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To: [Rules Coordinator](#)
Subject: Rule
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Dear Railroad Commissioners,

I am concerned about the impact to wildlife, air quality, and groundwater in Texas from the low standards in the current draft of Statewide Rule 8 regarding waste pits.

I have witnessed birds in distress fighting for their lives in these open reserve pits in the Delaware Basin. I've heard about cows having to be pulled out of the pits because they accidentally fell into the pits. Multiple company men have testimony about witnessing other animals either in distress and eventually dying in these pits or finding them already dead. The impact to wildlife and cattle is unconscionable, and these animals deserve better in their habitats. We have plenty of evidence that wildlife can live harmoniously amongst oil and gas operations when we hold the industry to higher standards.

I recently relocated from the Permian Basin to Houston, and I still have family in Monahans, TX. The oil & gas industry enriches many lives across the Permian, and it should be a priority to ensure the industry is not adding to declining air quality or leeching hazardous toxins/chemicals into the groundwater. Many people love the Permian Basin and will forever call it home. We should be considerate of those who call the Permian Basin home. The industry needs to be held accountable, protect the environment, animals, and many people living in oil & gas rich regions in TX. We can do better. Oil & gas is a wonderful gift that has improved lives for so many across the world. Let's keep protecting the earth and the people making this possible.

Please reinsert the standards for reserve pits and mud circulation pits that were included in the October 2023 draft.

Thank you.

Samantha Bouquin

I'm one with the Force. The Force is with me. ~ Chirrut Imwe