

Cecelia Hartley

From: Sunset
Sent: Monday, November 29, 2010 8:28 AM
To: Cecelia Hartley
Subject: FW: Staff Report Feedback

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

From: Sunset
Sent: Sunday, November 28, 2010 3:29 PM
To: Sunset
Subject: Staff Report Feedback

Agency name: Environmental Quality, Texas Commission on

Response to staff report: Issue 2 on the Sunset Advisory Commission Staff Report concerns the need for improvement in the OPIC's methods of communication with the public.

Coastal Bend Sierra (by e-mail) last summer noted this need and recommended that all public comments received by TCEQ during the public comment/public meeting period reference applications for permits should be made available verbatim on the TCEQ website at the earliest possible legally permissible time after the close of the comment period.

As matters now stand, after several weeks, participants receive a list of names of all who commented. However, they do not receive a verbatim transcript of all comments submitted.

Rather, participants receive only a paraphrased version of the comments--or paraphrased partial comments--but seldom if ever the complete transcription of direct quotations.

Such a procedure deprives citizens of the opportunity to see the exact language of the public comments and to interpret those comments for themselves without the filter of someone else's paraphrase or interpretation.

Further, such a procedure deprives citizens of the opportunity to make their own judgments as to the quality and appropriateness of TCEQ's responses.

Coastal Bend Sierra Club believes if our solution is adopted, communication between the public and TCEQ will be improved and OPIC's responsibility to the public will be improved as well.

Publishing comments verbatim would be a win/win policy. Citizens would see exactly what was presented to TCEQ and TCEQ would be under no cloud of possible suspicion of misinterpreting citizen's intent in their comments.