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Environmental Health Project Statement Urging Governor Wolf and DEP to Focus Efforts on Eliminating Methane Emissions from Shale Gas Operations

MCMURRAY, PA, January 9, 2019 – On January 8, 2019, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf announced the signing of an executive order committing to a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions statewide by 26% by 2025 and by 80% by 2050, both from 2005 levels. These are the same goals as those the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) wrote into its draft climate change action plan in November. The governor also said that he plans to bring industry to the table by stressing the benefits that cutting emissions can have to company profits. Additionally, the order sets energy performance goals for agencies under his jurisdiction. Wolf signed the order at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh during an event sponsored by the Environmental Defense Fund and People’s Natural Gas.

Raina Rippel, director of the Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project (EHP), a public health organization serving people who suffer the ill effects of exposure to hazardous pollutants released from shale gas operations, issued the following statement:

“We appreciate Governor Wolf taking the lead in cutting methane in Pennsylvania. We urge the governor and the DEP to continue to focus their efforts on eliminating methane emissions, which include toxins that make people sick, from shale gas operations. Reducing emissions would protect public health while creating additional revenue for the industry. It will help to save lives and ensure healthier homes, workplaces, and schools across the commonwealth.”

About the Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project

The Southwest Pennsylvania [Environmental Health Project](#) (EHP) is a nonprofit public health organization that assists and supports residents of Southwestern Pennsylvania and beyond who believe their health has been, or could be, impacted by unconventional oil and gas development (UOGD, or “fracking”). EHP’s team includes medical professionals, community service professionals, and public health scientists who are available to assist individuals and communities in many ways. EHP offers healthcare evaluations and serves as a resource center for information related to UOGD activities. EHP also provides limited air and water quality monitoring devices to qualified residents.