

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Janet Wood](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Monday, August 22, 2016 7:57:44 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Sunday, August 21, 2016 5:40 PM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: RAILROAD COMMISSION TEXAS RRC

First Name: Denise

Last Name: Snyder

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: College Station

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: See below

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

I believe that residents should have the right to know who is doing O&G activity, and where. We should know how much estimated pollution they are dumping into our air and when. We should know how much waste fluids they are sending to the injection wells and when. We should understand the number of vehicles and trucks going to and from the site. Since most sites are hidden from the public, we should have a better understanding of what they are doing. This information should be available in real time. The current RRC website showing wells or permits in my area is almost useless to me - it does not tell me who is actively doing what activities - we should be able to know what they are doing and when.

If oil/gas activity is going on in or near (within 2 miles) of a residence, there should be air monitoring going on at all stages, this air monitoring should be done independently and be paid for by the company responsible.

I believe it is important that those working for the RRC, including Commissioners, have no direct or indirect interest in any regulated entity and there should also be limits on campaign contributions, with a prohibition on corporate contributions, for all elected offices, and in addition, contributions to Commission candidates, should not be allowed within 120 days of the primary or general elections.

There should be easily searchable databases of inspections, complaints, and enforcement actions, including fines and penalties, by individual operator and in the aggregate, on the RRC website. We should also know when they are allowed to dump toxins into our air, how much and when.

Texas oil and gas activity costs should not be externalized to taxpayers.

RRC figures indicate the average well plugging cost in FY 2015 was \$5-\$17/ft of actual well depth, yet plugging

bonds for individual wells is set at \$2/ft; and blanket bonds significantly less. This must be increased to adequate levels. Also, there should be additional bonding requirements, such as surface bonds to protect surface owners from damage.

Penalties must be set high enough to ensure compliance in the first place and deter future violations.

Regarding costs for repairing the destruction of local roads from heavy equipment and trucks used in O&G operations, we need a system that forces them to pay the costs, not taxpayers.

The RRC lacks sufficient inspectors to inspect each well even once a year; they need to impose an annual inspection fee to help cover the additional costs necessary to carry out their mandated duty to protect public health and the environment.

We need to establish a minimum inspector-to-well ratio.

We need compliance evaluation capability that requires inspections and surveillance procedures independent of information supplied by operators.

Deviations must be researched and penalties imposed, including fines and revocation of permits for material noncompliance.

Regarding permits issued for wells, nearby surface owners within two miles should be notified, prior to issuance of a permit.

Presently O&G owners seem to have more rights than surface owners, this is wrong. We are the ones living here, breathing here, drinking the water, paying the taxes - our rights should be at least equal.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree