

April 1, 2015

XYZ Operating
123 Dusty Roads
Ft. Stockton, TX 99999

Dear _____,

The Permian Basin Petroleum Association (PBPA) requests your help in addressing some problems our activities are causing some of our Permian Basin neighbors.

As you know, the Permian Basin is the most prolific oil producing region in North America. Correspondingly, the Permian Basin has the largest rig count of any region in the world.

The Permian Basin is also home to a true Texas treasure, the University of Texas McDonald Observatory. This state of the art facility is on the cutting edge of scientific research in the field of astronomy.

As an operator, you understand the demand for continual round-the-clock operations. However, the increased nighttime drilling operations in the Permian Basin and the lighting required to conduct this work safely and effectively have contributed to the brightening of the night sky making it more challenging for the scientists at the McDonald Observatory to conduct their research.

In addition, the Texas Legislature in 2011 passed a measure requiring county commissioner's courts in counties that lie within 57 miles of a major observatory to adopt ordinances regulating outdoor lighting. The counties where this requirement applies is Brewster, Culberson, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Pecos, Presidio, and Reeves.

The PBPA strongly encourages oil and gas operators and contractors in the region to adopt simple lighting changes at their locations to reduce ambient light and increase safety of their employees. These changes include: (1) re-angling your lights below the horizon and (2) placing shrouds on the lights.

Additionally, the University of Texas has stated that it would be pleased to highlight those cooperating companies in their university promotional and media efforts. This is a great opportunity for Permian Basin operators to receive some well-deserved recognition for being good neighbors.

Should you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me, Ben Shepperd at (432) 684-6345.

Sincerely,

Ben Shepperd
President
Permian Basin Petroleum Association