

Paul Baumann

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My name is Paul Baumann and I grew up on a farm near Nordheim that is now adjacent to a 200 acre oilfield waste disposal site that was granted a permit by the RRC. Two, 12 acre, 25' deep disposal pits will be located 180 feet from the back porch of my house. I'm concerned about contamination of the air, land, and water. My water well sits about 70 ft from the site. My well's first water sand is approximately 30-40 ft deep. Any seepage from the 25' deep pits would only need to travel 5-15' to contaminate it. And the land sits over our aquifer. It doesn't seem practical to build huge waste disposal pits within a quarter of a mile from a community. Oilfield waste is considered "nonhazardous" and is exempt from being classified as hazardous by 1988 RCRA regulations and has not been revised since then. The RRC mission statement says they represent a "stewardship of natural resources and the environment" and "concern for personal and community safety." I believe they need to be held accountable for their actions and that their decisions should reflect their mission statement. These waste pits will hold 1.5 million cubic yards of "RCRA exempt" wastes that will be allowed to leak 1,200 gallons each... on a daily basis...forever.