongly support the adoption of these important new federal standards, I would also like to see the state expand its strong state emissions reductions requirements in the Upper Green River Basin across Wyoming. I am especially concerned about the current flaring and venting of natural gas resources and the loss of this revenue source.

I am a former principal with the Wyoming Girls School and Instructional Facilitator with Sheridan County School District #1. I spent my entire career in education. Severance taxes are vitally important to our state and local governments as well as to our schools. Flared gas is a non-renewable resource that is lost forever and severance taxes should be collected upon removal of the resource whether it is sold or flared. This is money that should be benefiting our schools and citizens today or in the future. Now more than ever, it is imperative that we do not let our resources be wasted.

Wyoming's future depends on a highly educated populace which in turn depends on providing a first rate education. In order achieve this, Wyoming needs to hire and retain excellent teachers, keep class sizes as small as possible, ensure access to high-quality early education, keep up with the latest technology, and continue to develop and challenge Wyoming's next generation of workers, entrepreneurs, leaders, and innovators. Without a continued robust investment in education Wyoming will struggle to maintain economic competitiveness, realize economic diversification, and attract new businesses and industries.

Providing opportunities for Wyoming's students is one of the most important things we can do for our state and our society. Given the current budget realities in Wyoming we need to ensure we are not overlooking any possible revenue sources. We need them all.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulations on Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources found in 40 CFR part 60, Subpart OOOOa are very important for

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addressing air quality in Wyoming. I urge you to incorporate them into the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations and follow that up by strengthening statewide flaring and venting measures.

Sincerely,

Ginger Stout  
P.O. Box 3  
Big Horn, Wy. 82833

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**Response to: Ginger Stout**

P-1-1

Thank you for submitting your comment regarding the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Air Quality Division's (AQD) proposed rulemaking package (R-27), which includes proposed revisions that incorporate by reference the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) New Source Performance Standards (NSPS), Subpart OOOOa, from the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) into the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations (WAQSR). The Division appreciates the time and resources committed in reviewing the proposed revisions and providing a written comment.

The Division additionally appreciates the comments supporting the proposed incorporation by reference of OOOOa into the WAQSR. Supportive comments were received from a wide spectrum of stakeholder perspectives during the public comment period, and the Division appreciates the interest and feedback from all parties. OOOOa establishes new standards for the oil and natural gas category as determined necessary by the EPA. The proposed rules will ensure that the State maintains primacy over these federal rule updates – including OOOOa – that would otherwise still apply to sources at the federal level. Requests for additional requirements for oil and natural gas sources in Wyoming, however, fall beyond the scope of this particular rulemaking.

Please feel free to contact me at 307-777-7391 if you have any questions regarding the proposed rulemaking.

Sincerely,

Nancy Vehr

Air Quality Administrator

Department of Environmental Quality

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**Comment from: Lucky Lambdin**

P-2

Lucky Lambdin

To whom it may concern:

The Wyoming Department of Air Quality Division's recommendation to incorporate and adopt by reference the EPA's recent rules to reduce oil and gas emissions of methane and smog-forming volatile organic compounds and air toxics is the right course. The proposed adoption of the new EPA rules is also a requirement in order for Wyoming to maintain primacy.

Wyoming DEQ should go further and take the lead to make these new rules apply to all old and existing oil and gas facilities not just new facilities. We understand EPA is working on a rule that would require this in the near future and we believe Wyoming has been and should continue to be a leader in this area. There is nothing in the EPA rules that prevents Wyoming from establishing more stringent standards and making these rules apply to existing oil and gas facilities.

DEQ should go further and expand the oil and gas emission and pollution reduction requirements that are required in the Jonah Pinedale area to apply across Wyoming. EPA recently reduced the 8-hr ozone standard so it is time for Wyoming to get ahead of the pollution that occurred in the Pinedale area and prevent it from happening in other oil and gas production areas. While the air quality outside of the Jonah Pinedale area currently meets national health-based standards for ozone the oil and gas permitting, the oil and gas activity in eastern Wyoming and particularly in Laramie, Converse and Campbell county puts several Wyoming counties close to exceeding the ozone standard. It is a wise move for the DEQ to strengthen and expand the existing Pinedale oil and gas requirements statewide.

DEQ should also strengthen Wyoming state rules, by expanding quarterly leak detection and repair requirements and making those rules address emissions from existing sources statewide.

Lucky Lambdin.

Sheridan, Wyoming.

P-2-1

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**Response to: Lucky Lambdin**

P-2-1

Thank you for submitting your comment regarding the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Air Quality Division's (AQD) proposed rulemaking package (R-27), which includes proposed revisions that incorporate by reference the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) New Source Performance Standards (NSPS), Subpart OOOOa, from the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) into the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations (WAQSR). The Division appreciates the time and resources committed in reviewing the proposed revisions and providing a written comment.

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Please feel free to contact me at 307-777-7391 if you have any questions regarding the proposed rulemaking.

Sincerely,

Nancy Vehr

Air Quality Administrator

Department of Environmental Quality

Lisa Grutzmacher

Please The Wyoming Department of Air Quality Division's recommendation to incorporate and adopt the EPA's rules to reduce oil and gas emissions of methane and smog-forming volatile organic compounds and air toxins, including benzene, a known carcinogen to humans. Wyoming must adopt the new EPA rules in order for Wyoming to maintain primacy.

I also recommend that the Wyoming DEQ should apply the new rules to not only new facilities, but also apply the new rules to all old and existing oil and gas facilities. Wyoming needs to show its foresight and be proactive in adapting rules for the health and benefit of it's citizens.

Also, expanding oil and gas emission and pollution reduction requirements, as required in the Jonah Pinedale area, to apply across Wyoming, would demonstrate a proactive stance in public and environmental health.

The DEQ should also strengthen Wyoming state rules, by expanding quarterly leak detection and repair requirements and making those rules address emissions from existing sources statewide.

P-3-1

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**Response to: Lisa Grutzmacher**

P-3-1

Thank you for submitting your comment regarding the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Air Quality Division's (AQD) proposed rulemaking package (R-27), which includes proposed revisions that incorporate by reference the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) New Source Performance Standards (NSPS), Subpart OOOOa, from the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) into the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations (WAQSR). The Division appreciates the time and resources committed in reviewing the proposed revisions and providing a written comment.

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Sincerely,

Nancy Vehr

Air Quality Administrator

Department of Environmental Quality



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**Comment from: Edith Heyward**

P-4

Edith Heyward

The Wyoming Department of Air Quality Division's recommendation to incorporate and adopt by reference the EPA's recent rules to reduce oil and gas emissions of methane and smog-forming volatile organic compounds and air toxics is the right course. Wyoming DEQ should go further and take the lead to make these new rules apply to all old and existing oil and gas facilities not just new facilities. We understand EPA is working on a rule that would require this in the near future and we believe Wyoming has been and should continue to be a leader in this area. There is nothing in the EPA rules that prevents Wyoming from establishing more stringent standards and making these rules apply to existing oil and gas facilities.

DEQ should go further and expand the oil and gas emission and pollution reduction requirements that are required in the Jonah Pinedale area to apply across Wyoming. EPA recently reduced the 8-hr ozone standard so it is time for Wyoming to get ahead of the pollution that occurred in the Pinedale area and prevent it from happening in other oil and gas production areas. While the air quality outside of the Jonah Pinedale area currently meets national health-based standards for ozone the oil and gas permitting, the oil and gas activity in eastern Wyoming and particularly in Laramie, Converse and Campbell county puts several Wyoming counties close to exceeding the ozone standard.

DEQ should also strengthen Wyoming state rules, by expanding quarterly leak detection and repair requirements and making those rules address emissions from existing sources statewide.

Thank you.

P-4-1

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**Response to: Edith Heyward**

P-4-1

Thank you for submitting your comment regarding the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Air Quality Division's (AQD) proposed rulemaking package (R-27), which includes proposed revisions that incorporate by reference the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) New Source Performance Standards (NSPS), Subpart OOOOa, from the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) into the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations (WAQSR). The Division appreciates the time and resources committed in reviewing the proposed revisions and providing a written comment.

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Please feel free to contact me at 307-777-7391 if you have any questions regarding the proposed rulemaking.

Sincerely,

Nancy Vehr

Air Quality Administrator

Department of Environmental Quality

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**Comment from: Kris Korfanta**

P-5

Kris Korfanta

Thank you for the opportunity for input. I would like you to not only adopt the rules to reduce air pollutant emissions from oil and gas production, but also to strengthen them and to require them to apply to existing facilities. Having regular leak detection checks would be an important step as well. Wyoming needs to ensure its air quality is the best it can be. Our clean air, clean water and open spaces are important to our health, our economy's health, and to the nation's health.

P-5-1

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**Response to: Kris Korfanta**

P-5-1

Thank you for submitting your comment regarding the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Air Quality Division's (AQD) proposed rulemaking package (R-27), which includes proposed revisions that incorporate by reference the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) New Source Performance Standards (NSPS), Subpart OOOOa, from the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) into the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations (WAQSR). The Division appreciates the time and resources committed in reviewing the proposed revisions and providing a written comment.

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Sincerely,

Nancy Vehr

Air Quality Administrator

Department of Environmental Quality

Charles and Marilyn Ham

· The Wyoming Department of Air Quality Division's recommendation to incorporate and adopt by reference the EPA's recent rules to reduce oil and gas emissions of methane and smog-forming volatile organic compounds and air toxics is the right course. The proposed adoption of the new EPA rules is also a requirement in order for Wyoming to maintain primacy.

· Wyoming DEQ should go further and take the lead to make these new rules apply to all old and existing oil and gas facilities not just new facilities. We understand EPA is working on a rule that would require this in the near future and we believe Wyoming has been and should continue to be a leader in this area. There is nothing in the EPA rules that prevents Wyoming from establishing more stringent standards and making these rules apply to existing oil and gas facilities.

· DEQ should go further and expand the oil and gas emission and pollution reduction requirements that are required in the Jonah Pinedale area to apply across Wyoming. EPA recently reduced the 8-hr ozone standard so it is time for Wyoming to get ahead of the pollution that occurred in the Pinedale area and prevent it from happening in other oil and gas production areas. While the air quality outside of the Jonah Pinedale area currently meets national health-based standards for ozone the oil and gas permitting, the oil and gas activity in eastern Wyoming and particularly in Laramie, Converse and Campbell county puts several Wyoming counties close to exceeding the ozone standard. It is a wise move for the DEQ to strengthen and expand the existing Pinedale oil and gas requirements statewide.

· DEQ should also strengthen Wyoming state rules, by expanding quarterly leak detection and repair requirements and making those rules address emissions from existing sources statewide.

P-6-1

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**Response to: Charles and Marilyn Ham**

P-6-1

Thank you for submitting your comment regarding the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Air Quality Division's (AQD) proposed rulemaking package (R-27), which includes proposed revisions that incorporate by reference the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) New Source Performance Standards (NSPS), Subpart OOOOa, from the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) into the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations (WAQSR). The Division appreciates the time and resources committed in reviewing the proposed revisions and providing a written comment.

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Please feel free to contact me at 307-777-7391 if you have any questions regarding the proposed rulemaking.

Sincerely,

Nancy Vehr

Air Quality Administrator

Department of Environmental Quality

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**Comment from: Michael Clift**

P-7

Michael Clift

November 2, 2016

Administrator Air Quality Division 200 West 17th Street Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

RE: Support New Source Performance Standards into the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations

Dear Administrator:

I am writing in support of the Wyoming DEQ Air Quality Division's recommendation to incorporate the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's New Source Performance Standards into the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations. These rules are an important step in improving air quality in Wyoming.

While I fully support adopting the EPA's standards, New Source Performance Standards only deal with new and modified sources. Existing sources should also be addressed. Along with these new source rules I would like to see Wyoming expand emissions reduction requirements across the state- mirroring those in place in the Upper Green River Basin. I am extremely concerned about emissions from both an environmental and financial standpoint. I am currently an English teacher at Sheridan High School. I also own mineral interests on several hundred acres of land in Johnson County. These are very difficult financial times for our state. Oil and gas is a source of revenue we will need both now and in the future.

The loss of revenue is of special concern to me as it pertains to education. Our future as a state depends on a strong, fully funded education system. Wyoming needs to look at all potential revenue sources. No one revenue stream will get the state back to financial stability. Every potential revenue source should be considered as part of the overall solution.

P-7-1

Adopting the EPA's regulations on Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources found in 40 CFR part 60, Subpart OOOOa by incorporating them into the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations is prudent. Those of us who live in Wyoming value clean air and fiscal responsibility. Addressing emissions and the associated waste is critical.

Sincerely,

Mike Clift 559 West Works St. Sheridan, WY 82801

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**Response to: Michael Clift**

P-7-1

Thank you for submitting your comment regarding the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Air Quality Division's (AQD) proposed rulemaking package (R-27), which includes proposed revisions that incorporate by reference the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) New Source Performance Standards (NSPS), Subpart OOOOa, from the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) into the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations (WAQSR). The Division appreciates the time and resources committed in reviewing the proposed revisions and providing a written comment.

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Please feel free to contact me at 307-777-7391 if you have any questions regarding the proposed rulemaking.

Sincerely,

Nancy Vehr

Air Quality Administrator

Department of Environmental Quality



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Comment from: Environmental Defense Fund/Wyoming Outdoor Council

A-1



November 14, 2016

Nancy Vehr, Air Quality Division  
122 West 25th Street  
Cheyenne, WY 82002

**VIA Electronic Mail**

Dear Administrator Vehr:

Thank you for accepting these comments on behalf of the Environmental Defense Fund (“EDF”) and the Wyoming Outdoor Council (“WOC”). EDF is a national membership organization with over 1 million members residing throughout the United States who are deeply concerned about the pollution emitted from natural gas sources. Established in 1967, the Wyoming Outdoor Council is the state’s oldest independent conservation organization. WOC’s mission is to protect Wyoming’s environment and quality of life for future generations.

EDF and WOC support the Air Quality Division’s (“Air Division”) recommendation to incorporate by reference the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s New Source Performance Standards (“NSPS”) from the Federal Register OOOOa (40 CFR part 60) into the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations, in order to incorporate the most recent versions of the federal rules.

EPA’s OOOOa rules represent critical protections to reduce methane emissions, securing important reductions in smog-forming volatile organic compounds and air toxics as well as cutting emissions of a potent greenhouse gas. Methane contributes to higher global background concentrations of ozone pollution.<sup>1</sup> Methane, the primary constituent of natural gas, has a global warming potential as much as 87 times greater than CO<sub>2</sub> over a 20-year time frame.<sup>2</sup> EPA anticipates the OOOOa requirements will prevent the release of 300,000 tons of methane into the atmosphere in 2020, equivalent to 6.9 million metric tons of carbon dioxide-equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub> Eq.), using a 100-year global warming potential

A-1-1

<sup>1</sup> J. Jason West et al., Global Health Benefits of Mitigating Ozone Pollution with Methane Emission Controls, 103 PROC. NAT’L ACAD. SCI. 3988, 3989 (2006).

<sup>2</sup> Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis, Contribution of Working Group I to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (Thomas Stocker et al., eds. 2013), available at [https://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar5/wg1/WG1AR5\\_ALL\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar5/wg1/WG1AR5_ALL_FINAL.pdf).

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of 25.<sup>3</sup> The rules will also reduce harmful air toxics by 1,900 tons and volatile organic compounds by 150,000 tons by 2020.<sup>4</sup>

While offering our strong support for the adoption by reference of these important new federal standards, we also urge the Air Division to retain existing Wyoming state requirements that are at least as protective as their federal equivalents contained in OOOOa, and to move expeditiously to expand its strong state emissions reductions requirements across Wyoming.

A number of the OOOOa requirements, as well as the 2012 OOOO requirements, build on existing Wyoming clean air measures. It is imperative that Wyoming retain its standards that are as protective, or more protective, than EPA's in order to ensure the continued improvement of air quality in Wyoming's Upper Green River Basin ozone nonattainment area, and also to protect the air quality in the rest of the state from deterioration. Importantly, EPA recently lowered the 8-hour standard for ozone, and while all counties currently attain the standards, the state has a duty to protect and maintain healthy air. Expanding the sensible, proven requirements applicable in the Upper Green River Basin is a highly cost effective way to ensure that this critical goal is attained.

And finally, while we recognize it is outside the scope of this proceeding, we urge the Air Division to quickly initiate a process to strengthen its state rules, by expanding its quarterly leak detection and repair requirements, and adopting rules that address emissions from existing sources statewide. Such actions will be vital to keeping Wyoming in its traditional leadership role at the forefront of state and federal air quality regulations, and to protecting Wyoming's air.

#### **Wyoming Must Retain All Requirements that Are More Stringent than Federal Standards**

We urge the Air Division to retain those state requirements that are at least as stringent as federal requirements contained in OOOOa, consistent with clear statutory authority, and with its practices in the past.

The Wyoming Environmental Quality Act clearly provides the state with the authority to adopt more stringent state requirements than federal, and we strongly urge the state to retain any such standards.

The declaration of policy and purpose elevates state control of air resources over that of other jurisdictions. This provision provides:

it is hereby declared to be the policy and purpose of this act...***to retain for the state*** the control over its air, land and water and to secure cooperation between

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<sup>3</sup> 81 Fed. Reg. 35824, 35827 (June 3, 2016).

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

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agencies of the state, agencies of other states, interstate agencies, and the federal government in carrying out these objectives. **(emphasis added)**

WY ST. § 35-11-102.

Furthermore, in 2012, the Air Division retained its existing clean air measures after incorporating by reference the EPA OOOO requirements, even though many of the Wyoming requirements are more stringent than the OOOO requirements. This further underscores the ability of the state to do so here.

Wyoming's permit requirements for minor oil and gas sources provide a benchmark upon which EPA's NSPS should be measured; for this reason, and to ensure healthy air is protected and restored to all Wyoming citizens, the Air Division must retain all state air requirements that are more protective than EPA's. This is particularly true with respect to certain elements of the state's LDAR and flash emission requirements.

Wyoming has a long history of demonstrating national leadership when it comes to implementing clean air measures for the oil and gas industry. It was one of the first states to adopt rigorous air pollution control measures for crude oil, gas and condensate production sources in 1995. Since then it has gradually strengthened and expanded on these initial permit requirements, lowering emission thresholds and expanding requirements to other types of activities—all the while remaining at the forefront of clean air policy. Wyoming was one of the first states to add a quarterly leak detection and repair requirement for new and modified well sites, require venting limits on pneumatic controllers, and control liquids unloading activities. Wyoming was also one of the first states to regulate existing oil and gas sources.

Even though EPA's final NSPS departs from similar Wyoming requirements in certain instances, we do not believe this is a reason for the Air Division to relax its standards. The success of the clean air measures in the UGRB and the imperative to protect and maintain healthy air in pristine areas mandates the opposite. This is particularly true with respect to retention of those aspects of the state's LDAR requirements and the Division's approach to reducing flash emissions from storage vessels and separators.

**The Air Division Should Retain its 98% Control Requirement and Approach to Reducing Flash Emissions from Storage Vessels**

A number of aspects of Wyoming's flash emission requirements for storage vessels and separators are more protective than EPA's and thus should control.

First, Wyoming requires 98% control of VOCs and HAPs from all storage tanks and separation vessels. EPA's NSPS requires only 95% control from storage vessels; it does not apply to separators. As demonstrated by Wyoming's longstanding requirements, modern pollution controls such as enclosed flares and vapor recovery devices are capable of achieving at least 98% control of VOCs and HAPs. Accordingly, the Air Division should retain its 98% control requirement.

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Second, the Air Division should continue to define a storage vessel as all storage vessels at a facility for purposes of determining whether controls must be installed or removed. EPA defines a storage vessel as a single tank. This distinction is important. For example, assume the presence of five storage vessels at a facility, each of which emits five tons per year of VOCs. Under EPA's approach, no controls would be required on any storage vessel because the emissions potential of each individual tank falls below six tons per year. The Wyoming Division takes a different, and more protective, approach. It sums the emissions of all tanks at a facility for purposes of determining whether controls are required. Thus, in this current example, for a facility located statewide, if the sum flash emissions from all tanks and separators equaled 6 Tpy, controls would be required even though each individual tank's emissions fall below 6 Tpy.<sup>5</sup> Because the state's approach is more protective than EPA's, and has been demonstrated to be feasible and cost effective, we urge the Air Division to retain its current method for determining whether or not tanks must install controls.

**The Air Division Should Retain its Quarterly Leak Detection and Repair (LDAR) Requirement and Expand Application to All Sources Statewide**

We urge the Air Division to retain its quarterly LDAR requirement in the UGRB and furthermore to set a date certain by which it will expand the application of this requirement to all well sites statewide. Equipment leaks from production sources represent a significant source of VOCs, HAPs and methane emissions and instituting quarterly LDAR inspections is one of the most effective means to reduce such emissions. Equipment leaks are the second largest source of methane and third largest source of VOCs in the state, according to inventories submitted by operators to the EPA and DEQ.<sup>6</sup> Indeed, multiple scientific studies demonstrate that leaks are not correlated to production levels and can randomly pop up at all types and sizes of facilities, underscoring the importance of frequent, comprehensive inspections.<sup>7</sup>

Further, quarterly instrument-based inspections can remove significant VOCs, HAPs, and methane, from the atmosphere for very low costs. In nearly every instance, well site operators are able to monetize the value of recovered gas, either by routing the gas to a pipeline or using it onsite. This is borne out by the experience of many operators, including Jonah Energy's experience implementing voluntary monthly inspections at all of its multi-well sites in the UGRB. According to Jonah Energy, "the estimated gas savings from the repair of leaks identified often exceeds the labor and material cost of

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<sup>5</sup> Note, this is not the case for tanks in the JPAD and CDAs where all tanks, regardless of emissions, must be controlled by 98%. We support the retention of this approach to requiring 98% control of flash emissions in the JPAD and CDA, regardless of the potential to emit. Such standards are necessary to ensure clean air to citizens residing in and near the ozone nonattainment area.

<sup>6</sup> 2014 EPA Subpart W inventory for the production sector; Wyoming DEQ 2011 NEI inventory.

<sup>7</sup> See Harriss et al., "Using Multi-Scale Measurements to Improve Methane Emissions Estimates from Oil and Gas Operations in the Barnett Shale, Texas: Campaign Summary," available at <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/acs.est.5b02305>.

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repairing the identified leaks.”<sup>8</sup> During the UGRB existing source rulemaking we estimated the cost effectiveness of quarterly inspections at well sites with 4 tons of VOCs as \$1,442 per ton of VOC reduced assuming no credit for gas savings and \$480 assuming credit for recovered gas.

In addition to retaining its quarterly LDAR requirement in the UGRB, we respectfully request the DEQ implement this requirement statewide. About 45% of the total fugitive VOC emissions in Wyoming come from counties outside the Upper Green River Basin.<sup>9</sup> Fugitive emissions are likely to increase in the basins outside of this area due to the growth in production in the eastern portions of the state and absence of any federal controls for existing sources. This, coupled with EPA’s lower ozone standard, necessitates stronger actions to reduce hydrocarbon emissions that contribute to ozone pollution.

Additionally, we urge the DEQ to require fugitive emission monitoring at smaller well sites statewide. According to the most recent data, the vast majority of fugitive VOC emissions – 88% - come from wells emitting less than 4 tpy, which is less than the current control threshold for new and existing well sites in the UGRB.<sup>10</sup> These smaller wells collectively cause the bulk of the fugitive VOC emissions in Wyoming and should not be left unregulated.

#### **The Air Division Should Follow Up with State Rules for Existing Sources**

The NSPS applies only to new and modified sources and therefore a significant gap remains with respect to existing pollution sources. All of the current methane, VOCs and air toxics reported by industry to the state and EPA emanate from existing sources. Indeed, the only requirements currently on the books that will reduce such pollution are the Wyoming rules that apply to sources in the Upper Green River Basin nonattainment area. EPA has yet to propose any requirements that will apply comprehensively to emissions of methane and VOCs from existing sources. The EPA’s Control Techniques Guidelines apply only to sources of VOCs located in moderate or above ozone nonattainment areas. Wyoming has no such areas. The proposed Bureau of Land Management venting and flaring rules, once final, apply only on federal and tribal lands. Accordingly, there is considerable room for Wyoming to act to address existing sources of pollution.

We respectfully request the DEQ set a date certain by which it will regulate existing oil and gas sources statewide. Wyoming has already adopted regulations for existing sources in the UGRB. We strongly urge the DEQ to extend the coverage of the requirements to all existing sources statewide, thereby once again preserving its role as a leader in promulgating clean air measures for oil and gas facilities. As ICF International found,

<sup>8</sup> Comments submitted to Mr. Steven A. Dietrich from Jonah Energy LLC on Proposed Regulation WAQSR, Chapter 8, Nonattainment Area Regulations, Section 6, Upper Green River Basin Permit by Rule for Existing Sources (April 13, 2015).

<sup>9</sup> Emissions data obtained by EDF from the DEQ inventory

<sup>10</sup> Id.

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nearly 90 percent of the oil and gas sector's emissions in 2020 will come from existing infrastructure.<sup>11</sup>

In sum, we urge the Environmental Quality Council to approve of the Air Division's proposal to incorporate by reference the NSPS OOOOa rules. We further urge the Air Division to commit to retaining existing state requirements that are at least as protective as those contained in OOOOa, to set a date certain by which it will propose a statewide quarterly LDAR requirement, and propose rules to address emissions from existing oil and gas sources statewide.

Thank you,



Jon Goldstein  
Elizabeth Paranhos  
Environmental Defense Fund

And on behalf of

Chris Merrill  
Wyoming Outdoor Council

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<sup>11</sup> ICF International, "Economic Analysis of Methane Emission Reduction Opportunities in the U.S. Onshore Oil and Natural Gas Industries," (March 2014), available at <https://www.edf.org/energy/icf-methane-cost-curve-report>. ICF looked specifically at the percentage of methane emissions contributed by existing sources. They did not conduct a comparable estimate of the amount of VOC emissions that come from existing oil and gas sources. Nevertheless, it is reasonable to expect that existing oil and gas sources are also responsible for the vast majority of VOC emissions from the oil and gas sector due to the sheer number of existing oil and gas facilities.

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**Response to: Environmental Defense Fund/Wyoming Outdoor Council**

A-1-1

Thank you for submitting your comment regarding the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Air Quality Division's (AQD) proposed rulemaking package (R-27), which includes proposed revisions that incorporate by reference the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) New Source Performance Standards (NSPS), Subpart OOOOa, from the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) into the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations (WAQSR). The Division appreciates the time and resources committed in reviewing the proposed revisions and providing a written comment.

The Division additionally appreciates the comments supporting the proposed incorporation by reference of OOOOa into the WAQSR. Supportive comments were received from a wide spectrum of stakeholder perspectives during the public comment period, and the Division appreciates the interest and feedback from all parties. OOOOa establishes new standards for the oil and natural gas category as determined necessary by the EPA. The proposed rules will ensure that the State maintains primacy over these federal rule updates – including OOOOa – that would otherwise still apply to sources at the federal level. Requests for additional requirements for oil and natural gas sources in Wyoming, however, fall beyond the scope of this particular rulemaking.

Please feel free to contact me at 307-777-7391 if you have any questions regarding the proposed rulemaking.

Sincerely,

Nancy Vehr

Air Quality Administrator

Department of Environmental Quality

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**Comment from: Powder River Basin Resource Council**

A-2

Powder River Basin Resource Council

Comments from the Powder River Basin Resource Council regarding new rules.



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ENCOURAGING RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT TODAY ~ FOR TOMORROW

934 N. MAIN ST. SHERIDAN, WY 82801 (307) 672-5809 FAX (307) 672-5800  
INFO@POWDERRIVERBASIN.ORG WWW.POWDERRIVERBASIN.ORG



November 15, 2016

Nancy Vehr, Administrator  
Air Quality Division,  
200 West 17th Street,  
Cheyenne Wyoming, 82002

submitted via DEQ electronic comments

Re: New source performance standards, involve incorporating 40 CFR part 60, subparts OOOO, OOOOa and TTTT into the WAQSR by reference from the CFR.

We commend the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Air Quality Division's recommendation to adopt rules that would further reduce emissions of air pollutants such as methane and other volatile organic compounds from oil and gas development. This rule would do much to protect Wyoming's air quality and to protect our state's residents from harmful emissions.

However, we think these rules should be strengthened by applying statewide the existing oil and gas requirements for the Jonah Pinedale fields. Currently, Wyoming air quality meets national health-based standards for ozone but when oil and gas activity ramps up in eastern Wyoming, particularly in Laramie, Converse, and Campbell Counties, their air quality will likely exceed these ozone standards. Applying today's Jonah Pinedale standards to all of Wyoming would avoid negative health impacts from emissions in the rest of the state.

We also recommend that Wyoming DEQ make these new rules apply to all existing oil and gas facilities, rather than just new facilities. Finally, DEQ should also expand quarterly leak detection and repair requirements to apply to existing sources statewide. Leaks are the second largest source of oil and gas emissions in the state, after flaring and venting. This change would significantly reduce these harmful emissions.

We thank the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Air Quality Division for proposing to adopt these new rules and ask that the Environmental Quality Council go even further to curb emissions from oil and gas facilities and protect the public health of Wyoming's citizens.

Sincerely,

A-2-1

---



Bob LeResche  
Chair, Powder River Basin Resource Council

---

**Response to: Powder River Basin Resource Council**

A-2-1

Thank you for submitting your comment regarding the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Air Quality Division's (AQD) proposed rulemaking package (R-27), which includes proposed revisions that incorporate by reference the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) New Source Performance Standards (NSPS), Subpart OOOOa, from the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) into the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations (WAQSR). The Division appreciates the time and resources committed in reviewing the proposed revisions and providing a written comment.

The Division additionally appreciates the comments supporting the proposed incorporation by reference of OOOOa into the WAQSR. Supportive comments were received from a wide spectrum of stakeholder perspectives during the public comment period, and the Division appreciates the interest and feedback from all parties. OOOOa establishes new standards for the oil and natural gas category as determined necessary by the EPA. The proposed rules will ensure that the State maintains primacy over these federal rule updates – including OOOOa – that would otherwise still apply to sources at the federal level. Requests for additional requirements for oil and natural gas sources in Wyoming, however, fall beyond the scope of this particular rulemaking.

Please feel free to contact me at 307-777-7391 if you have any questions regarding the proposed rulemaking.

Sincerely,

Nancy Vehr

Air Quality Administrator

Department of Environmental Quality

---

**Comment from: Carl Carmichael**

B-1

Carl Carmichael

please see attached file for my comments Carl

---

November 4, 2016

Administrator  
Air Quality Division  
200 West 17th Street  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002  
Dear Administrator:

I am writing to express support for the Wyoming DEQ Air Quality Division's recommendation to incorporate the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) into the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations. These rules are critical to ~~reducing methane emissions and reducing other pollutants that impact the health~~ and wellbeing of our citizens.

While I strongly support the adoption of these important new federal standards, The NSPS applies only to new and modified sources. A significant gap remains with respect to existing pollution sources. All of the current methane, volatile organic compounds and air toxics reported by industry to the state and EPA emanate from existing sources. The only current requirements that will reduce such pollution are the Wyoming rules that apply to sources only in the Upper Green River Basin nonattainment area. EPA has yet to propose any requirements that will apply comprehensively to emissions of methane and VOCs from existing sources.

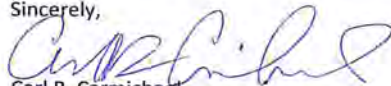
That is why I would like to see the state expand its strong state emissions reductions requirements in the Upper Green River Basin across Wyoming. I am especially concerned about the current flaring and venting of natural gas resources and the loss of this revenue source.

We have a moral responsibility to reduce waste occurring on public lands. In doing so, we protect our citizens from air pollution and prevent non-renewable resources from being lost into the environment. Waste causes unnecessary environmental degradation and adds to the problems associated with climate change. Wasting our resources ensures those resources will never be used as a revenue source for our schools and communities. There is no one solution to Wyoming's budgetary challenges but we can and should start by reducing the needless waste of our natural gas resources. Recently, the Consensus Revenue Estimating Group projected Wyoming's K-12 budget alone will be short \$103 million for the current two-year funding cycle. In this climate, waste cannot be tolerated.

I ask that the Environmental Quality Council adopt the EPA's regulations on Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources found in 40 CFR part 60, Subpart OOOOa by incorporating them into the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations. This is a very important step. It is however just one of the necessary steps and the state that should expedite the strengthening of statewide flaring and venting regulations and comprehensive requirements addressing methane and VOCs from existing sources.

Thank you for your attention to this very important issue.

Sincerely,



Carl R. Carmichael  
894 Olympus Drive  
Sheridan, WY 82801  
307.421.7575

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**Response to: Carl Carmichael**

B-1-1

Thank you for submitting your comment regarding the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Air Quality Division's (AQD) proposed rulemaking package (R-27), which includes proposed revisions that incorporate by reference the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) New Source Performance Standards (NSPS), Subpart OOOOa, from the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) into the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations (WAQSR). The Division appreciates the time and resources committed in reviewing the proposed revisions and providing a written comment.

The Division additionally appreciates the comments supporting the proposed incorporation by reference of OOOOa into the WAQSR. Supportive comments were received from a wide spectrum of stakeholder perspectives during the public comment period, and the Division appreciates the interest and feedback from all parties. OOOOa establishes new standards for the oil and natural gas category as determined necessary by the EPA. The proposed rules will ensure that the State maintains primacy over these federal rule updates – including OOOOa – that would otherwise still apply to sources at the federal level. Requests for additional requirements for oil and natural gas sources in Wyoming, however, fall beyond the scope of this particular rulemaking.

Please feel free to contact me at 307-777-7391 if you have any questions regarding the proposed rulemaking.

Sincerely,

Nancy Vehr

Air Quality Administrator

Department of Environmental Quality

October 19, 2016

Administrator  
Air Quality Division  
200 West 17th Street  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Received

OCT 26 2016

Air Quality Division

Dear Administrator:

I am writing to express my support for the Wyoming DEQ Air Quality Division's recommendation to incorporate the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's New Source Performance Standards into the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations. I strongly feel that air quality is an important issue and I want to ensure that the life we enjoy in Wyoming is protected. Rules need to be adopted that reduce methane emissions smog-forming volatile organic compounds.

I am the Vice President of the Circle Nine Ranch in Boulder, WY. Our ranch has been in the family for 49 years. I raised my two daughters in the community. In Wyoming we value our scenic beauty, clean air, and clear mountain vistas. Unfortunately, in the time I have lived here, I have seen a significant deterioration of the air quality. We used to be able to clearly see the mountains. That is no longer the case. We are losing the very thing that makes Wyoming a great place to live.

Along with the loss of visibility my family has experienced health problems due to declining air quality. My mother struggled with breathing problems, one daughter has asthma and another has incredible allergies which do not run in our families. As an active and avid outdoors woman, I also worry about air quality and the health impacts of pollution. I spend a considerable amount of time in the mountains. My husband and I are dedicated to our health. People who are active outdoors are susceptible to ozone pollution. Most Wyoming residents live outdoors. I want to make sure my family is being protected when we spend time experiencing everything Wyoming has to offer.

I have been encouraged by steps Wyoming has taken over the last few years to protect our air quality. This movement needs to continue. We can protect the scenic beauty of Wyoming and public health at the same time by incorporating U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulations on Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources found in 40 CFR part 60, Subpart OOOOa into the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations. The Wyoming Air Quality Advisory Board unanimously voted to incorporate these regulations into the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations. The Environmental Quality Council should do the same. Please work to protect the environment we all depend on and adopt these rules and make sure they are providing the best protection for our state as possible.

Sincerely,

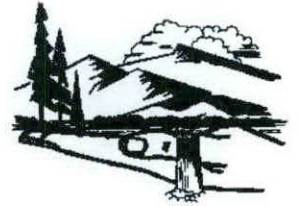


Jennifer Wilson  
62 Ridge Road  
Lander, WY 82520



# Department of Environmental Quality

*To protect, conserve and enhance the quality of Wyoming's environment for the benefit of current and future generations.*



Matthew H. Mead, Governor



Todd Parfitt, Director

November 16, 2016

Mrs. Jennifer Wilson  
Vice President  
Circle Nine Ranch  
62 Ridge Road  
Lander, WY 82520

**RE: Response to Environmental Defense Fund and Wyoming Outdoor Council's Comments on Wyoming's Proposed Revisions to Chapter 2, Sections 6 and 12, Ambient Standards, Chapter 3, Sections 3 and 9, General Emission Standards, Chapter 4, Section 6, State Performance Standards for Specific Existing Sources, Chapter 5, Sections 2 and 4, National Emission Standards, Chapter 6, Sections 3 and 14, Permitting Requirements, Chapter 7, Section 3, Monitoring Regulations, Chapter 8, Section 10, Nonattainment Area Regulations, and Chapter 11, Section 2, National Acid Rain Program of the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations (R-27)**

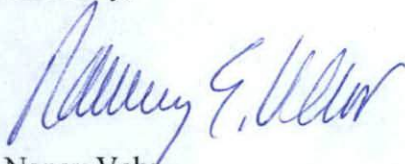
Dear Mrs. Jennifer Wilson:

Thank you for submitting your comment regarding the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) – Air Quality Division's (Division) proposed rulemaking package (R-27), which includes proposed revisions that incorporate by reference the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) New Source Performance Standards (NSPS), Subpart OOOOa, from the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) into the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations (WAQSR). The Division appreciates the time and resources committed by Circle Nine Ranch in reviewing the proposed revisions and providing a written comment. The Division also appreciates the support received for the incorporation by reference of OOOOa into the WAQSR. The proposed rules will ensure that the State maintains primacy over these federal rule updates – including OOOOa – that would otherwise still apply to sources at the federal level.

A public hearing before the Environmental Quality Council (EQC) is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on November 17, 2016, in Room 1699 of the Herschler Building, 122 West 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Cheyenne, Wyoming. Please feel free to contact me at 307-777-3746 if you have any questions regarding the proposed rulemaking.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nancy Vehr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Nancy Vehr  
Air Quality Administrator  
Department of Environmental Quality

Cc: Amber Potts, AQD  
Darion Donnelly, AQD  
Rob Leteff, AQD  
Mike Morris, AQD

 **AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION**  
OF THE MOUNTAIN PACIFIC

Serving Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming

November 15, 2016

Nancy Vehr, Air Quality Administrator  
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Air Quality Division  
200 West 17<sup>th</sup> Street  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Via email: [nancy.vehr1@wyo.gov](mailto:nancy.vehr1@wyo.gov) and U.S. Mail

Dear Administrator Vehr:

The American Lung Association in Wyoming appreciates the opportunity to submit these comments on the Department's proposal to update Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations, particularly as this action relates to the control of methane and other air emissions from new and modified oil and gas sources in the State of Wyoming.

The Department proposes to adopt by reference certain federal regulations – 40 CFR Part 60, Subparts OOOOa and TTTT – that establish emission standards for new oil and gas facilities. The implementation of these requirements will help prevent future health problems and premature deaths. The standards will reduce methane, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and toxic air emissions in the oil and natural gas industry, and we support the Department's rigorous implementation and enforcement of these standards.

At the same time, we ask that you proceed with your efforts to address fugitive air emissions from oil and gas operations, also known as leak emissions, which are well known to comprise a significant amount of air pollution in the State of Wyoming. While the Federal Regulations to be adopted through this rulemaking address leak detection and repair to some degree, the more comprehensive leak detection and repair requirements that are in place in the Upper Green River Basin are proving to be workable and effective and should be implemented throughout Wyoming.

Oil and gas operations have expanded throughout Wyoming in recent years, and this expansion has been accompanied by increases in air pollution. The American Lung Association's 2016 State of the Air Report found that ground-level ozone pollution, a well-known byproduct of oil and gas development, increased in several Wyoming counties. The grades of seven counties dropped by one or two grades for ozone emissions despite a trend seen across the nation of lower ozone levels. The State of the Air Report linked worsened ozone levels in many areas of the western United States with increased oil and gas extraction, transmission, and processing activities.

Oil and gas operations emit significant amounts of air pollutants that threaten human health, including various air toxics such as benzene and formaldehyde, both known carcinogens, and other volatile organic chemical compounds. VOCs are harmful to health on their own and also lead to the formation of deadly ozone pollution. Collectively, these pollutants can harm the circulatory, respiratory, nervous, and other essential and vital life systems, and can cause cancer, developmental disorders, and premature death.

Oil and gas facilities also emit large quantities of industrial methane, a potent climate change pollutant. Climate change already threatens the health of millions of Americans, from extreme heat, increased air pollution, worsened wildfires, and more. The changing climate threatens the health of Americans alive now and in future generations.

Fugitive air emissions from oil and gas wells and other equipment constitute the second largest source of oil and gas related VOC pollution in the state, according to industry data. Effective measures to detect and promptly repair such leaks exist. In fact, the State of Wyoming approved a rigorous Leak Detection and Repair (LDAR) program in the Upper Green River Basin in order to address a serious ozone pollution problem stemming from increased oil and gas development in that region.

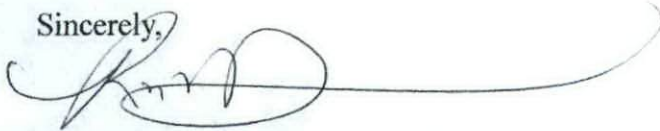
Implementation of LDAR requirements in the Upper Green River Basin is yielding positive results, with Sublette County showing improvements in its ozone pollution levels, according to the 2016 State of the Air Report.

Given the significant public health impacts from oil and gas related air pollution and the effectiveness of rigorous leak detection and repair requirements, the State of Wyoming should be implementing a statewide LDAR program that is commensurate with that in place in the Upper Green River Basin. While the federal regulations that this rulemaking intends to formalize contain leak detection and repair provisions, they are less rigorous than that being implemented in the Upper Green River Basin and thus will be less effective in protecting Wyoming citizens against dangerous air pollution.

Comprehensive leak detection and repair requirements are needed statewide to protect the most vulnerable populations today, as well as future generations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

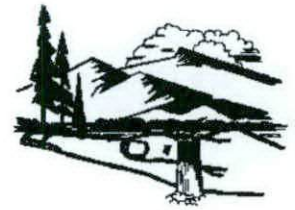
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ronni Flannery', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ronni Flannery, Healthy Air Director  
**American Lung Association in Wyoming**  
936 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, West  
Missoula, MT 59801



# Department of Environmental Quality

*To protect, conserve and enhance the quality of Wyoming's environment for the benefit of current and future generations.*



Matthew H. Mead, Governor

Todd Parfitt, Director

November 16, 2016

Ronni Flanner  
Healthy Air Director  
American Lung Association in Wyoming  
936 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, West  
Missoula, MT 59801

**RE: Response to American Lung Association in Wyoming's Comments on Wyoming's Proposed Revisions to Chapter 2, Sections 6 and 12, Ambient Standards, Chapter 3, Sections 3 and 9, General Emission Standards, Chapter 4, Section 6, State Performance Standards for Specific Existing Sources, Chapter 5, Sections 2 and 4, National Emission Standards, Chapter 6, Sections 3 and 14, Permitting Requirements, Chapter 7, Section 3, Monitoring Regulations, Chapter 8, Section 10, Nonattainment Area Regulations, and Chapter 11, Section 2, National Acid Rain Program of the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations (R-27)**

Dear American Lung Association in Wyoming:

Thank you for submitting your comment regarding the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) – Air Quality Division's (Division) proposed rulemaking package (R-27), which includes proposed revisions that incorporate by reference the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) New Source Performance Standards (NSPS), Subpart OOOOa, from the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) into the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations (WAQSR). The Division appreciates the time and resources committed by the American Lung Association in reviewing the proposed revisions and providing a written comment. The Division also appreciates the support with the implementation of OOOOa and TTTT. The proposed rules will ensure that the State maintains primacy over these federal rule updates – including OOOOa – that would otherwise still apply to sources at the federal level.

Regarding the American Lung Association's comment regarding addressing fugitive air emissions from oil and gas emissions, those items are beyond the scope of this rulemaking.

As clarification to the American Lung Association's 2016 State of the Air Report's finding that ground-level ozone pollution has increased in several Wyoming counties, evidence shows that all counties have been attaining the national standard for ozone backed with quality assured data. Having levels under the national standard ensures that counties in Wyoming have clean and safe air for the public. EPA has acknowledged that the Upper Green River Basin (UGRB) has attained the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS)<sup>1</sup>. The State of

<sup>1</sup> See 81 Fed. Reg. 26697 (May 4, 2016)

Wyoming has recommended that EPA designate statewide attainment for the 2015 national standards.<sup>2</sup>

A public hearing before the Environmental Quality Council is scheduled for 1:30 P.M. on November 17, 2016, in Room 1699 of the Herschler Building, 122 West 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Cheyenne, Wyoming. Please feel free to contact me at 307-777-3746 if you have any questions regarding the proposed rulemaking.

Sincerely,



Nancy Vehr  
Air Quality Administrator  
Department of Environmental Quality

Cc: Amber Potts, AQD  
Darion Donnelly, AQD  
Rob Leteff, AQD  
Mike Morris, AQD

---

<sup>2</sup> See Wyoming Governor's Office Letter, 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) – Wyoming Designation Recommendation, (2016).

November 17, 2016

Nancy Vehr, Administrator  
Air Quality Division,  
200 West 17th Street,  
Cheyenne Wyoming, 82002

**FILED**

**NOV 17 2016**

Jim Ruby, Executive Secretary  
Environmental Quality Council

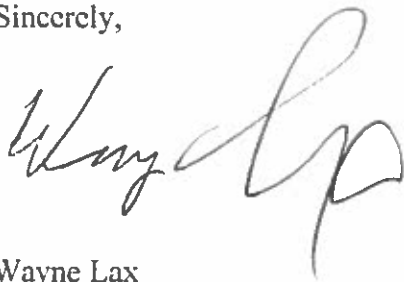
We thank the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Air Quality Division's recommendation to adopt rules that would help reduce emissions from oil and gas development. This rule is much needed to protect Wyoming's air quality and our state's residents from harmful emissions.

However, given the significant increase of drilling permits in Laramie County over the last few years, we believe it would be in the best interest of Laramie County residents and all of Wyoming to implement the oil and gas requirements for the Jonah-Pinedale area statewide. Laramie County is already nearing the threshold for ozone and further drilling will likely cause the county to surpass that threshold. Strengthening these rules will prevent that from happening.

We also recommend the Wyoming DEQ expand quarterly leak detection and repair requirements to apply to existing sources statewide. Leaks are the second largest contributor of oil and gas emissions in the state, after flaring and venting. Applying this to existing sources would reduce harmful emissions even further.

We thank the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Air Quality Division for proposing to adopt these new rules and ask that the Environmental Quality Council go even further to curb emissions from oil and gas facilities and protect the public health of Wyoming's citizens.

Sincerely,



Wayne Lax  
Vice President, Cheyenne Area Landowners Coalition



# Department of Environmental Quality

*To protect, conserve and enhance the quality of Wyoming's environment for the benefit of current and future generations.*



Matthew H. Mead, Governor



Todd Parfitt, Director

November 21, 2016

Mr. Wayne Lax  
Vice President  
Cheyenne Area Landowners Coalition

**RE: Response to Environmental Defense Fund and Wyoming Outdoor Council's Comments on Wyoming's Proposed Revisions to Chapter 2, Sections 6 and 12, Ambient Standards, Chapter 3, Sections 3 and 9, General Emission Standards, Chapter 4, Section 6, State Performance Standards for Specific Existing Sources, Chapter 5, Sections 2 and 4, National Emission Standards, Chapter 6, Sections 3 and 14, Permitting Requirements, Chapter 7, Section 3, Monitoring Regulations, Chapter 8, Section 10, Nonattainment Area Regulations, and Chapter 11, Section 2, National Acid Rain Program of the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations (R-27)**

Dear Mr. Lax

Thank you for submitting your comment regarding the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) – Air Quality Division's (Division) proposed rulemaking package (R-27), which includes proposed revisions that incorporate by reference the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) New Source Performance Standards (NSPS), Subpart OOOOa, from the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) into the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations (WAQSR). The Division appreciates the time and resources committed in reviewing the proposed revisions and providing a written comment.

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Please feel free to contact me at 307-777-3746 if you have any questions regarding the proposed rulemaking.

Sincerely,

Nancy Vehr  
Air Quality Administrator  
Department of Environmental Quality

Cc: Amber Potts, AQD  
Darion Donnelly, AQD  
Rob Leteff, AQD  
Mike Morris, AQD