



BORRIS L. MILES

STATE SENATOR • DISTRICT 13

COMMITTEES: AGRICULTURAL, WATER, & RURAL AFFAIRS • HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES • NATURAL RESOURCES & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT • NOMINATIONS

December 18, 2017

Richard Hyde, P.E.
Executive Director
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, TX 78711-3087

Dear Mr. Hyde,

I want to voice my concern regarding the recent oil well blowout in Fort Bend County and call on the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to investigate the causes for the blowout and response of well owner IWR Operating, LLC in appropriately arresting the leakage in a timely manner.

While media reported on December 7 that IWR was seeking to cap the well and contain the gas leakage, TCEQ's own tracking data show that resident complaints from the odor peaked on December 9 and 10. Complaints continued throughout this week; more than eight days after the initial blowout was reported on December 6.

Clearly, the leakage was not stopped in time to minimize its effect on area neighborhoods and I will be closely monitoring the potential impact of the gas on the health and well-being of those affected.

I hereby request that TCEQ launch an investigation into IWR and determine when and what steps were taken to control and arrest the leakage. I also request that TCEQ investigate and determine why the blowout occurred initially and provide recommendations for how such an incident may be prevented in the future.

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Mr. Hyde

I look forward to working with your staff and the staff and members of the Senate Natural Resources & Economic Development Committee through the interim to continue to enhance the health and safety of Texas families.

Thank you in advance for your prompt action. Please contact me if you have questions or need assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Boris L. Miles', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Boris L. Miles
Senator, District 13

CC: The Honorable Christi Craddick, Chairman, Texas Railroad Commission
The Honorable Ryan Sitton, Railroad Commissioner
The Honorable Wayne Christian, Railroad Commissioner