

## **The Dallas Morning News**

• *1 Apr 2016*

### **More of the same from RRC**

Re: "Shaking and Rattling — RR Commission not taking earthquake threat seriously," Wednesday Editorials.

Intransigence does exist in the Texas Railroad Commission, but the commission is also heavily influenced by oil and gas interests. Its resident seismologist has repeatedly denied linkage between fracking/injection wells and seismic events.

Second, the Texas Legislature is heavily influenced by the oil and gas industry. Check the voting record for HB 40 (which severely limits any control by local municipalities). Only two GOP legislators voted against this bill. The minority Democrats presented a split vote.

Third, there is a report by the Bureau of Economic Geology due out in December. The commission doing the work is composed of four appointees of the (Mr. Oil and Gas) governor, two academics, two oil and gas reps and the RRC resident seismologist. No need to wait for completion of the paperwork. The U.S. Geological Survey study will be found heavily flawed.

Fourth, this situation is all too reminiscent of the tobacco industry denial of linkage between smoking and lung cancer, for those old enough to remember this shameful episode of greed and corruption.

Fifth, once oil and gas prices recover from their recent lows, look for more fracking/injection wells and more seismic activity.

James Wells, Irving