

By: Morales Shaw

H.B. No. 4572

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the regulation by the Railroad Commission of Texas of certain pits used for the storage and disposal of oil and gas waste.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 91, Natural Resources Code, is amended by adding Section 91.119 to read as follows:

Sec. 91.119. REGULATIONS REGARDING RESERVE AND MUD CIRCULATION PITS. (a) In this section:

(1) "Mud circulation pit" means a pit used in conjunction with a drilling rig for the storage of drilling fluid being used in drilling operations.

(2) "Reserve pit" means a pit used in conjunction with a drilling rig for collecting:

(A) spent drilling fluids;

(B) cuttings, sand, and silt; or

(C) wash water used for cleaning drill pipe and other equipment at the well site.

(b) The commission shall adopt rules regarding the use of reserve pits and mud circulation pits. The rules must establish:

(1) minimum siting standards for reserve pits and mud circulation pits;

(2) uniform technical, construction, sampling, and closure standards for reserve pits and mud circulation pits;

(3) minimum and maximum bonding and financial security

1 requirements for a person using a reserve pit for the permanent  
2 burial of oil and gas waste;

3 (4) groundwater monitoring standards for reserve pits  
4 and mud circulation pits; and

5 (5) standards for providing notice to and receiving  
6 permission from a landowner for the permanent burial of the oil and  
7 gas waste, including providing notice to the landowner of the type  
8 and volume of oil and gas waste to be buried in the reserve pit or  
9 mud circulation pit.

10 (c) The standards established under Subsections (b)(1)-(4)  
11 must be consistent with analogous standards established by the  
12 commission for produced water recycling pits.

13 (d) Not later than 30 days after the closure of a reserve pit  
14 or mud circulation pit used for the permanent burial of oil and gas  
15 waste, the operator must send a written notice of the burial of the  
16 oil and gas waste to the county clerk of the county in which the pit  
17 is located. The written notice must include a legal description of  
18 the location of the pit and the type and volume of oil and gas waste  
19 in the pit. After receiving notice of the oil and gas waste burial,  
20 the county clerk shall record the notice at no charge in the  
21 official public records of the county.

22 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.