

By: Hinojosa

S.B. No. 1572

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to land reclamation projects using tires.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 361, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 361.1127 to read as follows:

Sec. 361.1127. LAND RECLAMATION PROJECTS USING TIRES.

(a) In this section:

(1) "Land reclamation" means the process of restoring an area of excavated, deteriorated, or disturbed land to its approximate natural grade and to prepare or reclaim the land for reuse.

(2) "Scrap tire" has the meaning assigned by Section 361.112.

(b) A person may not begin a land reclamation project using scrap tires without a permit issued by the commission under this chapter.

(c) A person may not use scrap tires for a land reclamation project unless the tires are shredded, split, or quartered as provided by commission rule. The commission may grant an exception to this requirement if the commission finds that circumstances warrant the exception.

(d) The commission may not grant a permit for a land reclamation project using scrap tires before:

(1) the commission receives comments or suggestions

1 from:

2 (A) the governing body of any municipality in the  
3 corporate limits of which the proposed project is located; or

4 (B) if the proposed project is not located in a  
5 municipality:

6 (i) the commissioners court of each county  
7 in which the proposed project is located; and

8 (ii) each groundwater conservation  
9 district, if any, in which the proposed project is located; or

10 (2) the expiration of a time period, established by  
11 commission rule, in which the entities described by this subsection  
12 may offer comments.

13 (e) The application to request a permit for a land  
14 reclamation project using scrap tires must include at a minimum:

15 (1) a legal description of the area to be reclaimed;

16 (2) a map clearly identifying the area to be reclaimed  
17 and the topography of the area;

18 (3) an affidavit from the property owner certifying  
19 that the reclamation project complies with this section and the  
20 rules adopted under this section; and

21 (4) an analysis and evaluation of the environmental  
22 impacts on the soil and groundwater in the area of the proposed  
23 project that compare the impact of using scrap tires for the  
24 proposed reclamation project to the impact of at least one  
25 reasonable alternative method of land reclamation for the proposed  
26 project.

27 (f) The commission by rule shall:

1           (1) prescribe minimum standards to protect the soil  
2 and water for a land reclamation project using scrap tires; and

3           (2) adopt application forms and procedures for the  
4 permitting process under this section.

5           (g) The commission may amend, extend, transfer, or renew a  
6 permit issued under this section as provided by this chapter and  
7 commission rule.

8           (h) The notice and hearing procedures provided by this  
9 subchapter apply to a permit issued, amended, extended, or renewed  
10 under this section.

11           (i) The commission may, for good cause, deny, revoke, or  
12 amend a permit under this section for reasons concerning public  
13 health and safety, air or water pollution, land use, or a violation  
14 of this section as provided by Section 361.089.

15           SECTION 2. (a) Before September 1, 2010, the Texas  
16 Commission on Environmental Quality shall adopt any rules required  
17 to implement Section 361.1127, Health and Safety Code, as added by  
18 this Act.

19           (b) On or after the effective date of this Act, any person  
20 responsible for an ongoing or pending land reclamation project  
21 using scrap tires that has not yet placed the tires below ground may  
22 not place the tires below ground until the person has obtained a  
23 permit under Section 361.1127, Health and Safety Code, as added by  
24 this Act.

25           (c) To the extent that a land reclamation project using  
26 scrap tires has placed tires below ground before the effective date  
27 of this Act, the project is subject to the law in effect on the date

1 the tires were placed below ground, and that law is continued in  
2 effect for that purpose.

3       SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
4 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
5 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
6 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
7 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.