

## **Site Selection for Injection Wells Lacks Common Sense**

Dear Editor:

I am a resident of the Crighton Ridge subdivision in Conroe. I attended a protest in Austin with other concerned residents on 5/14, and I'm still reeling from what I heard in our meeting with the TCEQ.

The TCEQ reiterated their mission statement for us, which includes making decisions based upon the law, common sense, good science, and fiscal responsibility. When asked where the provision for common sense was in an initial ruling to allow a toxic injection well to operate in a residential area off Crighton Road in Conroe, the response by John Williams, attorney for the TCEQ executive director's office was, "Being in a residential area is not an absolute factor in determining placement of Class I injection wells."

The TCEQ went on record that day, stating that while they agreed the area in question would be considered a residential area, based on a site visit done two years ago and a traffic impact study done on a Sunday afternoon, they concluded the impact to the residential community would be minimal.

For the record, the TCEQ had an opportunity to drive by the site when they were in town for the contested hearing in December. That didn't happen. They also didn't see a problem using traffic survey data done on a Sunday to reach their conclusions on minimal impact. They apparently hadn't considered that while they're out conducting a survey, our citizens have already taken their seats in pews. Common sense would dictate doing the survey on a weekday, capturing a morning or evening commute. That hasn't been done.

The fact is that 23 school buses serve the quiet bedroom community surrounding the location TexCom has planned to operate toxic injection wells. Those buses represent hundreds of school children who will be placed in harms way on a daily basis, as buses negotiate the growing gauntlet of tractor trailer rigs carrying toxic waste.

At full operation, TexCom's permit would allow up to 360 trucks per day to deliver toxic material to the site and inject it in four separate wells. The entrance to the site will be on FM 3083, but let's remember that an FM is a farm road that was established to bring goods to market. Not to support loaded tractor trailer rigs. I'm no logistician, but common sense tells me that this level of activity, running 24 hours a day will severely impact our community's roads, and the health and safety of the people who live here.

Finally, where's the common sense in overruling every person, business, and government official in Montgomery County, who have stated their strong opposition to this permit request. By siding with a company that just wants to make a quick buck, the TCEQ is declaring that the wealth of a single company outweighs the health of our citizens. To me, that's just not common sense.

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