



November 24, 2009

Mr. Mark R. Vickery, P.G.
Executive Director
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, TX 78711-3087

Dear Executive Director Vickery:

Clean air and clean water are not just desirable options, they are essential elements for a sound quality of life today and tomorrow throughout the State of Texas. Clean energy - in the form of Texas natural gas - is another essential element in the continuation of that quality of life.

The officers and members of the Texas Alliance of Energy Producers appreciate your leadership, and they want to continue working with the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality in assuring that our state and our industry continue to thrive. Many of our 3,200 members live and work in the Barnett Shale area where there have been recent reports of higher than acceptable benzene readings in air samples near Dish (Denton County). These reports merit serious attention and action. We appreciate that we were advised and included in the recent meetings with you and your staff regarding the problem.

We, however, have not received a requested copy of the presentation made by Keith Sheedy at your industry meeting on Friday, November 13th. It was reportedly hard to see and our representatives have not been able to provide us with enough data to facilitate an analysis. Could you help us obtain that information?

We are currently drafting a memo to our Barnett Shale producers to make them aware of the potential problems with excess levels of benzene. We are asking them to take steps to voluntarily monitor and reduce their emissions to make sure that their emissions are within the restrictions of their permits. We also will provide them with the information and advise them of the TCEQ Compliance Workshop on December 8th.

Mr. Vickery, the Alliance is committed to partnering with TCEQ and the citizens of Dish in analyzing the problem, isolating the source and finding a solution. Toxic substances in our air of the magnitude reported are not an option.

Please know that you can call on Alliance Executive Vice President Bill Stevens for any specific help or requests. Bill offices in Austin and can be reached at (512)656-2209.

I look forward to hearing from you, and working with you and your staff.

Best regards,

Mark Metzler,
Chairman of the Board

CC: State Rep. Jim Keefer, Chairman, House Energy Resources Committee
State Senator Kip Averitt, Chairman, Senate Natural Resources Committee
State Senator Craig Estes, Vice Chairman, Senate Natural Resources Committee
State Senator Wendy Davis, District 10, Tarrant County
State Rep. Lon Burnam, District 90, Tarrant County
Mr. Toby Baker, office of Governor Rick Perry
Mr. Andrew Keffer, office of Governor Rick Perry