

Gladys House-El

June 22, 2022

To: Texas Sunset Advisory Commission
Members

Fr: Gladys House-El, Owner
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RE: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Lack of Knowledge of Its Operations, Policies and Practices

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I present this brief on the concern that the TCEQ does not know its jurisdiction and purview as a Texas agency.

When I began operation of my vehicle inspection station August 19, 2021, I was soon surprised at the extremely costly rental of the vehicle inspection equipment offered by what appears to be a monopoly of OPUS, an international business based in Sweden. It is difficult for a start-up VIS to pay \$216 monthly. Rental fee should not be more than \$50 monthly for the first 3-5 years to allow financial growth; otherwise OPUS is the big winner while the small VIS struggles to cover marketing and other fees associated to a VIS. It was unfortunate enough that during the alleged "training" by the Texas Department of Motor Vehicle that nothing was taught to operate the inspection equipment. Actually, I sought an internship at several VISs before one gave me an opportunity. Only then did I learn and eventually obtain OPUS equipment. When contacting TCEQ for information to formally complain to the contract compliance officer overseeing OPUS' contract to the state of Texas, it took more than a week to get a response at times and then I was told by one staff person at TCEQ that they did not have any dealings/jurisdiction on OPUS, but calling back to TCEQ for more answers, I spoke to a different staffer in the same office who gave information on OPUS as they added they have some authority on OPUS. However, when it came to providing information on the actual state agency, they gave me a runaround. No matter what state agency I contacted in motor vehicle and transportation, everyone was clueless. Questions: How could an international business, OPUS, have basically a monopoly on a contract to Texas in providing vehicle inspection equipment? Why wasn't economic hardship considered in the equation when Texas established the agreement to OPUS? Who is the correct state agency contact overseeing or supposedly monitoring the OPUS contract and specs? TCEQ, TDMV, TDPS, etc. could not provide any data.

Please help me obtain information for time is of the essence. Thank you.