

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Elizabeth Jones](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)
Date: Monday, June 27, 2022 8:49:27 PM

From: Texas Sunset Advisory Commission <sunset@sunset.texas.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2022 4:09 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission <Sunset.AdvisoryCommission@sunset.texas.gov>
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)

Submitted on Mon, 06/27/2022 - 15:03

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

Dick

Last Name

Schoech

Title

President

Organization you are affiliated with

Arlington Conservation Council

Email

City

Arlington

State

Texas

Your Comments or Concerns

See attachment

Your Proposed Solution

See attachment

Attachment

[Public Comments on TCEQ Sunset Commission 27Jun22.pdf](#) (69.51 KB)

My Comments Will Be Made Public

Yes

Arlington Conservation Council Comments to the Sunset Commission on the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

While regulating oil and gas activities in Texas falls primarily to the Railroad Commission, TCEQ plays a vital role in ensuring clean air, clean water, and safe waste management. It is failing dangerously in all three areas.

Dallas-Fort Worth meets the revoked 1979 and 1997 EPA air standards but not the 2008 and 2015 standards.(1) As of this writing (June 27, 2022), DFW has had five Ozone Action Days in this month alone.

In baseball terminology, that's strike one.

TCEQ's clean water goal states that people should be able to swim in the Trinity River, which runs through DFW. To the question "Is the Trinity River safe to swim in?" Google responds: "The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has said the Trinity River and its branches in North Texas are too high in pollutants, especially bacteria from sewage, to be safe for extended human contact."(2)

Strike two.

Waste management is a vast, complicated task. We are unable to find a grade for DFW, but the waterways and parks that benefit from ACC work sessions are constantly full of trash, especially after a rain. Plastic is our biggest problem.

The city's huge landfill, sitting in the Trinity River bottoms, has a 2,000-acre housing and commercial development next door, yet the International Journal of Epidemiology Research says health is at risk for anyone living within *3.1 miles* of a landfill.(3) Research shows that people living close to landfills suffer from asthma, cuts, stomach pain, reoccurring flu, cough, skin irritation, diarrhea and tuberculosis more so than people living farther away.(4)

Strike three.

TCEQ has long appeared to be in the pocket of the oil and gas industry. Still, a vigorous Sunset Process could provide the coaching needed for TCEQ to hit a few home runs. Where changes are concerned, ACC hopes for substantive but anticipates ephemeral.

(Here's something TCEQ absolutely can do. Some notices are mailed with 50+ pages of names on a distribution list. How visionless and sad. Put a check box on the comment form for people to select paperless communication!)

The Arlington Conservation Council is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit entity that works to protect the natural environment in and around Arlington, Texas, through education, community service, and advocacy for a sustainable future.

References

- 1 <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-approves-state-texas-clean-air-plan-ozone-dallas-fort-worth-area>
- 2 <https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&q=Can+you+swim+in+the+Trinity+river+in+DFW>
- 3 <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/05/160524211817.htm>
- 4 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6617357/8>