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introducing produced water onto farmland poses many of the same risks and health concerns that were associated with biosolids, particularly PFAS contamination. However, produced water presents additional concerns as well.

First, produced water originates deep underground in geological formations that were created when much of Texas was covered by ancient seas. These shale formations can contain naturally occurring radioactive materials at levels that exceed what many people would consider safe. Exposure to elevated levels of radiation can pose serious health risks. If this water is applied to farmland used for growing crops or raising livestock, there is concern that radioactive contaminants could enter the food chain and eventually be consumed by people. The potential health impacts should not be ignored.

Second, studies have shown that produced water can contain significant levels of PFAS chemicals. PFAS are man-made substances that do not occur naturally in the environment and are often referred to as "forever chemicals" because they persist for long periods of time. Scientific research has linked PFAS exposure to reproductive problems, certain cancers, and a variety of other health issues. These concerns make the use of produced water on agricultural land particularly troubling.

Regardless of which concern is examined—radioactive contamination or PFAS exposure—the potential risks are significant. Many people view the root of this issue as placing financial interests above public health and safety.