

# Our Mission

**Commission Shift** is reforming oil and gas oversight by building public support to hold the **Railroad Commission of Texas** accountable to its mission in a shifting energy landscape.

# About Us

Commission Shift **develops solutions** to protect consumer rights, prevent orphaned oil and gas wells, and ensure Texans have full access to information and participation opportunities at the Railroad Commission of Texas.

## OIL AND GAS WASTE PITS

# Contact Us

Has oil and gas development impacted you? We want to hear your story.



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[www.CommissionShift.org](http://www.CommissionShift.org)

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# Oil and Gas Waste Pits



## What are they?

Surface waste disposal sites (SWDs) or “waste pits” are open air pits where oil and gas companies dump liquid and solid waste from the oilfield. Material disposed in waste pits may include drill cuttings, spent completion fluid, working fluids, and other oil and gas production waste. Some pits are located on well pads, and others combine waste from surrounding well sites.



## Impacts

*Credit: Julian Mancha for The Texas Tribune/Inside Climate News*

Waste pits can sicken nearby community members, contaminate surface and groundwater, release harmful gas, and poison cattle and wildlife.

Impacted community members largely bear the burden of proving that these facilities harm human and environmental health, when it should be the responsibility of the company and the Railroad Commission of Texas, our state oil and gas agency, to protect Texans from these risks.

## Learn More

Check out our website for more resources, including interactive maps of waste pits across Texas!



[commissionshift.org/waste-pits](https://commissionshift.org/waste-pits)

## Solutions

- **Do not allow treated drill cuttings to be used as construction fill** or as road base on county roads (45% of the roads in the state).
- **Require liners and setbacks for “authorized” pits** used on-lease at oil and gas well sites, and ensure consent from landowners, without exception.
- **Standardize and improve groundwater monitoring** to prevent leakage or improper handling of waste, which can introduce harmful chemicals and pollutants into drinking water.



## Join Us!

Subscribe to Commission Shift's newsletter to learn about opportunities to voice your concern and talk to your legislator!



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