

Press Release (Final)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PK Lake Association Calls on TCEQ to Grant Contested Case Hearing on Abilene RO Effluent Proposal

Possum Kingdom Lake, TX — The Possum Kingdom Lake Association (PKLA) is calling on the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to grant a Contested Case Hearing on the City of Abilene’s proposal to discharge up to 1.51 million gallons of reverse osmosis (RO) effluent each day into a shallow cove on the far west side of Possum Kingdom Lake — an area with little to no natural circulation.

This briny byproduct of Abilene’s water treatment process has a salinity level roughly 60% that of seawater. The cove identified for disposal has almost no natural movement or stream flow, meaning the effluent will remain trapped with limited dilution or oxygen exchange. Over time, this could lead to salt concentration, water-quality degradation, and irreversible changes to the lake’s natural balance.

“This isn’t treated wastewater,” said Monte Land, President of the Possum Kingdom Lake Association. “It’s reject brine from the reverse osmosis process — water that’s too saline for reuse — and they’re proposing to dump 1.51 million gallons of it into a stagnant pocket of PK Lake every single day. There’s nowhere for it to go.”

The volume of proposed effluent is significant: the equivalent of 50 rail tanker cars, 75 backyard swimming pools, or 27,455 industrial 55-gallon drums — all filled daily with RO reject water and deposited into a cove with little to no natural circulation. PKLA’s visual data has illustrated this scale to help Texans understand the magnitude of the proposed release.

PKLA has followed every step of the process outlined by TCEQ — submitting detailed evidence, timely comments, and technical documentation in full compliance with agency rules. “We’ve done everything the right way,” Land said. “We’ve shown the data, provided expert input, and played by their procedures. For the City of Abilene, the Executive Director, and the Office of Public Interest Counsel to now oppose a hearing without even refuting our evidence is an insult to the citizens who engaged in good faith.”

Land continued, “It’s outrageous that an agency entrusted to protect our state’s water resources would dismiss such a large and credible body of public input so casually. Texans deserve a process that values facts over convenience.”

The TCEQ Commissioners are scheduled to consider the City of Abilene’s permit application during their November 19, 2025, agenda meeting in Austin. PKLA urges citizens to save the date and be ready to attend in person if possible.

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About PKLA

The Possum Kingdom Lake Association (PKLA) is a non-profit, volunteer-led organization dedicated to preserving the natural beauty, water quality, and recreational value of Possum Kingdom Lake through education, advocacy, and community collaboration.

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