

## Cecelia Hartley

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**From:** Sunset  
**Sent:** Friday, November 19, 2010 3:44 PM  
**To:** Cecelia Hartley  
**Subject:** FW: Staff Report Feedback

-----Original Message-----

From: Sunset  
Sent: Friday, November 19, 2010 2:39 PM  
To: Sunset  
Subject: Staff Report Feedback

Agency name: On-site Wastewater Treatment Council

Response to staff report: 1. Since the Legislature established the On-Site Wastewater Treatment Research Council, there has been vast improvement in the on-site industry in the State of Texas, due to the information provided from grants that were awarded by the council.

2. The money that is used in Grant research has not only proven to be beneficial to the State, but to my knowledge the monies have remained in the State, dedicated to the studies that have been deemed necessary by those that volunteer their time and knowledge of this industry, while working on this council

3. The conference that is held annually has worked perfect as a showcase for the On-Site Wastewater Treatment Research Council to report on the grants that have been awarded and the research that has been gained from past grants. This has once again proven why this council was put in place and how it has benefited the industry since that time.

4. The level of expertise that sits on this unpaid, but Governor appointed council, is a far greater asset to the wastewater concerns of our State that what we have ever seen generated by the TCEQ.

5. The TCEQ has for years used the excuse of being overworked, under manned and under funded, this is the answer we are given as to why they cannot follow through on the written rules and laws of the State of Texas. Let us not forget, it was the TCEQ that said it was no longer able to manage the annual wastewater conference because it had become too big for them. So now I question, why are you looking to give it back to them.

6. It is in my opinion the TCEQ will incorporate the annual conference for wastewater, one that annually has over 1000 attendees, into their Green conference in Austin. A conference that does not even address the concerns of the wastewater industry, or the effects it has on our environment.

7. It is my opinion, as a person who has worked in this industry for nearly 30 years;

a. Do not hand over the responsibilities of this council to the TCEQ. Doing so will prove to be a failure, this is based on TCEQ's past history.

b. Again I would argue that how can a self described State Agency, TCEQ, properly give out the grants that the council has overseen, giving this program the attention it needs and deserves and then reporting to those working in this industry the finding of these grants. I say again, it will not happen.

c. Another point I would like to express is how can the TCEQ, which has had 4 directors over the wastewater section in 5 years, be well enough informed to take on this new program when it's house is not even in order now.

d. Lastly, what I really see is a proven On-Site Wastewater Treatment Research Council, being done away with just to cut \$11,000 from the State budget, all at the expense of our environment and the progress we have made the past few years.

Hoping you reconsider your stand on this issue,

John Redfern  
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