

MEDIA RELEASE

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Media Contact:

Lisa Howard

936-307-6440

Jennifer Real

936-499-7173

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CITIZENS GROUP MEETS WITH TCEQ DURING AUSTIN PROTEST

Montgomery County, Texas. A subsidiary of Houston based Texcom Resources, Inc. has run into unexpected opposition in its bid for permits to construct and operate four Class I injection wells in Montgomery County, Texas.

Over 100 residents from Conroe and The Woodlands went to Austin on May 14th to protest the State Office of Administrative Hearings recommendation that Texcom Gulf Disposal, LLC and Oklahoma based partner, Foxborough Energy, LLC be allowed to inject toxic waste in a residential area.

In an unscheduled meeting with TCEQ staff, including several members of the legal team, Deputy Director Dan Eden, and UIC Permits Team Leader Ben Knape, residents expressed their concerns about the many conflicting opinions from scientific experts, regarding the suitability and safety of the proposed injection well site.

The Daisetta, TX sinkhole, as well as failed injection wells in Winona and Odessa, Texas were all detailed as a basis for the citizens' concerns regarding the perceived inability of the TCEQ to effectively regulate and monitor injection wells. Ben Knape, UIC Permits Team Leader for the TCEQ, opined that the cause of the Daisetta sinkhole was still undetermined, but neither he nor any other TCEQ official offered an explanation as to why so many injection wells in Texas have failed.

Resident Jennifer Real asked the assembled TCEQ officials if placing a toxic injection waste dump in a residential area met the TCEQ's mission statement philosophy, specifically to base decisions on common sense, in addition to science and law. In response, John Williams, attorney for the TCEQ executive director's office stated, "Being in a residential area is not an absolute factor in determining placement of Class I injection wells." Other members of the TCEQ legal team later added that being in a residential area can be one factor in determining Class I well placement.

Another resident questioned why the TCEQ, whose stated goal is for clean air, clean water, and safe management of waste, is so often seen in adversarial proceedings with the citizens of Texas. TCEQ's position was never fully explained despite other residents repeatedly asking the same question.

In legal filings, TCEQ Executive Director, Glenn Shankle has recommended the permits for Texcom Gulf Disposal, LLC be approved. In dissention, Blas J. Coy, Jr., TCEQ Public Interest Counsel has recommended the permits be denied. The next step is a public hearing before the TCEQ commissioners, expected to be scheduled in late June.

After the TCEQ's meeting with protestors, a group of school children from The Woodlands, who had traveled by bus along with the citizens group to see their civic rights in action, discussed the meeting with their teacher. One child expressed fear about going home and drinking the water. Another asked why they (the TCEQ) don't care about us?

Many residents of Texas are wondering the same thing.

For more information about the proposed injection wells in Montgomery County, visit www.stopthetoxicwells.com.