

# VEHICLE EMISSION TESTING BEGINS AS CITIZENS DO THEIR FAIR SHARE FOR CLEAN AIR

BUT WILL THE REGION MEET CLEAN AIR BY 2007? THE OUTLOOK IS SMOGGY.

Vehicle emissions testing began May 1st as a strategy to help clear the air over the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex. Vehicle emissions testing is a great step toward solving the metroplex's air quality woes but will the air get clean enough by 2007? It's highly unlikely.

Cars are just a piece of the larger pollution puzzle. The underestimation of emissions coming from automobiles according to recent modeling by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Ellis County's persistent violation of clean air standards, a push by North Texas Congressman Joe Barton to undermine the Clean Air Act, the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission's (TNRCC) unwillingness to enforce the law, and industrial facilities emitting three times their agreed permit levels all point toward failure to reach clean air by 2007.

As reported in the last Downwinder's newsletter, a study conducted by the EPA illustrates that the modeling numbers used to plan strategies for our State Implementation Plan (SIP) "underestimated the release of nitrogen oxide (NOx)...and volatile organic compounds (VOCs)" from automobiles by more than 90% in 2004 and 44% in 2007. *Comparative Study of Mobile5 and Mobile6 for the Dallas Ft. Worth Non-attainment.*

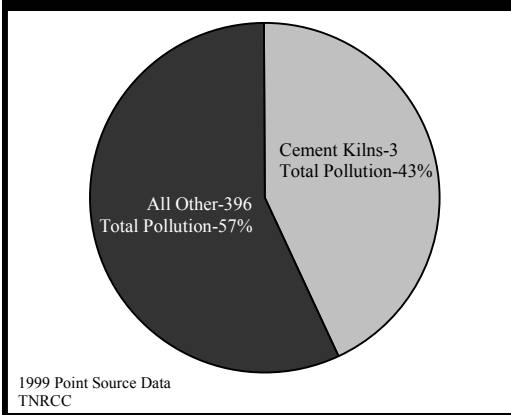
While automobiles are a significant source of North Texas' air quality problem, cars are further exacerbated by Ellis county. Ellis county, which lies just south of Dallas is in violation of the very law that has forced automobile emissions testing on Dallas, Tarrant, Collin, and Denton county residents. As you know, Ellis county is home to the largest industrial sources in the metroplex but yet the industries that lie there have been asked to make only modest reductions -- and they're even disputing that.

According to the most recent EPA Air Data (1999) the twenty-two facilities that reside in Ellis county account for 49 percent of all industrial pollution in North Texas while the remaining 376 facilities in Dallas, Tarrant, Collin, & Denton account for 51 percent. What's more telling is that the three cement kilns in Ellis county make up a significant percentage of industrial pollution-43 percent. And to think they were asked to make only modest reductions in accordance with the

air quality clean-up plan. Something doesn't seem fair.

In another article in this issue (State-of-the-Art-Ful-Dodgers) we talked about how the cement plants continue to put our air quality clean-up plan at risk. Of the three cement kilns that reside in Ellis county one has an ongoing lawsuit and is trying to opt out of the clean air rules (TXI) and another is pumping out more than double the pollution they said they would (Holcim). Holcim and the TNRCC recently reached agreement on what their fine would be for their violations against breather's-a small penance for the pollution they're still pumping out.

Cement Kiln Pollution Compared to All Other DFW Industrial Sources



Meanwhile Congressman Barton, whose home just happens to be Ellis County and was coincidentally the largest recipient of campaign money from the industries that reside there, is attempting to gut significant portions of the Clean Air Act. The Clean Air Act reauthorization hearings began on May 1st and reside in the House energy and air quality subcommittee, chaired by Barton. The Clean Air Act is the law which governs pollution standards and it calls for such things as real emission reductions from

industrial sources like those in Ellis county, development of regional strategies for making the air cleaner, and use of health-based standards in order to guide rule development by the EPA.

On February 28, 2002 citizens and public interest organizations made a special trip to Austin to ask the TNRCC Executive Director, Jeff Saitas to request that Ellis county comply with the Clean Air Act. In a response, Saitas stated "Yep, you're right. Ellis County has violated the law, but I'm not going to enforce it." (paraphrased). See our front page article *Follow the Law?*

Here's the reality folks. Citizens are doing their part to clear the air through vehicle emission testing, but the largest industrial sources in North Texas remain awry. Citizens have asked for fair and proportional reductions from the area's largest industrial sources, but the state refuses to comply. Citizens have asked Jeff Saitis, of the TNRCC, to comply with federal law, but yet he refuses to do so. Citizens want clean air to breathe but will they get it-probably not.

## THE THREE LITTLE PIGS & TXI'S RECYCLING PROGRAM TWO GREAT FAIRY TALES. ONE BIG OINK!

TXI, the Single Largest  
Toxic Polluter  
in North Texas  
365 days a year.

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

In the Earth Day edition of the *Today Newspaper*, TXI printed an ad that depicted TXI's Great Earth Day scam-recycling 365 days a year.

Picture it. The ad incorporated a theme similar to those found in popular fairy tales: an inviting wooded path which winds through a forest of blooming flowers and beautiful, budding trees, pretty enough to invite even Goldilocks into the forest. The words scrolled across the scene *Recycling is one way we (TXI) make Earth Day last 365 days a year* tarnishes the image and like the popular fairy tales it conveys a cold hard moral lesson.

Using a similar theme to the ad that TXI recently published we've create a parody of sorts-but it's no fairy tale. Because just like in the story of the *Big Bad Wolf*, the three little pigs live to squeal the story or "tail" the tall tale.

The true story of TXI is best depicted above. *TXI, the Single Largest Toxic Polluter in North Texas 365 days a year.* Because, like the story *Three Little Pigs*, the truth should be told.

While it's debatable about whether the burning of hazardous waste constitutes recycling we think it is important that you know the truth about the largest burner of hazardous waste in the state.

According to TNRCC data, TXI is the single largest industrial source in North Texas. The sum of all of its pollution totals 11,754 tons per year. TXI is permitted to burn 549,000,000 pounds of hazardous waste each year. TXI's Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) data indicates that they release over 80 different types of toxic chemicals each year including such things as 1,3 Butadiene, Benzene, and Styrene. TXI's total on-site releases including total air emissions, surface water discharges, underground injections, and releases to land was 1,076,964 pounds (1999 data). These are just the cold, hard facts-no fairy tale here.

So the does TXI recycle 365 days a year in an effort to make Earth Day last or is this just another fairy tale story with no happy ending? You decide.

**We would appreciate your support of the ad campaign above.  
Donations can be made payable to Downwinders at Risk  
400 North Main Street Duncanville, TX 75116**