

KEEP THE TOWTRC

It is my understanding that the TOWTRC (Texas Onsite Wastewater Treatment Research Council) was formed to research the existing and potential concerns of the OSSF (On Site Sewer Facility) systems and to counsel and educate the delegates of the OSSF industry which include homeowners, installers, maintenance providers, site evaluators and regulators.

The yearly conference has proved to be the best way to accomplish this. TOWTRC and TOWA (Texas Onsite Wastewater Association) have worked together to insure that we, the OSSF representatives have all the up to date information available concerning every aspect of the industry. This includes the latest technology and research findings, new laws and changes to the rules and regulations, as well as addressing our questions and troubleshooting problems that may arise in the field. Because of this conference has gotten bigger and better each year.

I have been involved in the sewer industry almost 30 years and based on my experience with TCEQ (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality) I feel that abolishing the TOWTRC and turning their duties over to TCEQ will be a grave injustice to all involved - the council, the OSSF industry, the homeowners and especially the environment. In my opinion TCEQ is:

- More interested in the revenue they can generate from permits, fines and penalties than they are in taking care of the sewer industry.
- Their idea of addressing a problem is to make a new rule or regulation - however they do not enforce the ones that are already in effect.
- They are very adamant that the sewer installation be done perfectly to specification and our 2 year maintenance performed accordingly. However, they don't seem to be concerned when a system fails and dumps raw sewage into the ground. This can happen when a system ages and is not properly maintained and repaired.

I have never been involved in any business that the people in charge know so little about the industry they are governing. TCEQ has to deal with so many different aspects of the environment and has so little manpower to do it with, I feel they are not giving the sewer industry the attention that is needed. Please do not abolish the TOWTRC, and turn their duties over to an entity that is already overworked and understaffed..

TOWTRC and TOWA have worked hard to make the necessary changes to the OSSF industry to ensure we keep our environment safe, clean and healthy for everyone. Please allow them to continue their work. Remember that age old saying " IF IT AIN'T BROKE DON'T FIX IT". I think it applies here.

Respectfully yours

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