



TCEQ Finds “No Cause For Concern” After Extensive Air Tests In Barnett Shale

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) surveyed 126 natural gas production sites between December 15-17 for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including benzene, and found “either non-detection or levels of VOCs below levels which would cause and short-term or long-term health concerns.” **John Sadler**, deputy director of the Office of Compliance and Enforcement at TCEQ, said: “In fact, the majority of the testing during that trip found no detection of volatile organic compounds at all.” TCEQ and the Texas Railroad Commission (RRC) were criticized by some citizens in North Texas who believed that benzene and other harmful chemicals were being emitted by natural gas drilling and production activities. The results of the TCEQ study can be found on TCEQ’s Barnett Shale website, <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/barnettshale>.