

From: [NMOAI, NMENV](#)
To: [Spillers, Robert, NMENV](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] NMED draft rule feedback
Date: Thursday, September 17, 2020 7:38:46 AM

From: Angelo Tomedi [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 9, 2020 8:04 AM
To: NMOAI, NMENV
Subject: [EXT] NMED draft rule feedback

Liz Bisbey-Kuehn

NMED Air Quality Bureau

Dear Ms. Bisbey-Kuehn,

My name is Dr. Angelo Tomedi. I am a Family Medicine physician. I live in Albuquerque and work in th UNM Southeast Heights clinic and for Presbyterian Hospital in Socorro. I am speaking on my own behalf and out of concern for the patients who suffer from the adverse effects of methane and air pollution from oil and gas development. I want to thank the Environment Department for the opportunity to offer feedback regarding the NMED draft rule.

New Mexico has a methane waste and pollution problem that is polluting our air, harming our climate, and posing a serious health threat to all New Mexicans, as well as costing our schools millions of dollars in revenue. The pollution emitted from oil and gas production worsens asthma and affects lung development in children, and causes other serious health problems. A recent study has shown that pregnant women who live close to oil and gas wells have a higher risk of preterm birth, which is the leading cause of infant death.

Our state has some of the worst methane pollution in the nation. The N.M. Environment Department (NMED) has failed to put forward a proposal that adequately protects the health of New Mexicans. The NMED rule exempts most wells from oversight of leak detection and repair requirements. The exemptions for stripper wells and the 15 tons per year pollution threshold for volatile organic compounds should be removed because they exempt most wells in the New Mexico. Pneumatic devices, a large source of emissions, should also be included in leak detection and repair requirements. Zero emission pneumatics should be considered.

Gov. Lujan Grisham has committed to adopting the oil and gas rules that are needed to cut methane and air pollution and safeguard the health of New Mexicans and the health of our planet. I would like to strongly urge the agencies to make the critical rule changes necessary to honor that commitment.

Thank you

Angelo Tomedi, MD