

Office of Legal Services

This office manages legal services for the agency in environmental law, enforcement litigation, bankruptcy, and general agency operations. The office provides legal counsel and support to the executive director, agency programs, and, along with the general counsel and the public interest counsel, the commissioners. The office ensures that commission decisions follow the law, and that any rules developed by the agency comply with statutory authority and are consistently applied.

Environmental Law Division

The Environmental Law Division primarily supports the offices of Air, Waste, and Water. This division provides legal counsel to the agency in all areas of permitting and rulemaking and represents the executive director in contested permitting matters in accordance with state law and agency rules regarding participation in hearings. The division's functions also include legal support related to federal program delegation, interpretation of environmental statutes and rules, and support for the Office of the Attorney General in state and federal court litigation.

General Law Division

The General Law Division serves as legal counsel to the agency on issues related to contracts, grants, procurement, employment law and public-service ethics; processing and distribution of information for the public; and records retention. The division deputy director serves as the agency ethics adviser. The division also prepares administrative records for appeals under the Administrative Procedures Act and supports the Office of Legal Services with administrative personnel (paralegals and legal secretaries) and administers the RESTORE program. The division supports the agency administratively by coordinating rulemaking and preparing documents for publication in the *Texas Register*.

Litigation Division

The Litigation Division is comprised of two Enforcement sections, a Remediation section, and an Environmental Crimes section. The Enforcement sections provide legal representation and support to the Enforcement and Field Operations divisions of the Office of Compliance and Enforcement, including negotiation of agreed enforcement orders, litigation of enforcement actions, and coordination of the Supplemental Environmental Projects and the Texas Environmental, Health, and Safety Audit Privilege programs. The Remediation section provides legal support to the Remediation Division of the Office of Waste, including negotiation of Superfund orders, recovery of cleanup costs, and ongoing legal support related to implementation of the agency's remediation programs. The Enforcement and Remediation sections also provide support for the Office of the Attorney General in state and federal court civil litigation. The Environmental Crimes section investigates and gathers evidence on environmental crimes for prosecution in state and federal courts.