

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Please amend Statewide Rule 8 to better protect Texas
Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 4:04:59 PM

From: Jessica Clements <jjclements2003@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 2:19 PM
To: Christi Craddick <Christi.Craddick@rrc.texas.gov>; Wynn B. Baker <Wynn.Baker@rrc.texas.gov>; Wayne Christian <wayne.christian@rrc.texas.gov>; Jeremy Hagen <jeremy.hagen@rrc.texas.gov>; Jim Wright <Jim.Wright@rrc.texas.gov>; Christopher Hotchkiss <Christopher.Hotchkiss@rrc.texas.gov>
Subject: Please amend Statewide Rule 8 to better protect Texas

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Dear RRC Commissioners and Staff,

As a proud, lifelong Texas resident and Texas landowner, I appreciate the commission finally dusting off Rule 8 to update it. But, I feel I must speak up to voice my extreme disappointment with the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) and its lack of interest and good conscience to protect Texas groundwater, the environment, and landowner rights with regard to the current proposed draft of Rule 8.

The mission of the RRC, as stated on its website, is to “serve Texas by our stewardship of natural resources and the environment, our concern for personal and community safety, and our support of enhanced development and economic vitality for the benefit of Texans.” Unfortunately, I feel the elected commissioners have overlooked the parts in the middle which are key to protecting the citizens of Texas who elected them.

As someone who works in and wholeheartedly supports the Texas energy industry, I find it appalling that the RRC is purposely omitting common-sense regulation from the August 15th draft of Rule 8 that would support its mission of serving Texas by stewardship of the environment and showing concern for personal and community safety. If approved in its current draft form, reserve pits would continue to lack basic requirements that would protect Texas groundwater, livestock, wildlife, communities, and the environment overall.

Furthermore, not granting landowners the right to be informed in advance and/or consent to waste being buried on their land is both dismissive and disrespectful. The waste buried in

these pits contain detectable amounts of benzene, arsenic, metals, diesel, and high levels of chlorides, which inhibit the regrowth of vegetation, risks groundwater contamination, and harms livestock and wildlife, potentially causing irreversible harm to families' livelihoods and our beautiful Texas landscape. They deserve the right to have a say in what is permanently buried on their property, as I presume you would demand for yourself.

In closing, I strongly urge RRC Chairman Christi Craddick, Commissioner Wayne Christian, and Commissioner Jim Wright to do the right thing for Texas, its residents, and its future. I strongly urge you all to vote to improve the standards for onsite reserve pits in order to protect groundwater and the environment, and to provide landowners with protections from future contamination of their land. After 40 years of allowing contamination, which has been documented by both the RRC and TCEQ, it's time the RRC heed the advice of Texas' most famous advertising slogan – Don't Mess with Texas.

Sincerely,

A concerned Texas landowner, resident, and 20-year energy industry professional
Jessica C.