

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Elizabeth Jones](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)
Date: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 4:41:26 PM

From: Texas Sunset Advisory Commission <sunset@sunset.texas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 4:39 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 - 15:36

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

Diane

Last Name

Tasian

Title

Final - LWVDallas Testimony - Texas Sunset Commission Review TCEQ 22.6.23

Organization you are affiliated with

League of Women Voters of Dallas (Texas)

Email

president@lwydallas.org

City

Dallas

State

Texas

Your Comments or Concerns

Please see attachment.

Your Proposed Solution

Please see attachment.

Attachment

[Final - LWVDallas Testimony - Texas Sunset Commission Review TCEQ 22.6.23.pdf](#) (72.34 KB)

My Comments Will Be Made Public

Yes



TESTIMONY

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

The 2022 Texas Sunset Commission Reviewing the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

June 22, 2022

My name is Diane Tasian. I serve as President of the Board of the League of Women Voters (LWV) of Dallas and am addressing the health impacts of two issues that fall under the regulatory responsibility of TCEQ. The first is air quality and the second is transport by rail of radioactive waste.

The League advocates on issues based on positions developed by consensus of the membership. The local positions are reviewed annually by our Program Committee and affirmed at our Annual Meeting by the membership. The state positions are reviewed every two years by the state Program Committee and are adopted at the State Convention in even numbered years.

Concerning air quality:

The air quality in North Texas is proven to be unhealthy; has been for decades; and is not improving. 2021 was the EPA deadline for the Dallas-Fort Worth area to meet standards established in 2008 and revised in 2015. The air quality is so serious the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) held a public hearing last month in advance of downgrading the air quality levels to "severe" (Ref. 1). There has been little change in ground-level ozone levels since 2018. With the amazing growth of population in North Texas some credit is due to TCEQ for at least maintaining the 2018 levels. But current TCEQ practices are not bringing levels down. Population growth is continuing which will continue to increase challenges to air quality. Also, the EPA is considering further reducing the thresholds of pollution for air quality standards.

LWV Dallas and LWV Texas support state government and the TCEQ's action for control of air pollution in North Texas. The TCEQ has the power to set and enforce standards stricter than those required by the federal government. Adequate funds should be made available by the Texas Legislature to carry out the research, planning and enforcement of regulations to protect the public's health. The League supports legislation that allows local and regional governments to set and enforce standards stricter than those of the state and encourages citizen involvement in the rulemaking and enforcement process.

We urge the Sunset Commission to hold TCEQ accountable for failing to raise air quality to minimum standards and urge TCEQ to shift its priority to protecting the health of our residents and utilizing the available public health data on the effects of ozone and fine particulate matter including the cost of failure to provide clean air for families, children, and the workforce to set standards.

Concerning radio-active nuclear waste transport:

Low level waste transport has been approved and is being transported across the state to storage facilities in far West Texas and New Mexico from nuclear plants east of the Mississippi. Many tons of low level waste travel by train on rail lines going through the center of cities and towns across the state and much of it travels from the east through Mesquite, Dallas, the mid-cities, and Fort Worth.

Now TCEQ has received an application for high level waste transport permits. Many people living within a half mile of rail lines are low income and many are people of color. Often train cars are left to sit on train tracks and in station yards for hours and days. Exposure to the storage casks is the equivalent of one to two chest x-rays per hour at 6.6 feet distance, according to the NRC. If a train stops along the line, has an accident, or is attacked by a terrorist the exposure increases to nearby schools, hospitals, businesses, and residential areas.

The City of Dallas has passed a resolution against this transport (Ref. 2) and Governor Abbott has also said no (Ref. 3), but the petitions have not been denied. We recommend that TCEQ reject the petitions and follow the EPA recommendations that all nuclear waste be stored near the facility that generated the waste.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. For additional information please contact Diane Tasian at president@lwvdallas.org.

Ref. 1: <https://www.keranews.org/2022-05-04/with-air-quality-failing-to-improve-north-texas-may-soon-be-classified-as-severe-violator-of-epa>

Ref. 2: http://nonuclearwasteaqui.org/downloads/Dallas_resolution.pdf

Ref. 3: <https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-sends-letter-opposing-storage-of-spent-nuclear-fuel-in-andrews-county>

The League of Women Voters is one of America's oldest and most trusted civic nonprofit organizations. Formed in 1919, the League of Women Voters of Texas represents over 13,000 grassroots advocates and 34 local Leagues across the State of Texas.

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties.

We encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government and seek to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in the League is open to people 16 and older of all gender identities.