

Letitia Plummer

Gwen Ricco (MC 205) Office of Legal Services
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

6/14/2023

RE: Proposed Amendments to Concrete Batch Plant Standard Permit

Dear Members of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality,

I write to you as an At-Large Member of the City of Houston, with respect to the proposed amendments to the Concrete Batch Plant Standard Permit. I am sharing the concerns and experiences of Houston residents who live in close proximity to concrete batch plants, whose impacts have been frequently expressed to my office.

Particulate Matter, emitted from these concrete batch plants, poses severe health risks. Long-term exposure to these particles can significantly affect lung health, leading to chronic respiratory conditions. This is a major cause of concern among our Houston residents, hence the urgency of addressing this issue.

I acknowledge and appreciate the measures that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has taken since 2021 to enhance standards and mitigate the environmental impact. The introduction of "dust suppressing fencing or other barriers" is a notable improvement, playing a crucial role in controlling particulate matter.

However, I believe that these barriers should not replace the necessary distance requirements, but rather supplement them. Particulate matter is known to travel considerable distances and remain airborne for an extended period of time. I propose that the minimum height of the dust suppressant barriers, proposed at 12 feet, be reevaluated, as it appears insufficient to contain particulate matter effectively.

Although the proposed changes signify progress, it is my belief that they do not sufficiently minimize the risk to our residents. The current proposal may overlook the significant health implications of prolonged exposure to particulate matter.

I value your commitment to protecting the environment and the health of all Texans. I trust that you will consider the points raised in this letter and strengthen the proposed standards to further safeguard the health of our residents.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. I look forward to your positive action in this regard.

Sincerely,

Council Member Letitia Plummer, At-Large 4



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