

Mary Cato

I submitted a comment yesterday on SIP project # 2023-107-SIP-NR, before I attended the TCEQ hearing in Arlington yesterday evening - that comment included data, but I suspect that TCEQ already has plenty of data to develop & implement rules to meet the federal SIP requirements for the severe nonattainment status of DFW under the clean air act. I didn't speak at the hearing because public speaking is too stressful for me, but continue to think about what other people said to the TCEQ staff at the hearing. My comment now on SIP project #2023-108-SIP-NR is only based on personal experience, but I want to add it to the record.

I grew up in Virginia, and first moved to the DFW area in 1970, living here until the mid-1980s. I returned to Texas for a job in 1998, and noticed when I drove into Dallas that the sky was not blue, although it was clear, but a pale dirty yellow. Perhaps that was a particularly bad day for pollution, but the impression struck me and the memory remains. During my time living in Arlington, I became aware of the issue of the pollution plume passing through the area from the coal plants in Midlothian. I don't know what happened there, but I don't hear about that issue so much any more. Then the fracking boom started, and has since been enthusiastically embraced by the City of Arlington, with new poisonous pollution basically ignored in favor of money from the frackers.

Periodically since my return to Texas, I have returned to the mountains in Virginia for a week or two, and discovered that my clogged sinuses and constant headaches went away during my brief escape from Texas. Until I returned. I cannot move away from Texas now, since I'm retired (from the state) and cannot afford that change, particularly given my health and age.

I cannot move elsewhere because I cannot afford it, given my age and health and the fact that I'm retired from the state. Texas politicians, at least those who 'represent' me, seem only to show concern for the wealthy & industry, not for residents impacted by that industry. I include TCEQ in that attitude, given the track record of holding back from strong regulations and enforcement.