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To: [Rules Coordinator](#); [Christi Craddick](#); [Wynn B. Baker](#); [Wayne Christian](#); [Jeremy Hagen](#); [Jim Wright](#); [Christopher Hotchkiss](#)
Subject: Proposed Statewide Rule 8 Public Comment
Date: Sunday, September 29, 2024 12:47:42 PM

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09/29/2024

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing regarding oil and gas waste management practices in Texas. You, the Railroad Commission of Texas, are the entity empowered by the Legislature to develop policy to serve the public's interests, and the only entity that can, in this regard, most directly force private industry to act more responsibly in their management of wastes that UNNECESSARILY pollute our water, air and land. If it costs more to do so, so be it. You are otherwise subsidizing their profits with the public's assets.

I have seen the issue cast as a surface vs. mineral rights property issue. This is not the entire story. An insult against the environment should not be looking at who had what rights to do so. Again, that's why YOU, the Railroad Commission, exist in in this regard; to represent the PUBLIC. Sure, most landowners only own surface rights, and do not own the minerals under the land, which is not their fault. Perhaps surface owners should be notified before a reserve pit is dug on their land. All that said, I don't look for the maker of a runaway truck when it is barreling towards me. It is enough to know that I need to move.

Among other things, the self-reporting premise in the current and also new rules has, for decades, failed the stink test (figuratively and literally). If even current regulations were enforced (and I would be in favor of an increased Railroad Commission budget to do so), we'd be in better shape. However, the Railroad Commission's proposed new rules, released on August 15th, continue to be lax and vague. They do not limit how close a reserve pit can be to groundwater, and there is no groundwater monitoring required. This leaves our water exposed to contamination from all the toxic chemicals in oil and gas waste. Also not addressed is the significant direct release of volatile pollutants directly into the air and surrounding land, beyond the surface property even purportedly 'directly associated with' the underground rights.

Other states, such as North Dakota, have enacted reasonable reserve pit requirements – why can't Texas do the same?

Please adopt better regulations for reserve pits to ensure that our water, air, and land is protected from pollution. We don't get a 'do over'.

Thank you,

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