

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Elizabeth Jones](#)
Subject: FW: Comments on TCEQ Sunset
Date: Monday, June 27, 2022 8:26:32 AM

From: Erica Solis
Sent: Sunday, June 26, 2022 6:39 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission <Sunset.AdvisoryCommission@sunset.texas.gov>
Subject: Comments on TCEQ Sunset

Dear Texas Sunset Commission,

My name is Dr. Erica Solís. I'm a Pediatrician and a 4th generation West Dallas resident, zip code 75212. As a Pediatrician I'm an advocate for children's health and wellness. The past year I have spoken at two TCEQ public hearings, against the Lattimore Materials concrete batch plant permit and against the GAF shingle manufacturing title V renewal. The conclusion of my experience is that the TCEQ is failing its mandate of protecting human health.

Concrete batch plants are not just a nuisance but also have a negative impact on health. The harmful consequence of air pollution on the respiratory system has been recognized for decades in the medical community. Children and infants have higher breathing rates than adults, making them especially at risk because they receive higher doses of air pollution when their small bodies are rapidly growing. Children with chronic diseases such as asthma are susceptible to air pollution, leading to asthma exacerbations with symptoms of wheezing, decreased lung function, visits to see me in clinic, and if severe going to the ER or being hospitalized. Dallas County leads North Texas for childhood asthma-related hospitalizations, and respiratory issues are the leading cause of absenteeism among Dallas ISD students.

The TCEQ granted the permit for the Lattimore Materials concrete batch plant with a location less than 370 yards, or about 3 football fields, from Eladio Martinez Elementary School, where 97% of students are either Hispanic or black and 99% come from low-income households. This is another example of how West Dallas continues to endure environmental racism with the allowance of heavy industry like concrete batch plants to be located in our neighborhood. The TCEQ should not approve permits just because they are administratively complete, but should consider other entities around the applicant, the cumulative effects as others have mentioned tonight. Also, TCEQ commissioners need the authority to deny permits with consideration of justice and equity.

Finally, the TCEQ needs to remove "economic development" from its mission statement because the agency should be focused on protecting public health and natural resources. The health and wellness of Texans should not be compromised by profits or economic growth.

Thanks for your time and the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,
Erica Solis

