Trucks bring petroleum waste from across South Texas to a site in a rural part of Jim Wells County. Neighbors aren’t happy about it.

Texas Standard Producer/Reporter Michael Marks looked into their complaints about the environmental and, by extension, human impacts of the dumping. He went with them through open records obtained from the Texas Railroad Commission – which left off specifics about what kinds of chemicals or contamination the site was dealing with.

As you’ll hear, Marks found the Texas Commission on Environment Quality had received more than 230 complaints about the dumping facility in the two years it had been in operation. Agency documents even revealed investigators themselves felt sick near it.

Despite all that, Marks went on to report the Texas Railroad Commission renewed the facility’s permit. He’s now keeping in touch with locals about their efforts to stop the dumping through the courts.