

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Friday, August 12, 2016 11:10:26 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Friday, August 12, 2016 9:49 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: RAILROAD COMMISSION TEXAS RRC

First Name: Schuyler

Last Name: Wight

Title: Rancher

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: Goldsmith

State: Texas

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

While the sunset committee is wringing their hands over whether to change the name of the agency, and other matters that have little to no significance, they are missing one of the most important functions of the Railroad Commission. The people who deal with the commission know what the name is and what its heritage means to the state. There is no reason to change the name. The disfunction in the Commission is not because of the name, it is due to the lack of teeth the fox has in guarding the henhouse of the state's natural resources.

What the committee should be more concerned about is the slipshod oversight the RRC gives to the oil companies.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

There are orphan wells on my ranch that were drilled with cable tools back before the depression. Even more mind boggling is that there is a seep that is coming into the Pecos River near these wells that the RRC cannot find the source of because of their dearth of resources. The RRC says they don't have the money or the manpower to plug these wells and they don't see that they will have the wherewithall in our lifetime to take care of them either. What a deplorable legacy the oil industry has left for our state, when we are coming out of one of the most prolific oil booms ever, and there is not enough money or wherewithall to take care of the obligations left over from 100 years ago. The RRC and the legislature ought to be ashamed of what they are leaving for our future generations to take care of. These wells belong to me, you, our children, the state, the oil companies, this committee, all of us. It is long overdue for the state to step up and deal with this problem.

There have been new wells added to the state's inventory of orphan wells.

Folks, there is no excuse for this number to be greater than zero, let alone adding new wells to the list.

The sunset committee needs to insist that the legislature take this bull by the horns and fully embrace a program to take care of the obligations that

the state has taken on and protect our water and resources. How many oil booms are we going to watch go by and twiddle our thumbs whilst these old wells deteriorate further? As time goes by, these wells DO NOT GET LESS COSTLY TO PLUG. They get infinitely more expensive because the deterioration of the wellbore causes problems that cost \$ to fix.

I have a solution that the RRC needs to explore further. Because of the state bid process, and the bureaucratic bullshit that the RRC has to comply with, they will never come close to getting these wells plugged. How about letting the oil companies plug these wells as part of their privilege of drilling new ones....plug a well, drill a well. The oil companies are in the business of punching and plugging holes in the earth. Let them figure out how to take care of these wells. The RRC already has a program whereby they provide oversight to companies plugging wells. Let's use that same blueprint to get these old wells taken care of.

Thank you for your time, and I hope you will consider my comments.

Schuyler Wight

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree