

**From:** [Texas Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)  
**Date:** Sunday, June 12, 2022 9:58:06 PM

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Submitted on Sun, 06/12/2022 - 19:20

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**

Sharon

**Last Name**

Richey

**Email**

**City**

Fort Worth

**State**

Texas

**Your Comments or Concerns**

Regrettably, it seems to me that TCEQ operates neither by the letter of the law nor the spirit of the law.

It seems to me Texans are paying with our health to subsidize the profits of fossil fuels. We pay for an organization to protect our health--and yet we do not have such an organization.

TCEQ looks at the impact on single entities, when often the conglomerated impact is for a whole community, or region which needs addressing.

We need more public notices, in more ways, for more days for public meetings. And when we have those public meetings we need more minutes for individuals and more opportunities for public conversations to address the needs of communities. In-person and zoom offerings.

Seems developers, more than tax-paying citizens in communities have the ear of TCEQ.

In hearings citizens have been heard to state about TCEQ: "They go through the motions." "They rubber stamp permits." "TCEQ does not act in the interest of the public." "We need a

body to protect the public's interests." We pay for that, but we do not have that.

Costs of proof of damages should not be born by the individuals impacted, but by profits of industries.

Seems to me that requests for exceptions and increased emissions are too frequent, and too easily granted.

Almost no regulations in rural areas, and almost no notices given..

Need requirements for more sufficient notices, to include notices to nearby neighbors in the greater community.

### **Your Proposed Solution**

More frequent and larger fines for infractions and what are called "Oops" accidents - which too often seem to go unreported. The size of the fines were raised in 2011 but only from \$10,000 a day to \$25,000 a day - EPA fines for similar incidents go as high as \$50,000 a day. We need more monitors and more frequent monitoring, and in more places and for fines to increase substantially.

The mission needs to be clarified so as not to be at cross purposes - keeping the part about maintaining the mission of protecting public health - deleting the part about balancing with what's good for industries. The people are paying for the agency and it is we who should be advocated for and protected.

Have more monitoring, actually where it's needed, so as to notice, report and fine polluters and rule breakers, make the penalties for pollution much stiffer, say by doubling or tripling them. TCEQ was established for the public health. It needs to be rebuilt with that single mission.

### **My Comments Will Be Made Public**

Yes