

**Elisa Guerra**

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**From:** PUBCOMMENT-OCC  
**Sent:** Friday, February 5, 2021 10:36 AM  
**To:** PUBCOMMENT-OCC2; PUBCOMMENT-OPIC; PUBCOMMENT-ELD; PUBCOMMENT-APD  
**Subject:** FW: Public comment on Permit Number 93546  
**Attachments:** 2.1.21 Comment to TCEQ re Marathon Oil Refinery1.pdf

**From:** benjamin.harrison@mail.house.gov <benjamin.harrison@mail.house.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 1, 2021 4:45 PM  
**To:** PUBCOMMENT-OCC <PUBCOMMENT-OCC@tceq.texas.gov>  
**Subject:** Public comment on Permit Number 93546

**REGULATED ENTY NAME** MARATHON EL PASO REFINERY

**RN NUMBER:** RN100213016

**PERMIT NUMBER:** 93546

**DOCKET NUMBER:**

**COUNTY:** EL PASO

**PRINCIPAL NAME:** WESTERN REFINING TERMINALS LLC

**CN NUMBER:** CN604485763

**FROM**

**NAME:** Veronica Escobar

**E-MAIL:** [benjamin.harrison@mail.house.gov](mailto:benjamin.harrison@mail.house.gov)

**COMPANY:**

**ADDRESS:** 1505 LONGWORTH HOB OFC BUILDING  
WASHINGTON DC 20515-0004

**PHONE:** 2025050252

**FAX:**

**COMMENTS:** Dear Commissioners, I write regarding Marathon Petroleum Corporation's application (Permit Number 93546) to renew its state air permit in El Paso, Texas at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). As a member of the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, I intend to continue shedding light on the disproportionate impact irresponsible environmental policies and climate change have on minority communities like El Paso. This includes the harmful effects of air pollution. For example, while more than half of Americans live in areas with

unhealthy levels of air pollutants, “Hispanics are 51 percent more likely to live in counties with unhealthy levels of ozone than are non-Hispanic whites.” Latinos are also more likely to suffer from the diseases and conditions that result from air pollutants like asthma because of high levels of poverty and a lack of access to healthcare. Thankfully President Biden is already taking action to combat the climate crisis and promote environmental justice. This includes rejoining the Paris Agreement, establishing a White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council, and more. However, with El Paso County being above the national average for both the poverty rate and the uninsured rate, I believe it is critical that we do what we can at the local level to decrease the level of unnecessary emissions being spewed into our air. The El Paso oil refinery has been in our community for nearly a century and during that time it has released large amounts of harmful emissions to our air. While I appreciate Marathon’s recent efforts to address this issue, it is my belief that there must be more goals set and mitigation plans in place to lower their emissions if they are to continue operating. Additionally, I believe it is crucial to our region’s health and safety that El Pasoans be given more time and space to make comments on a permit that could affect our community for the next decade. It is my continued hope all parties involved in this permit process will work towards a fair resolution on behalf of El Pasoans and our climate as the application is reviewed by the TCEQ.

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

February 1, 2021

Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
PO Box 13087  
Austin, TX 78711-3087

Dear Commissioners,

I write regarding Marathon Petroleum Corporation's application (Permit Number 93546) to renew its state air permit in El Paso, Texas at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

As a member of the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, I intend to continue shedding light on the disproportionate impact irresponsible environmental policies and climate change have on minority communities like El Paso. This includes the harmful effects of air pollution. For example, while more than half of Americans live in areas with unhealthy levels of air pollutants, "Hispanics are 51 percent more likely to live in counties with unhealthy levels of ozone than are non-Hispanic whites."<sup>1</sup> Latinos are also more likely to suffer from the diseases and conditions that result from air pollutants like asthma because of high levels of poverty and a lack of access to healthcare.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.catf.us/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/CATF\\_Pub\\_LatinoCommunitiesAtRisk.pdf](https://www.catf.us/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/CATF_Pub_LatinoCommunitiesAtRisk.pdf)

It is my continued hope all parties involved in this permit process will work towards a fair resolution on behalf of El Pasoans and our climate as the application is reviewed by the TCEQ.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Veronica Escobar". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress

Jon Niermann, *Chairman*  
Emily Lindley, *Commissioner*  
Bobby Janecka, *Commissioner*  
Toby Baker, *Executive Director*



## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

*Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution*

February 3, 2021

The Honorable Veronica Escobar  
1505 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-0004  
202/505-0252  
[benjamin.harrison@mail.house.gov](mailto:benjamin.harrison@mail.house.gov)

*Via Email Only*

Re: Application of Western Refining Terminal, LLC (Marathon El Paso Refinery), for renewal of Air Quality Permit 93546.

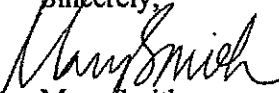
Dear Congresswoman Escobar:

Thank you for your February 1, 2021 letter to the Commissioners regarding the application by Western Refining Terminals, LLC, for renewal of Air Quality Permit 93546 in El Paso County, Texas. Because a permit application is a contested matter with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and subject to *ex parte* communication laws that prohibit the Commissioners from communicating on contested cases without public notice and an opportunity for each party to participate, your letter was forwarded to me for a response.

A copy of your comment letter has been forwarded to the Executive Director and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) staff responsible for reviewing the application. You will be added to the mailing list for this application and informed of the scheduling of any public meeting regarding this application. All timely filed comments will be considered by staff before the final decision on the application. After the opportunity to submit comments ends, a copy of the formal written response to all timely filed comments will be mailed to you.

I would be happy to discuss the opportunities for participation at the Agenda meeting available to legislators with you or your staff. If you need any additional information or require additional assistance, please contact me at (512) 960-0489.

Sincerely,

  
Mary Smith  
General Counsel

Cc: Toby Baker, Executive Director  
Dennise Braeutigam, Special Assistant to the Executive Director  
Laurie Gharis, Office of the Chief Clerk  
Deornette Monteleone, Office of Chief Clerk  
Ferrell Fields, Communications and Intergovernmental Relations Division  
Samuel Short, Director, Air Permit Division

**Deornette Monteleone**

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COMM-47427

**From:** benjamin.harrison@mail.house.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 1, 2021 4:45 PM  
**To:** PUBCOMMENT-OCC  
**Subject:** Public comment on Permit Number 93546  
**Attachments:** 2.1.21 Comment to TCEQ re Marathon Oil Refinery1.pdf

**REGULATED ENTY NAME MARATHON EL PASO REFINERY**

**RN NUMBER: RN100213016**

**PERMIT NUMBER: 93546**

**DOCKET NUMBER:**

**COUNTY: EL PASO**

**PRINCIPAL NAME: WESTERN REFINING TERMINALS LLC**

**CN NUMBER: CN604485763**

**FROM**

**NAME: Veronica Escobar**

**E-MAIL: [benjamin.harrison@mail.house.gov](mailto:benjamin.harrison@mail.house.gov)**

**COMPANY:**

**ADDRESS: 1505 LONGWORTH HOB OFC BUILDING  
WASHINGTON DC 20515-0004**

**PHONE: 2025050252**

**FAX:**

**REVIEWED**

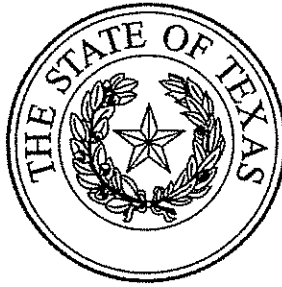
FEB 05 2021

By GCW

**COMMENTS:** Dear Commissioners, I write regarding Marathon Petroleum Corporation's application (Permit Number 93546) to renew its state air permit in El Paso, Texas at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). As a member of the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, I intend to continue shedding light on the disproportionate impact irresponsible environmental policies and climate change have on minority communities like El Paso. This includes the harmful effects of air pollution. For example, while more than half of Americans live in areas with unhealthy levels of air pollutants, "Hispanics are 51 percent more likely to live in counties with unhealthy levels of ozone than are non-Hispanic whites." Latinos are also more likely to suffer from the diseases and conditions that result from air pollutants like asthma because of high levels of poverty and a lack of access to healthcare. Thankfully President Biden is already taking action to combat the climate crisis and promote environmental justice. This includes rejoining the Paris Agreement, establishing a White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council, and more. However, with El Paso County being above the national average for both the poverty rate and the uninsured rate, I believe it is critical that we do what we can at the local level to decrease the level of unnecessary emissions being spewed into our air. The El Paso oil refinery has been in our community for nearly a century and during that time it has released large amounts of

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January 28, 2021

TEXAS  
COMMISSION  
ON ENVIRONMENTAL  
QUALITY  
2021 FEB - 1 PM 4: 45  
CHIEF CLERKS OFFICE

**REVIEWED**

FEB 03 2021 PM

By GCW

Ms. Laurie Gharis, Chief Clerk  
Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

To whom it may concern,

Western Refining Terminals, LLC, has submitted an application (No.) to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for renewal of Air Quality Permit 93456. On December 22, 2020, the TCEQ published a notice of receipt/intent for the Western Refining Terminals' application.

There is public concern regarding the proposed renewal of the permit which would authorize continued operation of the Marathon El Paso Refinery in my district. Therefore, I am formally requesting a public meeting in El Paso, Texas so the TCEQ and the applicant can explain the application and provide the community an opportunity to be heard and continue to voice their concerns.

Thank you for your attention to my request and I look forward to your response. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (915) 599-9807.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of César J. Blanco in black ink.

César J. Blanco  
Texas Senator  
District 29

Handwritten signature of Claudia Ordaz Perez in black ink.

Claudia Ordaz Perez  
State Representative  
District 76

TEXAS  
COMMISSION  
ON ENVIRONMENTAL  
QUALITY

2021 FEB -1 PM 4: 45

CHIEF CLERKS OFFICE



P.O. Box 12068  
Austin, Texas 78711

The Senate of Texas  
CÉSAR J. BLANCO  
DISTRICT 29

Ms. Laurie Gharis, Chief Clerk  
Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

**INTER AGENCY**

RECEIVED

FEB 01 2021

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER  
BC

**Elisa Guerra**

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**From:** PUBCOMMENT-OCC  
**Sent:** Monday, February 1, 2021 9:57 AM  
**To:** PUBCOMMENT-OCC2; PUBCOMMENT-OPIC; PUBCOMMENT-ELD; PUBCOMMENT-APD  
**Subject:** FW: Public Meeting Request- Marathon Refinery  
**Attachments:** Public Meeting Request - Marathon Refinery.pdf

PM

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**From:** Laurie Gharis <Laurie.Gharis@tceq.texas.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 29, 2021 4:48 PM  
**To:** PUBCOMMENT-OCC <PUBCOMMENT-OCC@tceq.texas.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Public Meeting Request- Marathon Refinery

Laurie Gharis  
Office of the Chief Clerk  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
Office Phone: 512-239-1835  
Cell Phone: 512-739-4582

How is our customer service? Fill out our online customer satisfaction survey at:  
[www.tceq.texas.gov/customersurvey](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/customersurvey)

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**From:** Ferrell Fields <Ferrell.Fields@tceq.texas.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 29, 2021 4:26 PM  
**To:** Laurie Gharis <Laurie.Gharis@tceq.texas.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Public Meeting Request- Marathon Refinery

Hi Laurie,

Attached please find a request from Senator Blanco and Representative Ordaz for a public meeting for Marathon refinery.

Let me know if you need anything else! Thanks so much. Have a great weekend.

Ferrell Fields Damen  
Director, Intergovernmental Relations Division  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
512-239-1882 (o)  
512-970-2143 (c)

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**From:** Josh Reyna <Josh.Reyna@senate.texas.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 29, 2021 4:16 PM  
**To:** Ferrell Fields  
**Subject:** Public Meeting Request- Marathon Refinery

Hi Ferrell,

Please see attached a pdf of a letter from Senator Blanco and Representative Ordaz formally requesting a public meeting regarding Marathon Refinery's permit application.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

**JOSH REYNA, J.D.**

CHIEF OF STAFF

OFFICE OF SENATOR CÉSAR J. BLANCO

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

DISTRICT 29

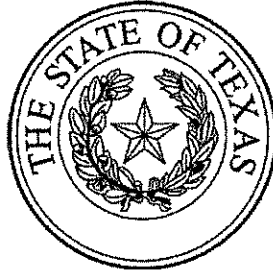
CAPITOL OFFICE: GE.7

O: 512.463.0129

P.O. Box 12068

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

[JOSH.REYNA@SENATE.TEXAS.GOV](mailto:JOSH.REYNA@SENATE.TEXAS.GOV)



January 28, 2021

Ms. Laurie Gharis, Chief Clerk  
Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

To whom it may concern,

Western Refining Terminals, LLC, has submitted an application (No.) to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for renewal of Air Quality Permit 93456. On December 22, 2020, the TCEQ published a notice of receipt/intent for the Western Refining Terminals' application.

There is public concern regarding the proposed renewal of the permit which would authorize continued operation of the Marathon El Paso Refinery in our district. Therefore, we are formally requesting a public meeting in El Paso, Texas so the TCEQ and the applicant can explain the application and provide the community an opportunity to be heard and voice their concerns.

Thank you for your attention to our request and we look forward to your response. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (915) 599-9807.

Sincerely,

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César J. Blanco  
Texas Senator  
District 29

Handwritten signature of Claudia Ordaz Perez in black ink.

Claudia Ordaz Perez  
State Representative  
District 76

Jon Niermann, *Chairman*  
Emily Lindley, *Commissioner*  
Bobby Janecka, *Commissioner*  
Toby Baker, *Executive Director*



## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

*Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution*

February 4, 2021

The Honorable Cesar J. Blanco  
Texas Senate  
P.O. Box 12068  
Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711

Re: Western Refining Terminals, LLC / Application No. 93546

Dear Senator Blanco:

Thank you for your letter to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) requesting a public meeting regarding the Western Refining Terminals, LLC / Application No. 93546 which would authorize continued operation of their Marathon El Paso Refinery located at 6501 Trowbridge Drive, El Paso, El Paso County, Texas 79905.

The agency is continuing to carry out its mission to protect our state's public health and natural resources consistent with sustainable economic development during these unprecedented times. As Texas has adapted to the ever-changing situation, the TCEQ has implemented solutions to move forward with agency business. Public participation is an integral part of the permitting process which is why the agency began using virtual meetings for public meetings. The agency believes these virtual meetings have proven successful in allowing the public to still participate in the permitting process.

The proposed virtual meeting will provide an opportunity for the public to voice their concerns and comments while following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations. We recognize that not everyone has access to the internet, or their access may be limited; therefore, we also provide an opportunity to participate via telephone during the public meeting. In addition, a public meeting is not the only avenue for the public to express their concerns and ask questions. The public may also provide written comments to the TCEQ anytime during the public comment period and up to the conclusion of the public meeting. The TCEQ responds to both verbal and written comments in the formal response to comments and takes both types of comments into consideration during the permitting process.

The Office of the Chief Clerk will facilitate the public meeting and are available to answer any questions the public may have concerning the virtual meeting or telephone option prior to the meeting. If you have any questions, please contact me at (512) 239-3900 or Laurie Gharis, Chief Clerk, at (512) 239-3300.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Toby Baker".

Toby Baker  
Executive Director

Jon Niermann, *Chairman*  
Emily Lindley, *Commissioner*  
Bobby Janecka, *Commissioner*  
Toby Baker, *Executive Director*



## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

*Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution*

February 4, 2021

The Honorable Claudia Ordaz Perez  
Texas House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, Texas 78768-2910

Re: Western Refining Terminals, LLC / Application No. 93546

Dear Representative Perez:

Thank you for your letter to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) requesting a public meeting regarding the Western Refining Terminals, LLC / Application No. 93546 which would authorize continued operation of their Marathon El Paso Refinery located at 6501 Trowbridge Drive, El Paso, El Paso County, Texas 79905.

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Sincerely,

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Toby Baker  
Executive Director