

HealthWatch Report

Key Findings from Monitoring PM_{2.5} and VOCs

EHP conducted this project to address concerns related to potential toxic emissions in your community, Dover, NY. We hoped to determine whether the Cricket Valley Energy Center and Dover Compressor could plausibly affect air quality and the health of residents, as well as what could be done to reduce the hazard. The full report details the findings summarized here.

General Findings for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) and Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5})

- All residences showed evidence of high short-term exposures to pollutants.
- Episodes of high exposure lasted for half an hour or more.
- The pollutant levels measured may produce health effects in adults, children, the elderly, and other vulnerable groups to differing degrees.
- In addition to the Cricket Valley Energy, the region hosts several large air pollution sources that appear to contribute significantly the pollution exposures at our monitoring locations.
- The impact of Cricket Valley Energy appears limited to the area immediately around the facility, but we know the plant is operating intermittently and at reduced capacity. We expect these impacts to increase as the plant ramps up electricity production.

Fine Particulate Matter Findings

- All monitors showed repeated high short-term exposures lasting about 30 minutes that could induce health effects.
- All monitors exceeded the EPA's daily 24-hour PM_{2.5} standards during the monitoring period.
- PM_{2.5} readings suggest regional polluters and secondary PM_{2.5} formation as the largest source of particulate matter in your community.
- However, Cricket Valley Energy Center and the Dover compressor station do appear to contribute to spikes in PM_{2.5}.

Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Findings

- The monitors showed repeated high short-term exposures across Dover.
- Cricket Valley Energy Center and the Dover Compressor appear to contribute to elevated VOCs averages and to spikes in VOCs.

Conclusions and Actions You and Your Community Can Take

1. Advocate for alerts whenever Cricket Valley Energy expects to emit large amounts of pollution.
2. Push for more advanced monitoring and reporting from the state department of environmental conservation.
3. Asking that the gas company schedule high-pollution maintenance work when weather conditions would reduce the effect on your community.