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### **Beaver County Residents Ask the PA DEP to REJECT Shell Chemical Appalachia's Air Quality Permit Application**

**(Beaver, Pa.)** – Beaver County Marcellus Awareness Community (BCMAC) submitted a letter to the Pa. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) today calling on the DEP to DENY Shell Chemical Appalachia's two air quality permit applications (04-00740B and 04-00740C) due to the unhealthy levels of pollution that would be emitted in an area that is already suffering from extremely poor air quality.

Last month environmental advocates and organizations requested a 30-day extension from the DEP to give groups more time to gather information. BCMAC is now joined by other organizations in requesting denial of these permits due to concerns around the serious pollution that would be emitted by the Shell cracker plant:

"The solution to pollution is dilution," said Robert Schmetzer, co-chair of BCMAC. "We are being heavily dumped on from start up to operations to shut down. These pollution levels will seriously impact the air that residents of our region will breathe. Where will it end?"

- If approved, the Shell plant will emit 516 tons of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) annually, making it the largest source of VOC emissions in western Pennsylvania and the third largest in the state.
- The Shell plant is seeking permission for an additional pollutant, a very impactful greenhouse gas chemical, SF6, as an insulator to electrical equipment, adding the equivalent of 854 tons of CO2 per year to the emissions of the plant. SF6 remains stable in the atmosphere for many years and would add to the plant's climate change impact.

- The proposed changes show an overall increase of 4.7 tons per year of PM 2.5, 4.9 tons per year of PM 10 and an increase of 55,352 tons per year of CO2e emissions (with some reductions in NOx, CO, and VOCs).
- The increase in CO2e emissions is equivalent to the emissions of 10,849 passenger vehicles' emissions driving for a full year.
- The added CO2e emissions would require the planting of over 830,307 seedlings each year, with each cohort needing to grow over 10 years, in order to offset this amount of carbon every year. (<https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator>)

The emissions proposed by the permit applications would be in addition to more than 54 “compounds of concern” already approved to be vented by the plant according to Shell’s air “Inhalation Risk Assessment for Petrochemicals Complex” approved by the DEP January 2015. The cracker is classified as a major source of hazardous air pollution – benzene, naphthalene, mercury, formaldehyde and toluene – that can cause cancer and serious health problems.

This will add to Beaver County’s already unhealthy air shed which the American Lung Association rated with a grade of “F” for Ozone, a rating given prior to the plant being built. Adding more to this pollution will only make health problems worse for Beaver County residents.

“These permits foreground just how big the Shell cracker is and the impact it will have on the region’s air shed,” said Matt Mehalik, executive director of the Breathe Project. “We would like to have more time to evaluate what Shell is proposing to do because of the projected increases to cancer risk from hazardous air pollutants these updates are creating. This plant will add more pollution in an already suffering air shed.”

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