



ALLEGHENY COUNTY

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Fitzgerald Supports Methane Reduction for Existing Natural Gas Operations

PITTSBURGH – County Executive Rich Fitzgerald has added his support to efforts being undertaken by the Wolf Administration to reduce methane from the oil and gas sector by encouraging efforts to address emissions of methane from existing natural gas operations. His letter to Governor Wolf memorializing his verbal support of those steps follows:

“It was a pleasure speaking with you last week regarding my support for actions being taken by your administration to reduce methane from the oil and gas sector. I thought it best to memorialize that conversation and ask that you accept this letter as my formal support of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection’s Methane Reduction Strategy.

“My support of the energy industry and the development of energy in this region and state is well-known. I’ve also been just as bullish that it must be done in a responsible way so that public health and the environment are protected. We know that the oil and gas industry is the largest source of methane and that methane is one of the most potent greenhouse gases. It has also been shown that emissions of methane and other pollutants escape oil and gas wells and that we must be diligent about looking for and limiting those emissions. The permits to control air pollution from new unconventional natural gas operations that took effect a few months ago will have significant impact on the reduction of emissions of methane and other compounds, but we must also address emissions of methane from existing operations. As technologies and best practices continue to evolve, the ability for the industry to address and reduce these emissions continues to grow and, perhaps, just as importantly, is the right thing to do. I urge you to continue the strong work that you have been doing and to move forward with regulations that will require the same type of emission controls for existing facilities. This focus ensures that the health and well-being of our residents is priority.

“We can have both a strong economy and a healthy, safe environment. By continuing forward with your efforts to address reduction of methane from the oil and gas industry, we can have a significant impact in addressing this critical issue in Pennsylvania. I stand ready to help in any way that I can and thank you for your leadership on this issue.”

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