

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
Oil and Gas Division

NOTICE TO OIL AND GAS WELL OPERATORS

RE: PROPER MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN WASTE ON LOCATION

It has come to the Railroad Commission of Texas' (RRC) attention that some persons working at drilling and completion locations have been discharging human waste directly onto the soil. This practice is in direct violation of Texas law.

All domestic sewage, including waterborne human waste and waste from activities such as bathing and food preparation, generated at an oil and gas exploration or production location under RRC jurisdiction must be managed in accordance with state law, and may not be commingled with other wastes or discharged directly to the ground.

The preferred management practice for domestic sewage is "pump and haul," which entails collecting the waste in a closed system and having it transported by a registered sludge transporter, authorized to transport domestic sewage, for disposal at a permitted facility authorized to receive and manage domestic sewage. Sludge transporters are regulated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) under Title 30, Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 312, Subchapter G.

Alternatively, domestic sewage not mixed with other wastes may be managed in portable chemical toilets or onsite septic systems. Chemical toilet waste is required to be transported by a registered sludge transporter. A domestic sewage waste management system at a well site must be operated in exactly the same manner as if it were permitted by the appropriate local or state authority, and all operators must be prepared at all times to demonstrate to a RRC inspector that the system is in compliance with applicable local and state standards.

These TCEQ regulations require that operators retain and have available on location for inspection, copies of domestic sewage trip tickets indicating the transporter of the domestic sewage, the disposal location and the information required by 30 TAC §312.145.

Failure to follow this policy will result in prompt enforcement action, including the maximum allowable fine, remediation and potential severance until this practice is stopped and remedied. If you have any questions, contact the RRC District Office for the area, or the TCEQ Registration and Reporting Section at 512-239-6413. For RRC District Offices contact information, visit the RRC website at <http://www.rrc.texas.gov/about-us/organization-activities/rrc-locations/#OilGasLocations>.

Austin, Texas

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Please Forward to the Appropriate Section of Your Company
