



Particulate matter (PM) can be monitored continuously, and thus can be used as a tool for viewing fluctuations (or changes) in emissions. This is important because PM<sub>2.5</sub> (fine particles with a diameter of 2.5 µm or less), which is very toxic on its own, may be inhaled deep into the lungs and carry other airborne toxic substances with it.



Addressing air quality by controlling and regulating shale gas emissions is important for everyone's health, but it is vital near facilities such as hospitals, schools and day care centers, assisted living and nursing homes that house vulnerable populations. People located nearby and downwind from gas facilities often breathe toxic emissions at unhealthy doses.

1. **Emissions from shale gas infrastructure are invisible** unless viewing FLIR (Forward Looking Infrared) camera footage, shown in the photo at left. Invisibility of emissions does not lessen their toxicity or health impact.
2. **Emissions contain methane which is a potent greenhouse gas.** Methane is never released on its own. It is released in combination with other toxic substances. Efforts should be taken to capture methane emissions from all gas infrastructure, which will also help capture other hazardous air toxics, such as VOCs.
3. **Ground-level ozone, which is a consequence of shale gas emissions combined with sunlight, is a serious problem in regions of shale gas development.** It affects lung health, aggravates asthma and potentially causes damage to lung tissue.

### Recommendations to Industry to Control Emissions from Shale Gas Activities

- Use of vapor recovery units on condensate tanks.
- Use electricity rather than unprocessed shale gas to power equipment to help partially reduce methane, VOCs and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) emissions.
- Remove waste water with pipe networks instead of with trucks to reduce diesel exhaust.

### Recommendations to Regulatory Agencies to Better Protect Residents from Shale Gas Emissions

- Greatly expand toxic monitoring in PA to shale gas regions to capture information on toxic emissions taking into account weather patterns and lay of the land.
- Since emissions are episodic rather than continuous, analyze them over 15-minute periods rather than a 24-hour period to capture length and volume of peaks in emissions to best assess health risks.
- Enforce the new methane capture rules on new shale gas infrastructure and expand to include existing shale gas infrastructure.
- Require storage tanks (for anything other than fresh water) and other shale gas infrastructure to meet EPA emission standards to minimize VOC emissions.
- Enforce the use of diesel particulate filters (required by EPA, 2006) and promote further diesel emissions reduction through exhaust control devices.
- Enforce the use of a tarp to cover drill cuttings, dirt, and other solid waste being transported by vehicles.

#### Resources:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK201897>  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24690938>  
<https://www.epa.gov/clean-air-act-overview>  
<http://www.dep.pa.gov/business/air/bag/business/topics/emission/pages/marcellus-inventory.aspx>  
<http://www.marcellushealth.org/final-report.html>  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10934529.2015.992663>  
[https://earthworks.org/stories/citizens\\_empowerment\\_project/](https://earthworks.org/stories/citizens_empowerment_project/)

July 2018