

Emily Choate

Dear TCEQ Commissioners,

I urge you to strengthen the current Best Management Practices for aggregate production operation to better safeguard Texas communities and our natural resources. Please consider implementing the following critical improvements:

1. Air Quality Protection: Require continuous air monitoring at property boundaries with enforceable PM2.5 and PM10 limits. Dust control plans should include measurable goals and clear thresholds for violations.
2. Setbacks and Buffers: Establish a minimum 1,500-foot setback from homes, schools, and sensitive areas. Require vegetative buffers of specified density and width, alongside noise barriers in residential zones.
3. Water Resource Safeguards: Conduct baseline groundwater studies before operations commence, followed by quarterly testing. Mandate proper liners for water containment structures and establish clear protocols for addressing contamination.
4. Operational Controls: Restrict operational hours near residential areas, require covered conveyor systems regardless of length, implement mandatory wheel washing stations, and enforce strict speed limits on haul roads.
5. Transparency and Accountability: Require regular third-party compliance audits, clear penalty structures, public reporting of monitoring data, and robust community notification systems.

The above listed updates would create enforceable standards that prioritize public health and environmental stewardship while still addressing industrial needs.

Sincerely,

Emily Choate