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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 24, 2018

Contact: Mike Naple, (619) 850-5229, mike@stgresults.com

NEW REPORT: Trump Administration Attacks on Methane Safeguards Threaten Rural and Urban Families, Adds to Pollution Burden of Vulnerable Populations

Moms Clean Air Force Report Highlights the Real Life Experiences of 7 Women on the Front Lines of Oil and Gas Pollution

WASHINGTON, D.C. (July 24, 2018)— Today, Moms Clean Air Force released a new report: "[Face to Face with Oil and Gas: Voices from the Front Lines of Oil and Gas Pollution](#)". The report highlights the scope and diversity of the public health impacts that oil and gas pollution have on the well-being of families across the country, in both urban and rural areas, living near and far from oil and gas operations. It is unconscionable that our federal government wants to weaken or revoke safeguards that protect our children from this industrial pollution.

Earlier this year, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke proposed changes to gut the common sense BLM methane rule, a widely-supported safeguard aimed at preventing the oil and gas industry from spewing harmful methane pollution into the air and wasting a valuable resource by requiring companies to regularly check for and repair leaking equipment.

The head of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), acting administrator Andrew Wheeler, is also working to dismantle similar oil and gas pollution safeguards Americans rely on known as the New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) that curb methane emissions and toxic pollution from [36,000 recently built or updated oil and gas wells](#) across the country. The derailment of these essential protections would enable the oil and gas industry to continue releasing millions of tons of methane and other volatile organic compounds into the air our families breathe, posing a serious threat to public health.

Today's report, "[Face to Face with Oil and Gas: Voices from the Front Lines of Oil and Gas Pollution](#)," released by Moms Clean Air Force, shares the real life experiences of seven impacted women from six states. It builds on the findings from the following reports and resources released over the last few years:

- [The Oil and Gas Threat Map](#)
- [Fossil Fumes: A public health analysis of toxic air pollution from the oil and gas industry](#)
- [Gasping For Breath: An analysis of the health effects from ozone pollution from the oil and gas industry](#)
- [Latino Communities At Risk: The Impact of Air Pollution from the Oil and Gas Industry](#)
- [Fumes Across the Fence-line: The Health Impacts of Air Pollution from Oil & Gas Facilities on African American Communities](#)
- [Tribal Communities At Risk: The Disproportionate Impacts of Oil and Gas Air Pollution on Tribal Air Quality](#)

Together with the voices of the women featured in the report, this information clearly illustrates the wide ranging public health impacts of oil and gas pollution on families living in urban and rural communities, both near and far from oil and gas operations.

The report shines a spotlight on how families from across the country experience oil and gas air pollution. “More than one million African American men, women and children live within a half mile of Oil and gas facilities,” said Cherelle Blazer, founder of the asthma education initiative Breath is Lyfe and mother of two children with asthma. “Pollutants can drift for hundreds of miles before forming smog, so the Trump administration’s attacks on critical methane safeguards will add to the burden of asthma in many underserved communities, worsening existing inequities and putting our families at risk of serious health issues.”

Report Highlights:

- 12.4 million Americans live within a half mile of an active oil or gas well, compressor, or processor.
- 1.8 million Latinos live within a half mile of an oil and gas facility.
- More than one million African Americans live with a half mile of an oil and gas facility.
- 2.9 million children attend schools half a mile or less from active wells, compressors, and processors.
- American children suffer 750,000 summertime asthma attacks each year due to ground level ozone, or smog, caused by oil and gas pollution.
- Because air pollution can travel long distances, these asthma attacks can happen dozens, even hundreds, of miles from oil and gas operations.
- This pollution adds to the burden of African American and Latino communities already facing disproportionate pollution exposures.

The full report can be read [here \(https://www.momscleanairforce.org/face-to-face-oil-gas\)](https://www.momscleanairforce.org/face-to-face-oil-gas).

This report is being released on the heels of Moms Clean Air Force’s fifth annual [Play-In for Climate Action](#). On July 11th, dozens of families from 30 states came to Washington, D.C., to meet with their members of Congress and urge them to support clean air protections and act on climate.

“There are far too many communities around the country dealing with the health impacts of pollution from oil and gas operations,” said Katie Huffling, a nurse and Executive Director of Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments “Both urban and rural areas are feeling these impacts. This pollution adds to the health burden of communities already disproportionately impacted by asthma, cancer, and other major health problems. It is vital that strong national safeguards against methane and other dangerous oil and gas pollution be strengthened, to protect the broad range of Americans from all backgrounds who are facing the health burden of oil and gas pollution today.

“We hope this report encourages our leaders to take action to protect the health of our families. Many diverse communities across the country are facing health impacts every day due to pollution from the oil and gas industry. My two sons are among the nearly 3 million children who go to school near oil and gas operations. That puts their health at risk,” said Patrice Tomcik, of Butler County, Pennsylvania, National Oil and Gas Program Coordinator for Moms Clean Air Force. “The Trump administration needs to put people before polluter profits and hold the oil and gas industry accountable for the pollution it creates.”

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Moms Clean Air Force is a community of over one million moms—and dads—working together to combat air pollution, including the urgent crisis of our changing climate. For more information, go to <http://www.momscleanairforce.org/> or follow us on Twitter [@CleanAirMoms](#), Instagram [@cleanairmoms](#), or Facebook.