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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
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The Railroad Commission of Texas

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing regarding oil and gas waste management practices in Texas. I urge you to create regulations that protect our water, air and land. The Railroad Commission's proposed new rules released on August 15th do not limit how close a reserve pit can be to groundwater, and there is no groundwater monitoring required. They also exempt smaller operators and legacy operations that should not be exempted.

This leaves our water exposed to contamination from all the toxic chemicals in oil and gas waste.

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

Most landowners only own surface rights, and do not own the minerals under the land, which is not their fault. Surface owners should be notified before a reserve pit is dug on their land. This way, landowners can know what is going to happen on their land and be allowed to make informed decisions. Notice is also key so they have the opportunity to inspect the property before and after, file a regulatory complaint if they believe it has not been properly remediated, and take separate legal action as needed. When waste pits are "closed" the land is still incapable of growing anything - operators are effectively depriving the surface owner of the ability to use that portion of their land in the future.

Please adopt better regulations for reserve pits to ensure that our land and water is protected from pollution.

Thank you,

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