



Senator Robert Nichols

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STATE OF TEXAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TRENT ASHBY

District 57

NICHOLS, ASHBY SEND LETTER TO RRC REGARDING NEW INFORMATION RELATED TO PA PROSPECT APPLICATION IN SAN AUGUSTINE COUNTY

AUSTIN, TX -- This week, Senator Robert Nichols and Representative Trent Ashby sent a letter to the Railroad Commission of Texas outlining their continued concerns regarding an application for an oil and gas disposal facility in San Augustine County by PA Prospect Corporation. New information has come to light that has created even more concern.

According to the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists (TBPG), the geoscientist hired to assist in the application process for the oil and gas disposal facility was served a Notice of Violation by the Board that found deficiencies in the application. Disciplinary actions have been recommended by the Complaint Review Team to the TBPG. Pending board approval, that geoscientist is facing a possible license suspension for one year, a hefty administrative penalty, a requirement to obtain remedial training in groundwater, and a restriction from practicing in areas related to groundwater until some of that training is completed.

This comes after a recent decision by the Railroad Commission to set a posthearing conference on the application after new information and numerous discrepancies were presented by PA Prospect in the hearing process. Those discrepancies deviated from the original application that PA Prospect filed with the Commission.

"Given that the person hired to work on this application is facing significant professional scrutiny over the coming weeks and possible license suspension, I think it would be prudent for the Railroad Commission to heavily consider the errors by the applicant in this case," said Senator Nichols. "Taken together, we encourage the Railroad Commission to reject the application."

The two legislators reiterated their concerns of the potential environmental and water-related impacts this facility could have on the sensitive watershed, which is in close proximity to the facility's proposed location.

"Any damage to the watershed of San Augustine County caused by the proposed facility cannot be undone," said Rep. Ashby. "It is incumbent upon the State and particularly the Railroad Commission to protect the citizens of San Augustine County from such irreparable harm."

Nichols was first elected to the Texas Senate in 2007 and represents 19 counties across East Texas including part of Montgomery County. Ashby is in his fifth term as a member of the Texas House of Representatives, and currently represents Angelina, Houston, Leon, Madison, San Augustine, and Trinity Counties.

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