

Kellie Martinec

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 05, 2013 12:35 PM
To: rulescoordinator
Subject: Comments on casing/cementing rules
Attachments: RRC_casingrules.pdf

Please accept my attached comments.
Thank you,

Sharon Wilson

Sharon Wilson * 1121 Belvedere Dr. * Allen, Texas 75013

April 5, 2013

Via email: rulescoordinator@rrc.state.tx.us

Rules Coordinator
Office of General Counsel
Railroad Commission of Texas
P. O. Box 12867
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Rules Coordinator:

Re: Proposed rule changes for Sections 3.13, 3.99, and 3.100--
Amend to address transfer from TCEQ to RRC of Groundwater Advisory Unit,
clarify requirements for drilling, casing, cementing, and fracture stimulation, and
other subjects

Please accept my comments on the proposed rule changes. I do not have the technical expertise to comment on that level but I am a landowner and mineral owner who lived surrounded by shale extraction in Wise County for sixteen years so I have direct experience with impacts. It is a terrifying moment when you turn on the tap and nothing comes out; and even more terrifying when your water returns as black slimy goop. Was the fracking near me the cause? Like many other landowners I have no way to prove responsibility and, at that time, I lacked the knowledge to connect dots.

When the first rig went up very near my property, I immediately lost approximately \$80,000 in value. Despite the fact that I receive a check each month, I'm still in the hole. Had my water not returned and eventually cleared up, the financial loss would be even greater.

I documented what I witnessed happening around me and spent several years voluntarily helping people who were experiencing similar impacts

When Tim and Christine Ruggiero learned that drilling was imminent two hundred feet from their water well on their Wise County property, they called me and I advised them to immediately get a baseline water test. On September 24, 2009, they received the results that their water was clean and safe. Hydraulic fracturing began on the Ruggiero property on November 30, 2009. A post fracking water sample was taken in March 2010, and on March 26, they were notified that their water was contaminated with very high levels of MTBE. MTBE is an additive in diesel fuel. A Congressional investigation found that between 2005 and 2009, 32 million gallons of diesel was used in hydraulic fracturing fluids in 19 states. Half of that--16 million gallons--was used in Texas.

The Ruggieros sued the operator. There was a settlement and the family moved. The settlement came with a non-disclosure agreement. Had they not shared the testing results with me early on, they would be sealed with all other documents involving the case. They spent about \$15,000 for environmental testing on their property and found extensive contamination. Their property was devalued seventy-five percent.

When landowners have proof of contamination, they sue, there is a settlement and a non-disclosure agreement. Those records including all test results are sealed away in secrecy forever. This pattern allows industry to continue to say they have been fracking for decades and there has never, ever been one case of documented water contamination.

It's ironic to call the Ruggieros lucky but they are luckier than most. I receive calls each week from Texans who still don't know anything much about fracking and didn't learn that it would happen near them or what to do about it until it was too late to get baseline testing.

Operators fight against a statewide requirement for baseline testing. Without baseline testing, there is no way landowners can prove the contamination was not pre-existing.

Citizens are largely on their own when it comes to grappling with the oil and gas industry. The least the state of Texas can do is require the strongest possible casing and cementing requirements to protect our groundwater and our private property.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Sharon Wilson

Sharon Wilson
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