

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Friday, August 19, 2016 4:17:09 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Friday, August 19, 2016 3:53 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: RAILROAD COMMISSION TEXAS RRC

First Name: Cathy

Last Name: Wallace

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with: Irving Impact

Email:

City: Irving

State: Texas

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

On January 6, 2015, Irving, Tx had 11 earthquakes in one 24 hour period. It was the scariest day of my life. Beginning with a loud rumble, a huge jolt, and then the shaking. It was as if a Mac Truck hit the house and it was going to explode. The windows rattled as if they would burst any second. That went on for the next 24 hours. We all watched our houses crack and shift. My dream home had become my nightmare, wondering if the house would fall down around me.

In North Texas, our buildings and homes are not built to withstand this kind of movement. We've had a huge increase in broken water and gas pipes, along with, sinkholes and landslides in Irving. The oil and gas industry has left the citizens to foot the bill for all these damages.

This is what we experienced in Northeast Irving from the fall of 2014 up until Jan. 2016. An entire year of being assaulted by frackquakes and having the wits scared out of us. Around 200 quakes occurred last year. However, the people that live there know that there were many more that went unreported.

Our pleas to the state regulators and officials were ignored. Neighbors wrote to the Railroad Commission numerous times only to get generic answers.

Yes, we all got the same form letters to our inquiries. Our Railroad Commissioners and their seimologist continually say there is NO connection to wastewater disposal and earthquakes. For them to do Nothing but deny is criminal. Science clearly states there IS a connection to wastewater injection and earthquakes. Scientists from Stanford, SMU, and many others have determined that injection IS related to earthquakes.

In a recent Dallas Morning News Article, Prof. Hornbach of SMU states "the deepest part of the entire basin (Ft. Worth Basin) sits under Dallas and Irving. So if your going to pour water in a bathtub, you can pour it in on this

edge or that edge, and, if it's permeable, it is going to tend to flow and accumulate at the lowest gravitational point." Our houses sit on top of this bathtub of wastewater being injected from surrounding counties with many fault lines that are going to slip.

At a hearing in April of 2015 at The US House of Representatives/ Committee on Science in Washington D.C., Railroad Commissioner Christi Craddick said:

"When you look at the history of Irving, it is actually "The Earthquake Capital of Texas" Is she is talking about the hundreds of quakes that we've had since 2008? If so, that is very recent history. Because up until 2008, there were NO recorded quakes in this area. In an interview last year, Ms. Craddick said she knows they have not done a good job with "Community Outreach" and has since done ZERO Outreach Programs. Where was our "Outreach" when we were getting pummeled with quakes on a daily basis last year? We heard Nothing from our regulators.

Before she made that statement, there was an attempt to reach out in Arlington where none of the commissioners appeared. The public was mute to the panel and could only ask questions written on cards. The panel representing the Railroad Commission was so unprepared they could not answer most questions.

What kind of "outreach" was this, when the public is not allowed to have a discussion with our regulators about a crisis that is happening in their city?

Railroad Commssioner Ryan Sitton has repeatedly denied any connection with earthquakes and injection. In a USA Today article in Dec. 2015, he said it is "virtually impossible" for waste-water wells to be causing earthquakes in Irving. Irving is his hometown and our pleas to shut down the injection well at DFW Airport fell on his deaf ears. In a DMN article July 2016, Prof. Hornbach of SMU and his colleagues offer a possible explanation for how fluid pressure could have migrated over longer distances - Tens Of Miles - from high-volume wells in Johnson and Tarrant Counties toward Dallas.

There are approximately 24 injection wells within a 50km area of the Irving epicenters that could be contributing to seismicity.

The Texas Observer exposed Mr. Faulkner's role as a heavy-hitting political donor in the state. "His \$100,000.00 contribution to the campaign of Railroad Commission candidate Ryan Sitton made him Sitton's biggest individual donor."

One part of the Mission Statement of The Railroad Commission says they are "concerned for personal safety and community safety". This is not their priority. They are an oil and gas subsidiary. It is time for the Railroad Commission to put citizen's safety "first" and stop taking money from the industry they are suppose to be regulating.

What part of "SAFE" do earthquakes fall under in the definition of SAFE?

As long as we continue to have regulatory agencies funded and supported by the fossil fuel industry, we are missing out on the economic boom that comes with supporting wind, solar, and energy storage. It is less expensive to produce these types of energy and not as damaging to our planet as fossil fuel production. Cathy Wallace

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Scientists recognize that 2.5 magnitude is the threshold at which earthquake damage occurs.

Ohio's benchmark is at 2.0M for investigating near-by wells suspected of triggering earthquakes. Even though earthquakes in Texas have been labeled "Minor" there ARE damages due to the swarms that are accumulative. When an earthquake occurs in Texas at 2.0M or greater, the TX RRC should investigate and indefinitely suspend any problematic wells. Currently, the Texas RRC waits until there is a 4.0M before they investigate. That benchmark is too high. Texans need the RRC to be more proactive in protecting resident's safety and their personal property.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree