

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Elizabeth Jones](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)
Date: Wednesday, June 22, 2022 12:08:11 PM

From: Texas Sunset Advisory Commission <sunset@sunset.texas.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2022 10:36 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission <Sunset.AdvisoryCommission@sunset.texas.gov>
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)

Submitted on Wed, 06/22/2022 - 09:31

Submitted by: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Choose the agency that you would like to provide input about
[Texas Commission on Environmental Quality](#)

Public Comments

1

First Name

Martha

Last Name

Barker

Organization you are affiliated with

350-Austin

Email

City

Kyle

State

Texas

Your Comments or Concerns

I want to express my concern over the environmental and human damage caused by the coal-burning power plants of Texas.

In 2019, The Environmental Integrity Project published a report on groundwater contamination

resulting from the disposal of coal ash throughout the United States. They used data supplied by the plants to assess the amount of contamination caused by coal plants disposing of coal ash. Their conclusion: In Texas, 100% of coal plans are leaking toxic coal ash into the surrounding groundwater, land, and nearby waterways. Coal ash contains powerful toxins, including arsenic, lead, mercury, chromium, selenium, and boron—which are known to cause cancer, brain damage, cardiovascular disease and damage to the kidneys, reproductive organs, lungs and nervous systems of humans.*

Your Proposed Solution

Now that the TCEQ has assumed responsibility for overseeing implementation of coal ash regulations in Texas, I ask that the Commission exercise more active and thorough oversight of these regulations, particularly to follow up with those plants that have not engaged in the most rigorous testing possible or have not followed through on assessment monitoring.

I ask that the TCEQ take a courageous lead in protecting Texas residents from toxic pollution of their water and land. I ask that TCEQ follow through on the EIP report conclusions that effective monitoring should include the following:

- Requiring coal plant owners to test background wells that are not affected by coal ash;
- Require regular testing of any residential or municipal drinking water wells within ½ mile of coal ash disposal sites, and also to take seriously the justice aspect of this problem and consider and ameliorate the disproportionate impacts of coal ash disposal on low-income communities and communities of color.*

Attachment

[TCEQ Testimony 6-22-22.docx](#) (12.54 KB)

My Comments Will Be Made Public

Yes

TCEQ Hearing-- June 22, 2022

I am Martha Barker of Kyle in Hays County.

To Panel--Thank you for your work and for this hearing.

I am here to express my concern over the environmental and the human damage caused by the coal power plants of Texas. I will focus on the Fayette Power Project in LaGrange TX.

The Environmental Integrity Project and EarthJustice overview of Texas coal plants in 2019 stated that all coal plants in Texas have coal ash pits that are leaking toxic coal ash into the surrounding land and water. Coal ash contains powerful toxins, including arsenic, lead, mercury, chromium, selenium, and boron—which are known to cause cancer, brain damage, cardiovascular disease and damage to the kidneys, reproductive organs, lungs and nervous systems of humans.