

September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Chairman Christi Craddick  
Commissioner Wayne Christian  
Commissioner Jim Wright

Dear Commissioners:

I want to first thank you for your efforts to update the regulations for oilfield waste, formerly known as Statewide Rule 8.

We are a longstanding landowner with ongoing commercial waste disposal activity on some of our property, so I am grateful for the additional protections you've added for commercial disposal to ensure the protection of our property and groundwater.

We also have significant oil and gas operations and accompanying non-commercial waste disposal activity and want to make sure the new regulations protect landowners. Over the years, we've seen the operators continue to take short cuts, only benefit themselves, and leave our surface with various O&G waste unaddressed. Although I don't like burdensome and unnecessary regulation, we would still like to see operators abide by common sense protections of the land. I'm asking the commission to revisit its proposed updates regarding the use of authorized pits to strengthen regulations in the following two areas:

1. Establish uniform requirements for construction, operation and closure standards of all authorized pits.

It appears that the updated rule imposes no construction, operation or closure requirements on these pits. Identification of pit locations will not curb the hazards to the land and water beneath associated with permanent burial of waste. Basic liner and construction standards would be helpful to protect the land and water.

2. Require landowner notification and consent.

It does not make sense to let operators bury waste on our land without notifying us. It seems reasonable to require them to notify and obtain a landowner's permission before permanently burying waste on our land which will inhibit vegetation regrowth.

I'm not trying to add costs and regulations to the smaller operators. I understand that this may be too burdensome for stripper wells and temporary pits so my main focus is on the larger and long-term reserve pits. It would be a big improvement to regulate these larger pits and make sure we protect the land.

Sincerely,



Allen Tunstill Cowden

Tunstill Mineral Company, LP  
Orville E & Mercedes Mineral Company  
Cowden Mineral Company, LP  
Dollarhide Energy, LLC  
Tunstill Oil & Land Trust