

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
76R9287 JJT-F

H.B. 480
By: Seaman (Armbrister)
Natural Resources
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Engrossed

DIGEST

Currently, a commercial surface disposal facility (oil field and drilling waste handler) permit applicant is only required to notify adjacent landowners of the permit application. Safe drinking water supplies and the local environment could be threatened by the placement of such facilities. County officials and citizens affected by such a facility must travel to Austin to voice their opinion during the Railroad Commission's (RRC) application review process. H.B. 480 sets forth specific notification requirements for a commercial surface disposal facility permit applicant, and authorizes the RRC to hold hearings in the affected county, rather than only Austin, in Travis County.

PURPOSE

As proposed, H.B. 480 creates regulation for the notice of a commercial surface disposal facility permit application.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 91D, Natural Resources Code, by adding Sections 91.116 and 91.117, as follows:

Sec. 91.116. NOTICE OF COMMERCIAL SURFACE DISPOSAL FACILITY PERMIT APPLICATION. Defines "commercial surface disposal facility (CSDF)." Requires a CSDF permit applicant to publish notice of the application. Sets forth notice requirements, and notice publication requirements.

Sec. 91.117. PUBLIC INFORMATION HEARING ON APPLICATION FOR COMMERCIAL SURFACE DISPOSAL FACILITY PERMIT. Defines "commercial surface disposal facility." Authorizes the Railroad Commission of Texas to hold a public meeting on a CSDF application. Requires the meeting to be held in same county as the facility location.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 1999.
Makes application of this Act prospective.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.