

# TCEQ Commissioners' Integrated Database - All Comments

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1841B

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**Comments:**

Comment letters, etc. received since November 2008 are viewable in PDF by clicking on the Correspondence Type.

Date Received	Commentor	Correspondence Type	Comments Submitted Electronically
11/21/2019 5:11 PM	CORONA,JOSE D		<p>Hello, my name is Jose Corona and I am the owner and operator of Alamo helicopter tours and Austin helicopter tours. I am writing to tell you about my experiences flying in and around the Austin Bergstrom International Airport (ABIA) area for the past seven years. As a helicopter pilot flying daily, I often hear other pilots giving pilot reports to the air traffic controllers about birds being at a certain height or worse that they had a bird strike. In my 20 plus years of flying I've had lots of near misses with wild life, and the most dangerous ones I've encountered are the Black Vulture and the Turkey Vulture. They will fly at different altitudes and are not spooked easily by flying aircraft. I teach my students to avoid them immediately and if there is one flying, there are always others as they never fly alone. I've often told my passengers that these birds seem to fly asleep because they will not move out of our way in flight. These Birds start to fly when the sun comes up and starts to dry their feathers and then start to look for food right after that. They will fly and search for food all the way till the sun goes down. Besides the easy pickings of road kill, the other places they love is the landfills. There they will walk away from the bull dozers that are trying to cover the land fill, only to walk right behind the dozer picking up scraps. It's the circling and flying to and from that is the most dangerous. These birds ride the thermals and use very little energy to climb and circle for long periods of time. That is another thing that makes them hard to see in flight, by not flapping they are more difficult to see. A few months ago, while avoiding a vulture, I asked the</p>

			<p>While avoiding a vulture, I asked the controller how many bird strikes does the Austin Bergstrom airport have a day? The controller responded "MANY".. I was shocked and astounded to find out that as busy as this airport is, that there are multiple landfills so close more</p>
11/21/2019 4:30 PM	LITTLE,JUSTIN		<p>I have personally flown over and around the trash site on no less than 12 occasions for the purpose on survey. Allflights were on Sundays and before 12pm. On every occasion there was blowing trash, open water and birds both on the ground and airborne. I believe this site is clearly poorly managed to not be covered properly when no personal are on site and a hazard to aircraft flying in the proximity.</p>
11/21/2019 3:36 PM	WHITE,JON A		<p>Representatives of Texas Disposal Systems Landfill, Inc. (TDSL) have brought to our attention evidence collected by TDSL in support of their contention that the Texas Regional Landfill Co's Type IV Travis County Landfill (MSW 1841B) has a greater issue with bird attraction and may pose a more significant aviation hazard than has heretofore been documented. Specifically, they have provided photographic evidence of birds being attracted to the working face. While the evidence is not conclusive and (to our knowledge) has not been supported by other independent sources, we believe the bird attraction issue warrants greater scrutiny to ensure that expansion of the landfill will not contribute to an aviation hazard associated with bird strikes. Jon A. White Director, Natural Resources &amp; Environmental Quality Division Travis County TNR</p>
11/21/2019 1:25 PM	STACY,TOM	Hearing Request	<p>As an owner/operator of a business, I oppose any expansion in land mass or extension of time to operate the Waste Connections landfill off the south end of runway 17R at ABIA. I have some near misses with large birds flying over the food source of the landfill. I believe it is in the best interest of safety for the flying public to eliminate the food source attraction that causes the risk to safety. I request a contested case hearing to determine the public best interest. Thank you.</p>
11/21/2019 11:15 AM	LINTNER,LOREN	Comment - Written	<p>The City of Austin does not own the land currently operated by the Landfill Operator. The Department of Aviation has no regulatory authority to approve</p>

			<p>has no regulatory authority to approve or deny an operating permit. The issuance of permits falls under the jurisdiction and authority of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The City of Austin Department of Aviation requests that a new requirement be added to section III-m vector control. The new section would require that the Landfill Operator to create a Wildlife Hazard Management Plan for the landfill that is prepared by a FAA qualified Wildlife Biologist/Consultant specializing in Wildlife Hazard Management Plans within 12 months of the issued permit.. The plan should be audited annually.</p>
11/21/2019 9:46 AM	BROOKS,MIKE	Comment - Written	See Attachment
11/20/2019 11:16 PM	EL-EFFENDI,ADHAM HISSAM	Hearing Request	<p>My name is Adham el-Effendi and I'm a pilot based at Atlantic Aviation on Austin Bergstrom International Airport. I hold private, high performance, complex, instrument, and commercial ratings from the FAA and have accumulated over 650 flight hours in the past four years. Just about every week, I fly a Cirrus SR22 our of ABIA to locations around Texas and the southwest, as it is invaluable in managing multiple businesses and assets spread out around the area. It's from this perspective specifically that I'm writing to state a case. During my three and a half years based at ABIA, I've encountered birds regularly in the sky on north approaches and south departures, as well as consistent bird warnings on the airport weather. I recently discovered the cause of this consistent threat is the landfill located directly south of runway 17R/35L. As a pilot, this type of land use is extremely concerning, as it directly jeopardizes my safety and that of my passengers. A landfill provides a food a water source for a plethora of birds, the most dangerous to aircraft being turkey vultures, and I can attest that I have seen their activity in and around the landfill property while flying tight patterns to runway 35R. I am writing to petition a Contested Case Hearing on the expansion of this landfill. Pilots, among so many others, should be given the opportunity to amass and</p> <p>express a strong voice on this issue. I believe that extensive additional research and analysis should be performed through this process for</p>

			performed through this process, for which I am willing to volunteer time and effort. I believe this research would render an expansion of this landfill untenable. A clear and present danger to human safety should become the driving factor in any land use decision. I plead with Council to help me see to it that if I ever do strike a bird during the approach or departure, by far the most dangerous phases of flight, for it not to be because there was a landfill adj more
11/20/2019 9:19 PM	TODD,WENDY PRICE	Comment - Written	To TCEQ Commissioners and Administrators, For reasons of public safety and environmental equity, I oppose the expansion of the Travis County Landfill. I am a frequent traveler from the AUS, formerly the Austin Bergstrom International Airport (ABIA), and am concerned that a landfill on axis with the runway is an undesirable adjacency and poses a threat to aviation due to bird strikes and the potential for interference in the flightpath from construction vehicles moving an increased elevation of municipal solid waste. In terms of equity, the landfill sits close to a Richard Moya Park along the banks of Onion Creek. Furthermore, the expansion of a landfill is out of alignment with Austin Strategic Direction 2023. Thank you for your careful consideration, Wendy Price Todd
11/20/2019 2:18 PM	DENNINGTON,JOE ALBERT	Hearing Request	I received the notification email from my comments CN601668486 and in reviewing noted that I did not specifically request a Contested Case Hearing. Please accept this submission as my formal request for a Contested Case Hearing.
11/20/2019 11:20 AM	DENNINGTON,JOE ALBERT		Property Rights vs Public Safety is recurring theme that regulators must weigh. I am a General Aviation Pilot who flies in and out of ABIA in a Piper Cherokee and I am a Commercial Flyer taking the commercial flights to other HUBS routinely. Bird strikes have been a concern for me since Mueller closed and ABIA became Austin's airport. I have had friends who have had their general aviation aircraft severely (though not yet fatally) damaged. Bird strikes are not a theory. Our families are in general aviation and commercial aircraft with us sharing the bird strike danger. The Travis County Landfill has had its day. The Property Owner has


had its day. The Property Owner has had their day to make money. Please stop the danger as soon as practical. The Public Safety should now become paramount by simply not extending the danger. The expansion creates not only current danger but future danger. How long will it be before the same airspace is filled with Drone Taxi's from Austin and Travis Country passengers to the Airport? Not a factor now, but expansion will create a myriad of issues that are not even under consideration now. The facts are speaking. Austin has a disproportionate number of bird strikes. The consequences of an expansion are evident. Stop the danger.

11/18/2019 10:12 AM	OEHLE,R J KELLEY,MARGARET	Comment - Written	See Attachment
11/15/2019 9:43 AM	HOLLY,ROSEMARY	Comment - Written	See Attachment
11/14/2019 9:57 AM	RICHARDS,STEPHANIE RICHARDS,FREDERICK	Comment - Written	See Attachment
11/13/2019 9:42 AM	YOUNG,RACHEL	Comment - Written	See Attachment
11/13/2019 9:42 AM	YOUNG,JOE	Comment - Written	See Attachment
11/06/2019 9:36 AM	JOCHEM,MARY E	Comment - Written	See Attachment
11/04/2019 9:53 AM	PAYNE,KIRK	Comment - Written	See Attachment
09/23/2019 3:26 PM	HOBBS,DENNIS	Hearing Request	Please see attached
09/23/2019 9:36 AM	RODRIGUEZ,EDDIE	Public Meeting - Request	See Attachment
09/20/2019 3:09 PM	RODRIGUEZ,EDDIE		Attached please find a letter from Rep. Eddie Rodriguez requesting a public meeting re: an application for a proposed permit amendment (No. 1841B)
09/19/2019 2:24 PM	ZAFFIRINI,JUDITH	Public Meeting - Request	See Attachment
02/07/2019 1:31 PM	SCHMERLER,JESSICA E	Comment - Written	Attached is a comment letter that was submitted to the consultant for this project on 10/5/2018. Please review those comments as they remain applicable to the project as currently proposed.

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