

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Elizabeth Jones](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)
Date: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 4:36:40 PM

From: Texas Sunset Advisory Commission <sunset@sunset.texas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 3:54 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission <Sunset.AdvisoryCommission@sunset.texas.gov>
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)

Submitted on Tue, 06/21/2022 - 13:55

Submitted by: Visitor

Submitted values are:

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

Public Comments

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First Name

Deborah

Last Name

Dillard

Title

Membership Specialist

Organization you are affiliated with

Turtle Island Restoration Network

Email

City

GALVESTON

State

Texas

Your Comments or Concerns

As you know, Galveston Island is surrounded by multiple refineries. The refineries in Texas City produce many toxic air pollutants, including benzene. Among other physical problems, benzene can

aggravate existing health conditions. As a person who suffers from Lupus, this is alarming. The odor, frequency, and size of the flairs that are visible from the island are extremely concerning. Even during a shelter in place in Texas City, citizens of Galveston Island can smell the chemicals in the air. There is no way to control the direction of the air or how much of the pollutants end up in the water. Of particular concern, the Blanchard and Valero refineries each produced over one million lbs of toxins released in 2020.

Your Proposed Solution

The TCEQ must hold companies responsible for pollution levels emitted and make them accountable financially through fees and hefty fines. When facilities release millions of pounds of pollution “upsets” or “emissions events.” These air pollution events emit known toxins and they often very close to residential neighborhoods, schools, and other populated areas, putting Texans at risk of harmful health impacts. The TCEQ must be more transparent during and after these events. If Texas City is under a shelter-in-place, what if the wind changes directions. How do we know what is in the air in Galveston?

These concerns must be addressed through analysis of cumulative impact to our environment, and be considered carefully when allowing companies to continue.

Attachment

[Toxics Release Inventory \(TRI\) Program US EPA.pdf](#) (130.88 KB)

My Comments Will Be Made Public

Yes