

Brooke Paup, *Chairwoman*
Catarina R. Gonzales, *Commissioner*
Tonya R. Miller, *Commissioner*
Kelly Keel, *Executive Director*



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

June 26, 2026

Juanita Garcia
Public Services Staff Officer
United States Department of Agriculture
2221 North Raguet Street
Lufkin, TX 75904

Via: **E-mail**

Re: TCEQ NEPA Request #2026-263. NATIONAL FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS IN TEXAS OIL AND GAS LEASING. Angelina, Cherokee, Fannin, Houston, Jasper, Montague, Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Newton, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, Tyler, Walker, Wise Counties.

Dear Ms. Garcia,

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has reviewed the above-referenced project and offers the following comments:

The proposed action could potentially be located in multiple counties, some of which are designated nonattainment for the 2008 eight-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) with a classification of severe and designated nonattainment for the 2015 eight-hour ozone NAAQS with a classification of serious; therefore, federal Clean Air Act, §176(c) general conformity requirements apply. Per federal general conformity regulations at 40 CFR §93.153, a conformity demonstration may be required when the total projected direct and indirect volatile organic compounds (VOC) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) emissions—precursor pollutants that lead to the formation of ozone—from an applicable federal action are equal to or exceed the *de minimis* emissions level of 50 tons per year (tpy) for ozone NAAQS serious nonattainment areas and 25 tpy for severe nonattainment areas. For emissions analyses conducted to determine general conformity applicability, the TCEQ recommends using a methodology consistent with the requirements at 40 CFR §93.159.

The Office of Water does not anticipate significant long term environmental impacts from this project as long as construction and waste disposal activities associated with it are completed in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal environmental permits, statutes, and regulations. We recommend that the applicant take necessary steps to ensure that best management practices are used to control runoff from construction sites to prevent detrimental impact to surface and ground water.

Any debris or waste disposal should be at an appropriately authorized disposal facility.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. If you have any questions, please contact the agency NEPA coordinator at (512) 239-5538 or NEPA@tceq.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Vise".

Ryan Vise
Division Director
External Relations