

Item #8 – Reserve Pit Linings or Self-Containment

It has come to my attention that the Texas Railroad Commission (TRC) does not require nor have authority to require an entity drilling for oil or gas to line the reserve pits or use self-containment of bore cuttings in order to protect groundwater. I was contacted by a rancher in Brazos County where it is apparent that oil and other chemicals have leached into the ground in an area of artesian flow. Pits dug in this area fill with groundwater within three days' time. The TRC is currently requiring the offending entity to clean the area where the former reserve pits were located.

I spoke with Commissioner Catalina at one of the sites to be mitigated. He plans on visiting with the County Judge and other commissioners to see what authority the county has to require reserve pits to be lined in order to protect the aquifers from contamination.

Since the District is mandated to protect the aquifers from harm, this item has been placed on the agenda for discussion and possible action. Monique is researching to see just what authority the county has and will report those findings at the board meeting.