

TCEQ DOCKET NO. 2009-0085-MWD

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APPLICATION BY HILL COUNTRY  
CAMP FOR NEW  
TPDES PERMIT NO. WQ0014832001

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BEFORE THE TEXAS COMMISSION  
ON CHIEF CLERKS OFFICE  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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**HILL COUNTRY CAMP'S RESPONSE TO HEARING REQUESTS  
AND REQUESTS FOR RECONSIDERATION**

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TO THE HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS:

COMES NOW Hill Country Camp ("HCC" or "Applicant") and files this Response to Hearing Requests and Requests for Reconsideration ("Response") submitted to the Commission in connection with its application for TPDES Permit No. WQ0014832001 ("Application"), and would respectfully show the Commission as follows.

**I. BACKGROUND**

HCC is a nonprofit camp and conference center that provides a year-round setting for retreats, meetings, conferences, and camp programs. HCC has historically relied on septic systems for treatment and disposal of its domestic wastewater. Because HCC's growth and expansion has increased its domestic wastewater volume, HCC now transports its domestic wastewater from the HCC dormitory to the City of Kerrville's wastewater treatment plant where the treated effluent is discharged directly into the Guadalupe River. In order to safely and responsibly meet its growth needs, HCC has applied for a TPDES permit to treat and dispose its domestic wastewater treatment facility without reliance on septic systems, third parties or disposal directly into the Guadalupe River.

To that end, HCC filed its Application on July 3, 2007 with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ("Commission" or "TCEQ"). It was declared administratively complete on July 24, 2007. HCC's Application is subject to the TCEQ procedural requirements adopted pursuant

to House Bill 801 (76<sup>th</sup> Legislature, 1999). HCC has complied with all applicable public notice requirements under TCEQ rules.

Following technical review of HCC's Application, the Executive Director determined that the HCC Application meets all applicable TCEQ rules, is technically complete, and issued a Draft Permit reflecting that approval. *See Exhibit A*, Draft Permit. The Draft Permit authorizes discharge of a relatively small volume of treated domestic wastewater (an amount not to exceed a daily average flow of 25,000 gallons per day) to an unnamed tributary located on HCC's property in Kerr County. *See Exhibit A*, at 1-2. That maximum discharge is roughly equivalent to the discharge from a 1" hose. The Draft Permit also limits the average discharge during any two-hour period to 61 gallons per minute or less. *Id.* at 2. From the unnamed tributary on HCC's property, the discharge route leads to Town Creek; then to the on-channel lakes of Town Creek; then to the Guadalupe River Above Canyon Lake in Segment No. 1806 of the Guadalupe River Basin ("Segment No. 1806"). *Id.* There are no significant aquatic life uses designated for the unnamed tributary. Statement of Basis/Technical Summary and Executive Director's Preliminary Decision, at 1-2 (attached as "Exhibit B"). The on-channel lakes of Town Creek are designated for high aquatic life use. *Id.* Segment No. 1806 is designated for exceptional aquatic life use, public water supply, aquifer protection, and contact recreation. *Id.* The Draft Permit was prepared in accordance with requirements designed to maintain these existing uses. Accordingly, the Draft Permit requires strict treatment standards for the discharged effluent. *See Exhibit A*.

After the Executive Director issued the Draft Permit, a public meeting was held on May 29, 2008. The public comment period for this Application ended on August 11, 2008. Following the close of the public comment period, the deadline for requesting reconsideration or a contested case hearing was January 15, 2009. The City of Kerrville (the "City" or "Kerrville"), the Upper

Guadalupe River Authority, the James Olafson Family, Tommy and Pia Olafson, Bonnie Olafson, Tammy Patterson, and Wendy Barber filed requests for a contested case hearing on the Application.

## II. APPLICABLE LAW

TEX. WATER CODE Chapters 5 and 26, and 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE, Chapters 281, 305, 307, 309, 312, and 319, apply to the Commission's consideration of HCC's Application. Chapters 5 and 26 of the Texas Water Code and 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE, Chapters 50 and 55 govern the Commission's consideration of hearing requests on TPDES domestic wastewater permit applications.

### A. "Affected Person" Status

The Texas Water Code states that in a contested administrative hearing held by or for the Commission, "affected person," or "person affected," or "person who may be affected" means a person who has a personal justiciable interest related to a legal right, duty, privilege, power, or economic interest affected by the administrative hearing. TEX. WATER CODE § 5.115(a); *see also Collins v. Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission*, 94 S.W.3d 876, 882 (Tex. App.—Austin 2002) ("Collins"). The Commission's rules incorporate the Texas Water Code definition for "affected person," but further specify that the interest asserted must be affected "by the application." 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§ 55.103 and 55.203(a). An interest common to members of the general public does not qualify as a personal justiciable interest. TEX. WATER CODE § 5.115(a); 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§ 55.103, 55.203(a). Governmental entities, including local governments and public agencies, with authority under state law over issues raised by the application may be considered "affected persons." 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 55.203(b).

To determine whether one is an "affected person" under 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 55.203(c), all factors shall be considered, including, but not limited to, the following:

- (1) whether the interest claimed is one protected by the law under which the application will be considered;
- (2) distance restrictions or other limitations imposed by law on the affected interest;
- (3) whether a reasonable relationship exists between the interest claimed and the activity regulated;
- (4) likely impact of the regulated activity on the health and safety of the person, and on the use of property of the person;
- (5) likely impact of the regulated activity on use of the impacted natural resource by the person; and
- (6) for governmental entities, their statutory authority over or interest in the issues relevant to the application.

30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 55.203(c).

Traditional standing rules illustrate that when one lacks standing, they lack personal justiciable interest. Consequently, where one lacks a personal justiciable interest, they cannot be an “affected person.” See TEX. WATER CODE § 5.115(a); see also 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§ 55.103, 55.203(a). Standing requires proof of three elements: injury, causation, and redressability. *DaimlerChrysler Corp. v. Inman*, 121 S.W.3d 862, 880 (Tex. App.—Corpus Christi 2003, pet. filed). Causation requires that a plaintiff demonstrate a “causal connection between the injury and the conduct complained of,” *i.e.*, “the injury has to be ‘fairly trace[able] to the challenged action of the defendant, and not . . . th[e] result [of] the independent action of some third party not before the court.” *Lujan v. Defenders of Wildlife, et. al.*, 504 U.S. 555, 560 (1992) (citations omitted). Redressability requires that the plaintiff establish that it is “‘likely,’ as opposed to merely ‘speculative,’” that the injury the plaintiff complains of “will be redressed by a favorable decision.” *Id.* at 561.

#### **B. Commission Referral to SOAH or Action on Application**

Under 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE , Chapter 55, Subchapter F, an “affected person” may request

a contested case hearing on a TPDES domestic wastewater permit application, but it must be based on an issue raised during the public comment period. 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 55.201(c). Further, the request must identify the person's personal justiciable interest affected by the application. 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 55.201(d). Also, the request must list all relevant and material disputed issues of fact that were raised during the comment period that form the basis of the hearing request. *See id.* § 55.201(d).

The Commission is authorized to determine that a hearing request does not meet the requirements of 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE, Chapter 55, Subchapter F, and act on the application. 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 55.211(b)(2). Alternatively, the Commission may determine that the hearing request meets the requirements of 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE, Chapter 55, Subchapter F and: (1) if the request raises disputed issues of fact raised during the comment period that are not withdrawn and are relevant and material to the Commission's decision on the application, specify the number and scope of specific factual issues to be referred to SOAH, specify the maximum expected duration of the hearing, and direct the Chief Clerk to refer the issues to SOAH for a hearing; or (2) if the request raises only disputed issues of law or policy, make a decision on the issues and act on the application. 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 55.211(b)(3). The Commission is only required to grant an affected person's hearing request on a TPDES domestic wastewater permit application if all the requirements found in 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 55.211(c) are met, including compliance with the requirements of 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 55.201.

### **C. Commission Action Under 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE, Chapter 50**

For applications filed under TEX. WATER CODE, Chapter 26, the Commission is required to issue an order specifying the number and scope of issues to be referred. 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 50.115(b). The Commission may not refer an issue to the State Office of Administrative Hearings

("SOAH") for a contested case hearing unless the Commission determines that the issue: (1) involves a disputed issue of fact; (2) was raised during the public comment period; and (3) is relevant and material to the decision on the application. *Id.* § 50.115(c). The Commission is also required to specify the maximum expected duration of the hearing by stating the date by which the judge is expected to issue a proposal for decision. *Id.* § 50.115(d).

### **III. THE REQUESTS FOR HEARING ON THE APPLICATION**

The Commission should deny Kerrville's hearing request because it is a local government that lacks statutory authority over the issues relevant to this Application. Moreover, Kerrville's lack of proximity to the proposed discharge makes it unlikely it will be affected by the proposed discharge. Additionally, the Commission should deny the UGRA's hearing request because it fails to establish that the UGRA has a personal justiciable interest in HCC's Application.

For any hearing requests that are granted, the Commission should exercise its discretion to limit the scope of the hearing to the issues and parties as indicated in this Response. Additionally, many of the issues were not raised during the public comment period, or are not relevant and material to a decision on the Application. As a result, those issues are not referable.

#### **A. Kerrville's hearing request should be denied.**

As a local government, Kerrville must have statutory authority or interest in the issues relevant to the application in order to be an affected person. 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§ 55.203(b), (c)(6). Kerrville's authority or interest is primarily limited to its city limits, and only extends into its extraterritorial jurisdiction for limited purposes. Here, Kerrville has no lawful authority over the Application. Kerrville's city limits are 2.2 miles away from the proposed discharge point. Hearing Request Letter on behalf of the City of Kerrville from Emily Collins to the Commission of July 25, 2008, at 2 (attached as "Exhibit C"). Even Kerrville's extra-territorial jurisdiction is 1.2 miles away from the discharge point. Public Comment letter on behalf of the City of Kerrville from Bruce

Wasinger to the Commission on August 27, 2007 at 1 (attached as “Exhibit E”). Thus as a matter of law, Kerrville lacks any regulatory authority over the subject Application.

In addition to being well outside Kerrville’s authority, Kerrville’s complaint about the Application is difficult to comprehend. Although the City complains that the “proposed discharge from the Applicant’s wastewater plant will ultimately flow into the Guadalupe River,” that is happening right now— but far more directly. The domestic wastewater from the HCC dormitories is transported to the City of Kerrville’s wastewater treatment plant (at substantial cost to HCC) where it is then discharged *directly* into the Guadalupe River, rather than 5.5 miles upstream of the Guadalupe River into a dry, unnamed tributary of Town Creek on HCC’s property, as HCC proposes in the Application. It is also worth noting that the City’s permitted discharge is **18,000%** greater than HCC’s proposed discharge.<sup>1</sup> Thus, in terms of environmental quality and reducing loading on the Guadalupe River (the overwhelming cause of which is Kerrville’s effluent discharge), HCC’s Application is plainly superior to the status quo.

Consequently, Kerrville’s jurisdiction and legitimate interests do not extend to issues relevant to the Application. Since it lacks the required authority under state law over issues raised by the Application, Kerrville cannot be an affected person. *See* 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 55.203(b). Accordingly, the Commission should deny Kerrville’s hearing request.

**B. The UGRA’s hearing request should be denied.**

The Commission should deny the UGRA’s hearing request. In support of its hearing request, the UGRA points to its interest in protecting Segment No. 1806 of the Guadalupe River as its basis for the hearing request. However, that interest is precisely why the UGRA’s hearing request should be denied — UGRA’s interest in protecting the Guadalupe River would be *harmed* by the denial of

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<sup>1</sup> Kerrville is currently permitted to discharge up to 4.5 *million* gallons per day. HCC’s proposed discharge of 25 *thousand* gallons per day is dwarfed by Kerrville’s discharge.

HCC's Application. HCC's domestic wastewater from the HCC dormitories is currently transported to Kerrville's wastewater treatment plant where it is then discharged *directly* in to the Guadalupe River. If HCC's Application is granted, the treated wastewater will no longer be discharged directly into the Guadalupe, but instead into a dry, unnamed tributary on HCC's property, almost 6 miles from the Guadalupe River. Thus, in terms of environmental quality and reducing loading on the Guadalupe River (the overwhelming cause of which is Kerrville's effluent discharge), HCC's Application is plainly superior to the status quo. As a result, if HCC's Application were denied, UGRA's claimed interest in protecting Segment No. 1806 would be *harm*ed.

Given these undisputed facts, standing rules require denial of UGRA's hearing request. Standing requires proof of three distinct elements: injury, causation, and redressability. *DaimlerChrysler Corp. v. Inman*, 121 S.W.3d 862, 880 (Tex. App.—Corpus Christi 2003, pet. filed). Causation and redressability are the key elements missing in the UGRA's standing to contest HCC's Application. Causation requires the UGRA to demonstrate a "causal connection between the injury and the conduct complained of," *i.e.*, "the injury has to be 'fairly trace[able] to the challenged action of the defendant, and not . . . th[e] result [of] the independent action of some third party not before the court.'" *Lujan v. Defenders of Wildlife, et. al.*, 504 U.S. 555, 560 (1992) (citations omitted). Redressability requires that the UGRA establish that it is "likely," as opposed to merely "speculative," that the injury the UGRA complains of "will be redressed by a favorable decision." *Id.* at 561.

**1. UGRA cannot establish causation because granting hCC's Application will relieve — not cause — injury to Segment 1806.**

In order to establish standing, "[t]here must be a causal connection between the injury and the conduct complained of—the injury has to be 'fairly . . . trace[able] to the challenged action of the

defendant, and not . . . th[e] result [of] the independent action of some third party not before the court.” *Lujan v. Defenders of Wildlife, et. al.*, 504 U.S. 555, 561 (1992). To meet this element, UGRA must demonstrate a causal connection between the injuries it alleges and HCC’s activities. UGRA cannot do this because the harm it seeks to prevent — further impact to the TMDL in Segment No. 1806 — would be *lessened* if HCC’s Application were granted.

As discussed above, the only discharge of HCC domestic wastewater now going into waters of the state goes directly into the Guadalupe River. Domestic wastewater from the HCC dormitories is transported to Kerrville’s wastewater treatment plant where it is then discharged *directly* into Segment 1806 of the Guadalupe River.<sup>2</sup> HCC’s Application proposes to discharge treated effluent nearly 6 miles upstream of the Guadalupe River into a dry, unnamed tributary of Town Creek. Thus, in terms of environmental quality and reducing loading on the Guadalupe River, HCC’s Application is plainly superior to the current direct discharge into the Guadalupe River. If HCC’s proposed discharge were permitted it would eliminate the direct impact on Segment No. 1806, which is commensurate with UGRA’s interests. As a result, HCC’s Application does not cause negative impacts to the UGRA’s claimed interests — it eliminates them. Thus, UGRA cannot establish causation, as its interests would actually be served by HCC’s proposed discharge. Since UGRA cannot establish causation it lacks standing. Accordingly, UGRA lacks a personal justiciable interest in HCC’s Application, and its hearing request should be denied.

**2. UGRA’s perceived injury cannot be redressed by denial of HCC’s Application.**

Just as the UGRA cannot demonstrate a causal connection between its claimed interest and HCC’s Application, its requested relief — ,denial of HCC’s Application — would not redress its perceived injuries.

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<sup>2</sup> HCC’s other domestic wastewater is on septic systems, which are regulated by Kerr County, and do not discharge into waters of the state.

Redressability for standing purposes requires that the remedies requested, “if granted, would end the controversy.” *Cornyn v. Andrews*, 10 S.W.3d 663, 669 (Tex. 1999). If a plaintiff’s alleged injury is not “likely to be redressed by the requested relief,” it lacks standing. *MET-Rx USA, Inc. v. Shipman*, 62 S.W.3d 807, 810 (Tex. App.—Waco 2001, pet. denied) (quotation omitted). In order to show redressability, one must be able to show that it is “likely, as opposed to merely speculative,” that their injury would be caused by, and will be redressed by, a favorable decision. *Texas Shrimp Ass’n v. Daley*, 984 F.Supp. 1023, 1027 (S.D.Tex. 1997) (“Daley”).

Commission precedent supports denial of UGRA’s hearing request. In *Collins*, a corporate poultry farm applied to the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission for a permit to change from a dry to a wet waste-management system. *Collins*, 94 S.W.3d at 882. An organic farmer who lived nearby sought a contested case hearing to oppose the application. *See id.* After the Commission denied the hearing request, the court of appeals affirmed, holding that the farmer was not an affected person and therefore not entitled to a hearing. Even though the farmer's property was only 1.3 miles away from the proposed activity, the court pointed out that the poultry farm proposed an *environmentally superior system*, and as a result, it was unlikely the farmer would be impacted. *See id.* at 883.

Other cases explain how a failure to show redressability leads to a denial of standing. In *Daley*, the Texas Shrimp Association (“TSA”) challenged the alleged failure of federal defendants to enforce provisions of the Endangered Species Act (“ESA”) prohibiting illegal takings of sea turtles in recreational fishing areas, subjecting the TSA to unnecessary regulation and enforcement action. *Id.* at 1024. The court found that even if TSA was awarded all the relief it sought, the regulations imposed upon the Plaintiffs would remain in place. *Id.* The court stated, “[b]ecause Plaintiffs cannot show that it is ‘likely, as opposed to merely speculative,’ that their injury was

caused by, and will be redressed by, a favorable decision from this Court, Plaintiffs lack standing in this case.” *Id.*

Thus, where the relief requested leaves speculation as to whether the injury will be redressed, a plaintiff lacks standing. This point sees further support in *Loose v. State of Texas*, 2004 WL 579713 (N.D.Tex.,2004) (“Loose”). In *Loose*, the plaintiff sought a court declaration of a fundamental right to equal custody after he was named the non-custodial parent of his child in a divorce decree. However, the court stated that such relief would not remedy the fact that he was named the non-custodial parent. Accordingly, the court found the plaintiff lacked standing.

Here, denying HCC’s Application redress UGRA’s claimed interest in protecting Segment No. 1806. On the contrary, it would actually impede an environmentally superior alternative. If HCC’s Application were denied, it would not protect Segment No. 1806 because HCC would be forced to continue hauling its wastewater to Kerrville’s wastewater treatment facility for discharge directly into the Guadalupe River. Since denial of HCC’s Application would prevent a benefit to Segment No. 1806, the UGRA’s interests cannot be redressed in this permitting action. Under any reasonable interpretation, UGRA’s interests are advanced by HCC’s Application because it is more protective of Segment No. 1806.

To summarize, the UGRA has failed to show that its perceived injury would be caused by HCC’s proposed discharge, or that it can be redressed by denial of HCC’s Application. As a result, the UGRA lacks standing in this case, and accordingly lacks a personal justiciable interest in HCC’s Application. Since it lacks a personal justiciable interest in HCC’s Application, the UGRA is not an affected person, and its hearing request should be denied.

#### **IV. THE HEARING REQUEST ISSUES**

There were numerous issues raised in the hearing requests. However, many of the issues

were not raised during the public comment period. Moreover, many of the issues are not relevant and material to a decision on the Application. Accordingly, those issues are not referable. Nonetheless, a small handful of issues appear to be within the scope of the Commission's jurisdiction to consider in deciding whether to issue the Draft Permit.

**A. Issues not raised during the public comment period are not referable.**

In addition to being relevant and material to a decision on the Application, an issue is not referable unless it was raised during the public comment period. 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 55.201(d)(4). None of the following issues were raised during the public comment period. Accordingly, the following issues, although raised in a timely hearing request, are not referable:

1. Whether the permit would limit Tommy and Pia Olafson's access and use of 6.25 acres of their property.
2. Creation of toxic zones resulting from introduction of ammonia, nitrogen, and chlorine in the on-channel lake of Town Creek.
3. Discharge of pathogenic organisms such as bacteria,<sup>3</sup> viruses, protozoa, or helminthes.
4. Whether HCC must consider alternative facility locations.
5. Whether TCEQ must conduct on-site modeling.
6. Whether the discharge constitutes a trespass in the event the first on-channel lake of Town Creek is non-navigable.
7. Whether HCC has a history of faulty On-Site Sewage Facilities ("OSSFs") or Kerr County violations for its OSSFs.
8. Whether the facility will cause nuisance noise or light pollution.
9. Whether the proposed discharge will prevent Wendy Barber's future plans to: (1) grow and obtain certification for an organic vineyard; (2) obtain wildlife/songbird exemptions; (3) trap endangered birds; or (4) build a house for her mother thirty feet from her property line.

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<sup>3</sup> To the extent this issue refers to bacteria, it is addressed in Section IV. C. *infra*.

10. Whether HCC is in good standing with the State Comptroller's Office.<sup>4</sup>
11. Whether the proposed discharge will attract mosquitos.
12. Whether HCC must obtain liability insurance for the proposed facility.
13. Whether HCC commenced facility construction without prior authorization.<sup>5</sup>

In sum, none of these issues were raised during the public comment period. Accordingly, HCC respectfully submits that these issues are not referable.

**B. Issues are not referable if they are not relevant and material to a decision on this Application.**

The Commission cannot refer an issue unless it is relevant and material to a decision on the application. 30 TAC § 50.115(c)(3). If the issue is not otherwise considered during the application process, or the determination of the issue would have no bearing on whether to issue the permit, it is not relevant and material, and therefore not referable. Also, if the issue has no basis in the Commission's rules, it is presumptively outside of the Commission's authority to consider it in determining whether to issue the Draft Permit. The following issues, although raised in timely hearing requests, are not referable because they are not relevant and material to a decision on this Application:

14. Whether the proposed facility will meet rule requirements intended to reduce nuisance odor conditions; whether HCC must complete a nuisance odor prevention request and submit it to the Olafsons prior to permit approval.

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<sup>4</sup> The only public comment related to the State Comptroller's Office was related to whether HCC was a viable non-profit corporation. However, this issue was raised in the context of whether HCC owed an outstanding balance to the State Comptroller's Office. HCC's financial standing with the State Comptroller's Office was not discussed during the public comment period.

<sup>5</sup> HCC has not commenced facility construction.

The Commission's rules provide limited requirements to address odor issues. *See* 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 309.13. As it relates to this Application, § 309.13 requires only one of three alternatives to be met in order to abate and control an odor nuisance. *Id.* § 309.13(e). For example, § 309.13 is satisfied if the wastewater treatment plant unit is located at least 150 feet from the nearest property line. *Id.* § 309.13(e)(1). Alternatively, applicants can submit a nuisance odor prevention request for the Executive Director's approval. *Id.* § 309.13(e)(2). Accordingly, HCC could satisfy § 309.13(e) by either ownership of the buffer zone or submitting a nuisance odor prevention request after the permit is issued. As written, the Draft Permit requires HCC to submit a nuisance odor prevention request. Exhibit A, at 23. Section 309.13(e)(2) specifically states that a nuisance odor prevention request can be "submitted for executive director approval *after the permitting process is completed.*" 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 309.13(e)(2) (emphasis added). Also, nothing in the Water Code or TCEQ's rules requires interested landowners' approval of the request. Since HCC is not required to submit a nuisance odor prevention plan until after permit issuance, and approval of that request does not depend on interested landowners' approval, these issues have no bearing on whether to issue the permit itself. Thus, HCC respectfully submits that the Commission should not refer these issues.

Alternatively, if the Commission decides to refer an odor issue, HCC respectfully submits that it should be limited to whether the proposed facility will meet rule requirements intended to reduce nuisance odor conditions.

15. Whether the permit should not be issued until the Total Maximum Daily Load ("TMDL") review is completed.

This issue should not be referred because it is moot, and therefore not a disputed fact issue. As indicated by the Executive Director's Response to Public Comment, a TMDL was developed for

Segment No. 1806. Executive Director's Response to Public Comment, at 4 (attached as "Exhibit D") The TMDL was approved by the Commission and the Federal Environmental Protection Agency in 2007, and became part of the Texas Water Quality Management Plan. *Id.* As a result, the TMDL review is complete, so this issue presents nothing relevant and material to a decision on this Application. *Id.*

- Whether the proposed discharge is consistent with the Total Maximum Daily Load developed for Segment No. 1806.

Although a TMDL was developed for Segment No. 1806, this issue is not relevant and material to a decision on the Application. HCC proposes to discharge into a dry, unnamed tributary of Town Creek almost 6 miles upstream of Segment No. 1806. As a result, Segment 1806 lacks any reasonable proximity to be impacted by HCC's proposed discharge. Since 1806 is well outside any reasonable proximity to HCC's discharge point, this issue is not relevant and material, and are therefore not referable.

Likewise, the following issues should not be referred because they are not relevant and material to a decision on this Application:

- Whether HCC or TCEQ must complete a dye study of the discharge route.<sup>6</sup>
- Whether HCC must incorporate long-term monitoring for phosphorus and chlorophyll levels immediately downstream with a trigger for immediate review if excesses are found.<sup>7</sup>
- Whether the discharge will impair groundwater, including groundwater wells.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> This issue is not referable because neither the Water Code nor TCEQ's rules require TCEQ staff or HCC to undertake a dye study for this permitting action.

<sup>7</sup> This issue is not referable because neither the Water Code nor TCEQ's rules require long-term monitoring immediately downstream with a trigger for immediate review if excesses are found.

<sup>8</sup> This issue is not referable because groundwater issues are not considered during the permitting process for surface water discharge applications. As indicated in the Executive Director's Response to Public Comment, a groundwater review was not conducted. Exhibit A at 4-5.

- Whether the draft permit must contain effluent and sludge provisions as stringent as the City of Kerrville's permit; whether HCC's permit will impair Kerrville's ability to comply with its permit.<sup>9</sup>
- Whether the applicant is required to consider alternatives to discharge, including a no-discharge permit.<sup>10</sup>
- Whether the permit will impair aesthetics in the area, including views.<sup>11</sup>
- Whether the permit will impact property values.<sup>12</sup>
- Whether potential malfunctions will cause an improper discharge; whether HCC will monitor properly; whether the facility will fail to properly haul its sludge.<sup>13</sup>
- Whether the facility design and operation will be proper.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Kerrville's permit was drafted for its needs and circumstances that differ greatly from HCC's. There are important differences between the two facilities. Kerrville is currently permitted to discharge up to 4.5 *million* gallons per day. HCC's proposed discharge of 25 *thousand* gallons per day is dwarfed by Kerrville's discharge. In other words, Kerrville's discharges 18,000% more effluent. Even so, Kerrville's permit contains only slightly more stringent limits, and its effluent is discharged directly into the Guadalupe River. In contrast, HCC's proposed discharge is limited in volume and is not discharged directly into the Guadalupe, but instead into a dry, unnamed tributary of Town Creek, making it unlikely that its discharge would even leave HCC's property, much less reach the Guadalupe River.

<sup>10</sup> This issue is not referable because neither the Water Code nor TCEQ's rules require HCC to consider alternatives to the proposed discharge. Consequently, the Commission typically does not refer this issue. *See, e.g., Consideration of Application by Wise Service Company – Water*, TCEQ Docket No. 2008-0294-MWD (Commission Agenda, June 18, 2008) (“Wise Service Company – Water Agenda”).

<sup>11</sup> This issue is not referable because aesthetic issues unrelated to water quality are not considered during the permitting process. Accordingly, the Commission typically does not refer this issue. *See, e.g., Wise Service Company – Water Agenda*.

<sup>12</sup> This issue is not referable because property values are not considered during the permitting process. Accordingly, the Commission typically does not refer this issue. *See, e.g., Consideration of Application by Julie Ann Thames*, TCEQ Docket No. 2008-0785-MWD (Commission Agenda, October 8, 2008) (“Julie Ann Thames Agenda”).

<sup>13</sup> These issues are not referable because they are based on hypothetical non-compliance with the Draft Permit. These issues cannot be addressed until after the permit is issued. HCC should be given the opportunity to construct and operate the proposed facility before addressing compliance problems that have not occurred. The Commission has previously decided that these issues are not referable. *See, e.g., Consideration of Application by H. Bowers, Inc.*, TCEQ Docket No. 2008-0423-IWD (Commission Agenda, July 9, 2008) (“H. Bowers Agenda”).

<sup>14</sup> This issue is not referable because HCC is required to submit construction plans and specifications *after* the permit is issued. Specifically, HCC would be required to submit plans and specifications prepared by a certified professional engineer and submitted to the TCEQ for approval prior to facility construction. Additionally, the Commission has previously decided not to refer related issues. *See, e.g., Wise Service Company – Water Agenda*.

- Whether the proposed facility will impair air quality, such as toxic emissions.<sup>15</sup>
- Whether HCC must consider alternative facility locations.<sup>16</sup>
- Whether the discharge constitutes a trespass in the event the first on-channel lake of Town Creek is non-navigable.<sup>17</sup>
- Whether HCC has a history of faulty On-Site Sewage Facilities (“OSSFs”) or Kerr County violations for its OSSFs.<sup>18</sup>
- Whether the facility will cause nuisance noise or light pollution.<sup>19</sup>
- Whether the proposed discharge will prevent Wendy Barber’s future plans to: (1) grow and obtain certification for an organic vineyard; (2) obtain wildlife/songbird exemptions; (3) trap endangered birds; or (4) build a house for her mother thirty feet from her property line.<sup>20</sup>
- Whether HCC is in good standing with the State Comptroller’s

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<sup>15</sup> Air emissions are not considered during the permitting process. Additionally, HCC’s proposed wastewater treatment is permitted by rule. *See* 30 TAC § 106.532. Accordingly, the Commission has previously decided not to refer this issue. *See, e.g.,* H. Bowers Agenda; *see also* Wise Service Company – Water Agenda.

<sup>16</sup> Neither the Water Code nor TCEQ’s rules require HCC to consider alternative facility locations — HCC is entitled to consideration of the proposed location. Additionally, HCC’s proposed location meets all facility siting rules in 30 TAC Chapter 309. Accordingly, the Commission has previously decided not to refer this issue. *See, e.g.,* H. Bowers Agenda.

<sup>17</sup> The draft permit does not authorize a trespass. Specifically, the draft permit states, “[t]he issuance of this permit does not grant the permittee the right to use private or public property for conveyance of wastewater along the discharge route described in this permit.” Exhibit A at 1. Trespass is a private action that TCEQ does not adjudicate for individuals. Accordingly, the Commission has previously decided not to refer issues related to trespass. *See, e.g.,* Julie Ann Thames Agenda; *see also* H. Bowers Agenda.

<sup>18</sup> OSSF compliance is not considered during the permitting process for a wastewater discharge. Also, the Commission has delegated its authority over OSSFs located on HCC property to Kerr County. Notably, Kerr County is not protesting HCC’s Application. Additionally, compliance with OSSF regulations is not included in an applicant’s compliance history. Additionally, the Commission has previously decided not to refer issues related to OSSFs. *See, e.g.,* Julie Ann Thames Agenda.

<sup>19</sup> The draft permit does not authorize nuisances such as noise or light pollution. Nuisances related to noise or light pollution are private actions that TCEQ does not adjudicate for individuals. Additionally, the Commission has previously decided not to refer nuisance issues. *See, e.g.,* Wise Service Company – Water Agenda.

<sup>20</sup> Speculative plans that may or may not occur regardless of the permitting decision are not considered during the permitting process.

Office.<sup>21</sup>

- Whether HCC must obtain liability insurance for the proposed facility.<sup>22</sup>
- Whether HCC commenced facility construction without prior authorization.<sup>23</sup>

In sum, these issues have no bearing on deciding whether the Draft Permit should be issued, and are therefore not relevant and material to a decision on this Application. Accordingly, HCC respectfully submits that the Commission should find these issues are not referable.

**C. Any referable issues should be narrowly tailored to the applicable regulatory requirements.**

The following issues encompass the relevant and material issues raised in the hearing requests. HCC respectfully submits that the following issues represent the only disputed fact issues that are relevant and material to a decision on this Application:

- Whether the proposed discharge violates the Commission's antidegradation rule found in 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE 307.5.
- Whether the draft permit will meet 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 307.4, including consideration of impacts related to intermittent streamflow.
- Whether the effluent limits in the draft permit are consistent with regulations intended to prevent adverse algae blooms in the first on-channel lake of Town Creek.
- Whether the proposed discharge is consistent with 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§ 307.5(b), (c), and 307.4(d), and thus protective of wildlife.
- Whether the proposed discharge is consistent with 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§ 307.4(j) and 307.5(b)(2), and thus protective of the

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<sup>21</sup> The only public comment related to the State Comptroller's Office was related to whether HCC was a viable non-profit corporation. However, this issue was raised in the context of whether HCC owed an outstanding balance to the State Comptroller's Office. HCC's financial standing with the State Comptroller's Office was not discussed during the public comment period.

<sup>22</sup> Neither the Water Code nor the TCEQ's rules require an applicant to obtain liability insurance to apply for and operate a wastewater treatment facility.

<sup>23</sup> HCC has not commenced facility construction.

requesters' recreational uses associated with the on-channel lakes of Town Creek.

#### **V. RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FOR RECONSIDERATION**

Requests for reconsideration must give reasons why the decision should be overturned. 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 55.201(e). As a practical matter, the Commission should not require reconsideration if the issues raised are irrelevant or immaterial to a decision on the application. Also, where the Executive Director has already addressed the issue in the Response to Public Comment, reconsideration is not warranted.

There were numerous requests for reconsideration filed for this application. However, the requests either: (1) failed to raise an issue not previously considered and addressed by the ED's Response to Public Comment; or (2) failed to raise an issue that is relevant and material to a decision on this Application. Consequently, since none of the requests warrant reconsideration of the ED's decision, HCC respectfully submits that the Commission should deny all requests for reconsideration.

#### **VI. DURATION OF THE CONTESTED CASE HEARING**

HCC recognizes that the Commission regularly requires PDF's to be issued within nine months. Additionally, HCC acknowledges the time constraints involved in participating in a contested case hearing. However, in light of the fact that HCC incurs substantial costs to haul its dormitory wastewater to Kerrville's wastewater treatment plant, HCC respectfully requests the Commission require the PFD to be issued within six months.

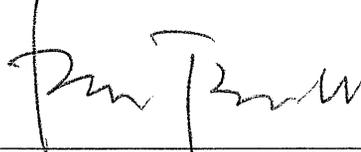
#### **VII. CONCLUSION**

HCC respectfully requests that the Commission deny Kerrville's and the UGRA's hearing requests and deny all requests for reconsideration. Additionally, HCC requests that the scope of any hearing and the participating parties be limited as described in this Response. HCC accepts the

changes to the Draft Permit set forth in the Executive Director's Response to Public Comment, and further requests that a PFD be issued within six months if the Commission refers the Application for hearing.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**THE TERRILL FIRM, P.C.**

By: 

Paul M. Terrill III  
State Bar No. 00785094  
Scott R. Shoemaker  
State Bar No. 24046836  
810 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, Texas 78701  
Tel: (512) 474-9100  
Fax: (512) 474-9888

**ATTORNEYS FOR HILL COUNTRY CAMP**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on March 30, 2009, a true and complete copy of the foregoing was sent to the individuals on the attached mailing list via the method indicated.

7:52 MAR 30 PM 4: 03

CHIEF CLERKS OFFICE

TCEQ Chief Clerk                      La Donna Castanuela                      via hand delivery  
TCEQ Chief Clerk  
MC-105  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

OPIC    Blas J. Coy    via hand delivery  
TCEQ - OPIC  
MC-103  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

OPA    Bridget Bohac    via hand delivery  
TCEQ-OPA  
MC-108  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

ED    Tim Reidy    via hand delivery  
TCEQ  
MC-173  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

Ron Atkins  
105 Augusta Cir  
Kerrville, TX 78026-6512

Barbara Burton  
235 Guadalupe ST  
Kerrville, TX 78028

Moira Attwell  
502 Riverwell Blvd  
Kerrville, TX 787028

Susan Candy  
659 Windy Ridge Rd  
Fredericksburg, TX 78624

Wendy Barber  
PO Box 294911  
Kerrville, TX 78028

Chris Hughes  
105 El Rancho Grande Rd  
Kerrville, TX 78028

Roger Borgelt  
401 W. 15<sup>th</sup> St., Ste 850  
Kerrville, TX 78701

Elizabeth Ireland  
214 Spanish Oak Ln  
Kerrville, TX 78028

Anthony Corbett  
Freeman & Corbett, LLP  
8500 Bluffstone, Ste. B104  
Austin, TX 78759

Wendy Barber  
119 McCullough Ranch  
Kerrville, TX 787028

David Braden  
115 Westminster St  
Kerrville, TX 78028

Deborah Jascur  
1921 Summit Ridge Dr.  
Kerrville, TX 78028

Anne Brown  
451 McCullough Rd  
Kerrville, TX 78028

Paula T Karl  
625 Rock Creek Loop  
Kerrville, TX 78028

Betty Baumgartner  
100 Oak Ridge, Lot 44  
Fredericksburg, TX 78624

SW McMillen  
1621 Indian Creek Loop  
Kerrville, TX 78028

Nanette & Tom Newbern  
515 Scenic Valley  
Kerrville, TX 78028

Bonnie Gene Olafson  
160 Turkey Run Cir  
Kerrville, TX 78028

Ann Wickham  
706 Cardinal Dr  
Kerrville, TX 78028

Mary Ann Young  
237 Old Oaks  
Kerrville, Texas 78028

Angela Santagata  
719 Jackson Rd  
Kerrville, TX 78028

John M., Jascur  
1921 Summit Ridge  
Kerrville, TX 78028

Raymond Buck - UGRA  
125 Lehmann, Ste. 100  
Kerrville, TX 78028

Marie McMillen  
1621 Indian Creek Loop  
Kerrville, TX 78028

Dennis McNamara  
275 Estates Dr  
Kerrville, TX 78028

Bruce Wasinger  
Bickerstaff Heath  
816 Congress, Ste 1700  
Austin, TX 78701

Arlene Wheaton  
404 Deer Run  
Mountain Home, TX 78058

Tammy Patterson  
PO BOX 560023  
Dallas, TX 75356

Joyce Pelto  
127 Terrace Ln.  
Kerrville, TX 78028

Sherry Secor  
2028 Junction HWY  
Kerrville, TX 78028

Mary Jo Browning  
600 Overhill Dr  
Kerrville, TX 78028

Steve Loudon  
285 Indian Creek Loop  
Kerrville, TX 78028

Darci Burchers  
540 Camelot  
Kerrville, TX 78028

Barsha Thibodeaux  
1424 5<sup>th</sup> ST  
Kerrville, TX 78028

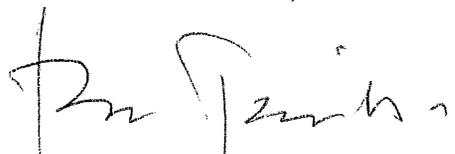
Emily Rogers  
Bickerstaff Heath  
816 Congress, Ste 1700  
Austin, TX 78701

Pia & Tommy Olafson  
1308 Harper Rd  
Kerrville, TX 78028

DH Wilson  
100 N Crestline  
Kerrville, TX 78028

Jean Reed  
243 Indian Creek Loop  
Kerrville, TX 78028

Randy Simmons  
208 Timber Ln  
Kerrville, TX 78028

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott R. Shoemaker  
PAUL M. TERRILL



TPDES PERMIT NO. WQ0014832001  
[For TCEQ office use only -  
EPA I.D. No. TX0129828]

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL  
QUALITY  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

PERMIT TO DISCHARGE WASTES  
under provisions of  
Section 402 of the Clean Water Act  
and Chapter 26 of the Texas Water Code

DRAFT

Hill Country Camp

whose mailing address is

1319 Harper Road  
Kerrville, Texas 78028

is authorized to treat and discharge wastes from the Hill Country Camp Wastewater Treatment Facility, SIC Code 7032

located at 1319 Harper Road in Kerrville County, Texas

to an unnamed tributary; thence to the on-channel lakes of Town Creek; thence to Guadalupe River Above Canyon Lake in Segment No. 1806 of the Guadalupe River Basin

only according with effluent limitations, monitoring requirements and other conditions set forth in this permit, as well as the rules of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), the laws of the State of Texas, and other orders of the TCEQ. The issuance of this permit does not grant to the permittee the right to use private or public property for conveyance of wastewater along the discharge route described in this permit. This includes, but is not limited to, property belonging to any individual, partnership, corporation, or other entity. Neither does this permit authorize any invasion of personal rights nor any violation of federal, state, or local laws or regulations. It is the responsibility of the permittee to acquire property rights as may be necessary to use the discharge route.

This permit shall expire at midnight, February 1, 2013.

ISSUED DATE:

\_\_\_\_\_  
For the Commission

EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

Outfall Number 001

1. During the period beginning upon the date of issuance and lasting through the date of expiration, the permittee is authorized to discharge subject to the following effluent limitations:

The daily average flow of effluent shall not exceed 0.025 million gallons per day (MGD); nor shall the average discharge during any two-hour period (2-hour peak) exceed 61 gallons per minute (gpm).

<u>Effluent Characteristic</u>	<u>Discharge Limitations</u>			<u>Minimum Self-Monitoring Requirements</u>			
	Daily Avg mg/(lbs/day)	7-day Avg mg/l	Daily Max mg/l	Report mg/l	Single Grab mg/l	Report Daily Avg. & Max. Single Grab Measurement Frequency	Sample Type
Flow, MGD	Report	N/A	Report	N/A	N/A	Five/week	Instantaneous
Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand (5-day)	10 (2.1)	15	25	25	35	One/week	Grab
Total Suspended Solids	15 (3.1)	25	40	40	60	One/week	Grab
Ammonia Nitrogen	3 (0.63)	6	10	10	15	One/week	Grab
Total Phosphorous	0.5 (0.10)	1	2	2	3	One/week	Grab

- The effluent shall contain a chlorine residual of at least 1.0 mg/l and shall not exceed a chlorine residual of 4.0 mg/l after a detention time of at least 20 minutes (based on peak flow), and shall be monitored five times per week by grab sample. An equivalent method of disinfection may be substituted only with prior approval of the Executive Director.
- The pH shall not be less than 6.0 standard units nor greater than 9.0 standard units and shall be monitored once per month by grab sample.
- There shall be no discharge of floating solids or visible foam in other than trace amounts and no discharge of visible oil.
- Effluent monitoring samples shall be taken at the following location(s): Following the final treatment unit.
- The effluent shall contain a minimum dissolved oxygen of 4.0 mg/l and shall be monitored once per week by grab sample.

**DEFINITIONS AND STANDARD PERMIT CONDITIONS**

As required by Title 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 305, certain regulations appear as standard conditions in waste discharge permits. 30 TAC §§305.121 - 305.129 (relating to Permit Characteristics and Conditions) as promulgated under the Texas Water Code (TWC) §§5.103 and 5.105, and the Texas Health and Safety Code (THSC) §§361.017 and 361.024(a), establish the characteristics and standards for waste discharge permits, including sewage sludge, and those sections of 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 122 adopted by reference by the Commission. The following text includes these conditions and incorporates them into this permit. All definitions in TWC §26.001 and 30 TAC Chapter 305 shall apply to this permit and are incorporated by reference. Some specific definitions of words or phrases used in this permit are as follows:

**1. Flow Measurements**

- a. Annual average flow - the arithmetic average of all daily flow determinations taken within the preceding 12 consecutive calendar months. The annual average flow determination shall consist of daily flow volume determinations made by a totalizing meter, charted on a chart recorder, and limited to major domestic wastewater discharge facilities with one million gallons per day or greater permitted flow.
- b. Daily average flow - the arithmetic average of all determinations of the daily flow within a period of one calendar month. The daily average flow determination shall consist of determinations made on at least four separate days. If instantaneous measurements are used to determine the daily flow, the determination shall be the arithmetic average of all instantaneous measurements taken during that month. Daily average flow determination for intermittent discharges shall consist of a minimum of three flow determinations on days of discharge.
- c. Daily maximum flow - the highest total flow for any 24-hour period in a calendar month.
- d. Instantaneous flow - the measured flow during the minimum time required to interpret the flow measuring device.
- e. 2-hour peak flow (domestic wastewater treatment plants) - the maximum flow sustained for a two-hour period during the period of daily discharge. The average of multiple measurements of instantaneous maximum flow within a two-hour period may be used to calculate the 2-hour peak flow.
- f. Maximum 2-hour peak flow (domestic wastewater treatment plants) - the highest 2-hour peak flow for any 24-hour period in a calendar month.

**2. Concentration Measurements**

- a. Daily average concentration - the arithmetic average of all effluent samples, composite or grab as required by this permit, within a period of one calendar month, consisting of at least four separate representative measurements.
  - i. For domestic wastewater treatment plants - When four samples are not available in a calendar month, the arithmetic average (weighted by flow) of all values in the previous four consecutive month period consisting of at least four measurements shall be utilized as the daily average concentration.
  - ii. For all other wastewater treatment plants - When four samples are not available in a calendar month, the arithmetic average (weighted by flow) of all values taken during the month shall be utilized as the daily average concentration.
- b. 7-day average concentration - the arithmetic average of all effluent samples, composite or grab as required by this permit, within a period of one calendar week, Sunday through Saturday.
- c. Daily maximum concentration - the maximum concentration measured on a single day, by the sample type specified in the permit, within a period of one calendar month.
- d. Daily discharge - the discharge of a pollutant measured during a calendar day or any 24-hour period that reasonably represents the calendar day for purposes of sampling. For pollutants with limitations expressed in terms of mass, the "daily discharge" is calculated as the total mass of the pollutant discharged over the sampling day. For pollutants with limitations expressed in other units of measurement, the "daily discharge" is calculated as the average measurement of the pollutant over the sampling day.

The "daily discharge" determination of concentration made using a composite sample shall be the concentration of the composite sample. When grab samples are used, the "daily discharge" determination of concentration shall be the arithmetic average (weighted by flow value) of all samples collected during that day.

- e. Fecal coliform bacteria concentration - the number of colonies of fecal coliform bacteria per 100 milliliters effluent. The daily average fecal coliform bacteria concentration is a geometric mean of the values for the effluent samples collected in a calendar month. The geometric mean shall be determined by calculating the  $n$ th root of the product of all measurements made in a calendar month, where  $n$  equals the number of measurements made; or, computed as the antilogarithm of the arithmetic mean of the logarithms of all measurements made in a calendar month. For any measurement of fecal coliform bacteria equaling zero, a substituted value of one shall be made for input into either computation method. The 7-day average for fecal coliform bacteria is the geometric mean of the values for all effluent samples collected during a calendar week.
  - f. Daily average loading (lbs/day) - the arithmetic average of all daily discharge loading calculations during a period of one calendar month. These calculations must be made for each day of the month that a parameter is analyzed. The daily discharge, in terms of mass (lbs/day), is calculated as ( Flow, MGD x Concentration, mg/l x 8.34).
  - g. Daily maximum loading (lbs/day) - the highest daily discharge, in terms of mass (lbs/day), within a period of one calendar month.
3. Sample Type
    - a. Composite sample - For domestic wastewater, a composite sample is a sample made up of a minimum of three effluent portions collected in a continuous 24-hour period or during the period of daily discharge if less than 24 hours, and combined in volumes proportional to flow, and collected at the intervals required by 30 TAC §319.9 (a). For industrial wastewater, a composite sample is a sample made up of a minimum of three effluent portions collected in a continuous 24-hour period or during the period of daily discharge if less than 24 hours, and combined in volumes proportional to flow, and collected at the intervals required by 30 TAC §319.9 (b).
    - b. Grab sample - an individual sample collected in less than 15 minutes.
  4. Treatment Facility (facility) - wastewater facilities used in the conveyance, storage, treatment, recycling, reclamation and/or disposal of domestic sewage, industrial wastes, agricultural wastes, recreational wastes, or other wastes including sludge handling or disposal facilities under the jurisdiction of the Commission.
  5. The term "sewage sludge" is defined as solid, semi-solid, or liquid residue generated during the treatment of domestic sewage in 30 TAC Chapter 312. This includes the solids that have not been classified as hazardous waste separated from wastewater by unit processes.
  6. Bypass - the intentional diversion of a waste stream from any portion of a treatment facility.

## MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

### 1. Self-Reporting

Monitoring results shall be provided at the intervals specified in the permit. Unless otherwise specified in this permit or otherwise ordered by the Commission, the permittee shall conduct effluent sampling and reporting in accordance with 30 TAC §§319.4 - 319.12. Unless otherwise specified, a monthly effluent report shall be submitted each month, to the Enforcement Division (MC 224), by the 20th day of the following month for each discharge that is described by this permit whether or not a discharge is made for that month. Monitoring results must be reported on an approved self-report form that is signed and certified as required by Monitoring and Reporting Requirements No. 10.

As provided by state law, the permittee is subject to administrative, civil and criminal penalties, as applicable, for negligently or knowingly violating the Clean Water Act, the TWC Chapters 26, 27, and 28, and THSC Chapter 361, including but not limited to knowingly making any false statement, representation, or certification on any report, record, or other document submitted or required to be maintained under this permit, including monitoring reports or reports of compliance or noncompliance, or falsifying, tampering with or knowingly rendering inaccurate any monitoring device or method required by this permit or violating any other requirement imposed by state or federal regulations.

### 2. Test Procedures

Unless otherwise specified in this permit, test procedures for the analysis of pollutants shall comply with procedures specified in 30 TAC §§319.11 - 319.12. Measurements, tests, and calculations shall be accurately accomplished in a representative manner.

### 3. Records of Results

- a. Monitoring samples and measurements shall be taken at times and in a manner so as to be representative of the monitored activity.

- b. Except for records of monitoring information required by this permit related to the permittee's sewage sludge use and disposal activities, which shall be retained for a period of at least five years (or longer as required by 40 CFR Part 503), monitoring and reporting records, including strip charts and records of calibration and maintenance, copies of all records required by this permit, records of all data used to complete the application for this permit, and the certification required by 40 CFR § 264.73(b)(9) shall be retained at the facility site, or shall be readily available for review by a TCEQ representative for a period of three years from the date of the record or sample, measurement, report, application or certification. This period shall be extended at the request of the Executive Director.
- c. Records of monitoring activities shall include the following:
  - i. date, time and place of sample or measurement;
  - ii. identity of individual who collected the sample or made the measurement.
  - iii. date and time of analysis;
  - iv. identity of the individual and laboratory who performed the analysis;
  - v. the technique or method of analysis; and
  - vi. the results of the analysis or measurement and quality assurance/quality control records.

The period during which records are required to be kept shall be automatically extended to the date of the final disposition of any administrative or judicial enforcement action that may be instituted against the permittee.

4. Additional Monitoring by Permittee

If the permittee monitors any pollutant at the location(s) designated herein more frequently than required by this permit using approved analytical methods as specified above, all results of such monitoring shall be included in the calculation and reporting of the values submitted on the approved self-report form. Increased frequency of sampling shall be indicated on the self-report form.

5. Calibration of Instruments

All automatic flow measuring or recording devices and all totalizing meters for measuring flows shall be accurately calibrated by a trained person at plant start-up and as often thereafter as necessary to ensure accuracy, but not less often than annually unless authorized by the Executive Director for a longer period. Such person shall verify in writing that the device is operating properly and giving accurate results. Copies of the verification shall be retained at the facility site and/or shall be readily available for review by a TCEQ representative for a period of three years.

6. Compliance Schedule Reports

Reports of compliance or noncompliance with, or any progress reports on, interim and final requirements contained in any compliance schedule of the permit shall be submitted no later than 14 days following each schedule date to the Regional Office No. 0 and the Enforcement Division (MC 224).

7. Noncompliance Notification

- a. In accordance with 30 TAC §305.125(9) any noncompliance that may endanger human health or safety, or the environment shall be reported by the permittee to the TCEQ. Report of such information shall be provided orally or by facsimile transmission (FAX) to the Regional Office within 24 hours of becoming aware of the noncompliance. A written submission of such information shall also be provided by the permittee to the Regional Office and the Enforcement Division (MC 224) within five working days of becoming aware of the noncompliance. The written submission shall contain a description of the noncompliance and its cause; the potential danger to human health or safety, or the environment; the period of noncompliance, including exact dates and times; if the noncompliance has not been corrected, the time it is expected to continue; and steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate, and prevent recurrence of the noncompliance, and to mitigate its adverse effects.
- b. The following violations shall be reported under Monitoring and Reporting Requirement 7.a.:
  - i. Unauthorized discharges as defined in Permit Condition 2(g).
  - ii. Any unanticipated bypass that exceeds any effluent limitation in the permit.
  - iii. Violation of a permitted maximum daily discharge limitation for pollutants listed specifically in the Other Requirements section of an Industrial TPDES permit.
- c. In addition to the above, any effluent violation that deviates from the permitted effluent limitation by more than 40% shall be reported by the permittee in writing to the Regional Office and the Enforcement Division (MC 224) within 5 working days of becoming aware of the noncompliance.

- d. Any noncompliance other than that specified in this section, or any required information not submitted or submitted incorrectly, shall be reported to the Enforcement Division (MC 224) as promptly as possible. For effluent limitation violations, noncompliances shall be reported on the approved self-report form.
8. In accordance with the procedures described in 30 TAC §§35.301 - 35.303 (relating to Water Quality Emergency and Temporary Orders) if the permittee knows in advance of the need for a bypass, it shall submit prior notice by applying for such authorization.
9. Changes in Discharges of Toxic Substances

All existing manufacturing, commercial, mining, and silvicultural permittees shall notify the Regional Office, orally or by facsimile transmission within 24 hours, and both the Regional Office and the Enforcement Division (MC 224) in writing within five (5) working days, after becoming aware of or having reason to believe:

- a. That any activity has occurred or will occur which would result in the discharge, on a routine or frequent basis, of any toxic pollutant listed at 40 CFR Part 122, Appendix D, Tables II and III (excluding Total Phenols) which is not limited in the permit, if that discharge will exceed the highest of the following "notification levels":
    - i. One hundred micrograms per liter (100  $\mu\text{g/L}$ );
    - ii. Two hundred micrograms per liter (200  $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) for acrolein and acrylonitrile; five hundred micrograms per liter (500  $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) for 2,4-dinitrophenol and for 2-methyl-4,6-dinitrophenol; and one milligram per liter (1  $\text{mg/L}$ ) for antimony;
    - iii. Five (5) times the maximum concentration value reported for that pollutant in the permit application; or
    - iv. The level established by the TCEQ.
  - b. That any activity has occurred or will occur which would result in any discharge, on a nonroutine or infrequent basis, of a toxic pollutant which is not limited in the permit, if that discharge will exceed the highest of the following "notification levels":
    - i. Five hundred micrograms per liter (500  $\mu\text{g/L}$ );
    - ii. One milligram per liter (1  $\text{mg/L}$ ) for antimony;
    - iii. Ten (10) times the maximum concentration value reported for that pollutant in the permit application; or
    - iv. The level established by the TCEQ.
10. Signatories to Reports

All reports and other information requested by the Executive Director shall be signed by the person and in the manner required by 30 TAC §305.128 (relating to Signatories to Reports).
  11. All publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) must provide adequate notice to the Executive Director of the following:
    - a. Any new introduction of pollutants into the POTW from an indirect discharger that would be subject to CWA §301 or §306 if it were directly discharging those pollutants;
    - b. Any substantial change in the volume or character of pollutants being introduced into that POTW by a source introducing pollutants into the POTW at the time of issuance of the permit; and
    - c. For the purpose of this paragraph, adequate notice shall include information on:
      - i. The quality and quantity of effluent introduced into the POTW; and
      - ii. Any anticipated impact of the change on the quantity or quality of effluent to be discharged from the POTW.

**PERMIT CONDITIONS**

## 1. General

- a. When the permittee becomes aware that it failed to submit any relevant facts in a permit application, or submitted incorrect information in an application or in any report to the Executive Director, it shall promptly submit such facts or information.
- b. This permit is granted on the basis of the information supplied and representations made by the permittee during action on an application, and relying upon the accuracy and completeness of that information and those representations. After notice and opportunity for a hearing, this permit may be modified, suspended, or revoked, in whole or in part, in accordance with 30 TAC Chapter 305, Subchapter D, during its term for good cause including, but not limited to, the following:
  - i. Violation of any terms or conditions of this permit;
  - ii. Obtaining this permit by misrepresentation or failure to disclose fully all relevant facts; or
  - iii. A change in any condition that requires either a temporary or permanent reduction or elimination of the authorized discharge.
- c. The permittee shall furnish to the Executive Director, upon request and within a reasonable time, any information to determine whether cause exists for amending, revoking, suspending, or terminating the permit. The permittee shall also furnish to the Executive Director, upon request, copies of records required to be kept by the permit.

## 2. Compliance

- a. Acceptance of the permit by the person to whom it is issued constitutes acknowledgment and agreement that such person will comply with all the terms and conditions embodied in the permit, and the rules and other orders of the Commission.
- b. The permittee has a duty to comply with all conditions of the permit. Failure to comply with any permit condition constitutes a violation of the permit and the Texas Water Code or the Texas Health and Safety Code, and is grounds for enforcement action, for permit amendment, revocation, or suspension, or for denial of a permit renewal application or an application for a permit for another facility.
- c. It shall not be a defense for a permittee in an enforcement action that it would have been necessary to halt or reduce the permitted activity in order to maintain compliance with the conditions of the permit.
- d. The permittee shall take all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent any discharge or sludge use or disposal or other permit violation that has a reasonable likelihood of adversely affecting human health or the environment.
- e. Authorization from the Commission is required before beginning any change in the permitted facility or activity that may result in noncompliance with any permit requirements.
- f. A permit may be amended, suspended and reissued, or revoked for cause in accordance with 30 TAC §§305.62 and 305.66 and TWC §7.302. The filing of a request by the permittee for a permit amendment, suspension and reissuance, or termination, or a notification of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance, does not stay any permit condition.
- g. There shall be no unauthorized discharge of wastewater or any other waste. For the purpose of this permit, an unauthorized discharge is considered to be any discharge of wastewater into or adjacent to water in the state at any location not permitted as an outfall or otherwise defined in the Other Requirements section of this permit.
- h. In accordance with 30 TAC §305.535(a), the permittee may allow any bypass to occur from a TPDES permitted facility that does not cause permitted effluent limitations to be exceeded or an unauthorized discharge to occur, but only if the bypass is also for essential maintenance to assure efficient operation.
- i. The permittee is subject to administrative, civil, and criminal penalties, as applicable, under TWC §§7.051 - 7.075 (relating to Administrative Penalties), 7.101 - 7.111 (relating to Civil Penalties), and 7.141 - 7.202 (relating to Criminal Offenses and Penalties) for violations including, but not limited to, negligently or knowingly violating the federal CWA §§301, 302, 306, 307, 308, 318, or 405, or any condition or limitation implementing any sections in a permit issued under the CWA §402, or any requirement imposed in a pretreatment program approved under the CWA §§402 (a)(3) or 402 (b)(8).

## 3. Inspections and Entry

- a. Inspection and entry shall be allowed as prescribed in the TWC Chapters 26, 27, and 28, and THSC Chapter 361.
- b. The members of the Commission and employees and agents of the Commission are entitled to enter any public or private property at any reasonable time for the purpose of inspecting and investigating conditions relating to the quality of water in the state or the compliance with any rule, regulation, permit or other order of the Commission. Members, employees, or agents of the Commission and Commission contractors are entitled to enter public or private property at any reasonable time to investigate or monitor or, if the responsible party is not responsive or there is an immediate danger to public health or the environment, to remove or remediate a condition related to the quality of water in the state. Members, employees, Commission contractors, or agents acting under this authority who enter private property shall observe the establishment's rules and regulations concerning safety, internal security, and fire protection, and if the property has management in residence, shall notify management or the person then in charge of his presence and shall exhibit proper credentials. If any member, employee, Commission contractor, or agent is refused the right to enter in or on public or private property under this authority, the Executive Director may invoke the remedies authorized in TWC § 7.002. The statement above, that Commission entry shall occur in accordance with an establishment's rules and regulations concerning safety, internal security, and fire protection, is not grounds for denial or restriction of entry to any part of the facility, but merely describes the Commission's duty to observe appropriate rules and regulations during an inspection.

## 4. Permit Amendment and/or Renewal

- a. The permittee shall give notice to the Executive Director as soon as possible of any planned physical alterations or additions to the permitted facility if such alterations or additions would require a permit amendment or result in a violation of permit requirements. Notice shall also be required under this paragraph when:
  - i. The alteration or addition to a permitted facility may meet one of the criteria for determining whether a facility is a new source in accordance with 30 TAC §305.534 (relating to New Sources and New Dischargers);
  - ii. The alteration or addition could significantly change the nature or increase the quantity of pollutants discharged. This notification applies to pollutants that are subject neither to effluent limitations in the permit, nor to notification requirements in Monitoring and Reporting Requirements No. 9; or
  - iii. The alteration or addition results in a significant change in the permittee's sludge use or disposal practices, and such alteration, addition, or change may justify the application of permit conditions that are different from or absent in the existing permit, including notification of additional use or disposal sites not reported during the permit application process or not reported pursuant to an approved land application plan.
- b. Prior to any facility modifications, additions, or expansions that will increase the plant capacity beyond the permitted flow, the permittee must apply for and obtain proper authorization from the Commission before commencing construction.
- c. The permittee must apply for an amendment or renewal at least 180 days prior to expiration of the existing permit in order to continue a permitted activity after the expiration date of the permit. If an application is submitted prior to the expiration date of the permit, the existing permit shall remain in effect until the application is approved, denied, or returned. If the application is returned or denied, authorization to continue such activity shall terminate upon the effective date of the action. If an application is not submitted prior to the expiration date of the permit, the permit shall expire and authorization to continue such activity shall terminate.
- d. Prior to accepting or generating wastes that are not described in the permit application or that would result in a significant change in the quantity or quality of the existing discharge, the permittee must report the proposed changes to the Commission. The permittee must apply for a permit amendment reflecting any necessary changes in permit conditions, including effluent limitations for pollutants not identified and limited by this permit.
- e. In accordance with the TWC §26.029(b), after a public hearing, notice of which shall be given to the permittee, the Commission may require the permittee, from time to time, for good cause, in accordance with applicable laws, to conform to new or additional conditions.
- f. If any toxic effluent standard or prohibition (including any schedule of compliance specified in such effluent standard or prohibition) is promulgated under CWA §307(a) for a toxic pollutant that is present in the discharge and that standard or prohibition is more stringent than any limitation on the pollutant in this permit, this permit shall be modified or revoked and reissued to conform to the toxic effluent standard or prohibition. The permittee

shall comply with effluent standards or prohibitions established under CWA §307(a) for toxic pollutants within the time provided in the regulations that established those standards or prohibitions, even if the permit has not yet been modified to incorporate the requirement.

5. Permit Transfer

- a. Prior to any transfer of this permit, Commission approval must be obtained. The Commission shall be notified in writing of any change in control or ownership of facilities authorized by this permit. Such notification should be sent to the Applications Review and Processing Team (MC 148) of the Water Quality Division.
- b. A permit may be transferred only according to the provisions of 30 TAC §305.64 (relating to Transfer of Permits) and 30 TAC §50.133 (relating to Executive Director Action on Application or WQMP update).

6. Relationship to Hazardous Waste Activities

This permit does not authorize any activity of hazardous waste storage, processing, or disposal, which requires a permit or other authorization pursuant to the Texas Health and Safety Code.

7. Relationship to Water Rights

Disposal of treated effluent by any means other than discharge directly to water in the state must be specifically authorized in this permit and may require a permit pursuant to TWC Chapter 11.

8. Property Rights

A permit does not convey any property rights of any sort, or any exclusive privilege.

9. Permit Enforceability

The conditions of this permit are severable, and if any provision of this permit, or the application of any provision of this permit to any circumstances, is held invalid, the application of such provision to other circumstances, and the remainder of this permit, shall not be affected thereby.

10. Relationship to Permit Application

The application pursuant to which the permit has been issued is incorporated herein; provided, however, that in the event of a conflict between the provisions of this permit and the application, the provisions of the permit shall control.

11. Notice of Bankruptcy.

- a. Each permittee shall notify the executive director, in writing, immediately following the filing of a voluntary or involuntary petition for bankruptcy under any chapter of Title 11 (Bankruptcy) of the United States Code (11 USC) by or against:
  - i. the permittee;
  - ii. an entity (as that term is defined in 11 USC, §101(14)) controlling the permittee or listing the permit or permittee as property of the estate; or
  - iii. an affiliate (as that term is defined in 11 USC, §101(2)) of the permittee.
- b. This notification must indicate:
  - i. the name of the permittee and the permit number(s);
  - ii. the bankruptcy court in which the petition for bankruptcy was filed; and
  - iii. the date of filing of the petition.

## OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

1. The permittee shall at all times ensure that the facility and all of its systems of collection, treatment, and disposal are properly operated and maintained. This includes, but is not limited to, the regular, periodic examination of wastewater solids within the treatment plant by the operator in order to maintain an appropriate quantity and quality of solids inventory as described in the various operator training manuals and according to accepted industry standards for process control. Process control, maintenance, and operations records shall be retained at the facility site, or shall be readily available for review by a TCEQ representative, for a period of three years.
2. Upon request by the Executive Director, the permittee shall take appropriate samples and provide proper analysis in order to demonstrate compliance with Commission rules. Unless otherwise specified in this permit or otherwise ordered by the Commission, the permittee shall comply with all applicable provisions of 30 TAC Chapter 312 concerning sewage sludge use and disposal and 30 TAC §§319.21 - 319.29 concerning the discharge of certain hazardous metals.

3. Domestic wastewater treatment facilities shall comply with the following provisions:
  - a. The permittee shall notify the Municipal Permits Team, Wastewater Permitting Section (MC 148) of the Water Quality Division, in writing, of any facility expansion at least 90 days prior to conducting such activity.
  - b. The permittee shall submit a closure plan for review and approval to the Municipal Permits Team, Wastewater Permitting Section (MC 148) of the Water Quality Division, for any closure activity at least 90 days prior to conducting such activity. Closure is the act of permanently taking a waste management unit or treatment facility out of service and includes the permanent removal from service of any pit, tank, pond, lagoon, surface impoundment and/or other treatment unit regulated by this permit.
4. The permittee is responsible for installing prior to plant start-up, and subsequently maintaining, adequate safeguards to prevent the discharge of untreated or inadequately treated wastes during electrical power failures by means of alternate power sources, standby generators, and/or retention of inadequately treated wastewater.
5. Unless otherwise specified, the permittee shall provide a readily accessible sampling point and, where applicable, an effluent flow measuring device or other acceptable means by which effluent flow may be determined.
6. The permittee shall remit an annual water quality fee to the Commission as required by 30 TAC Chapter 21. Failure to pay the fee may result in revocation of this permit under TWC §7.302(b)(6).
7. Documentation

For all written notifications to the Commission required of the permittee by this permit, the permittee shall keep and make available a copy of each such notification under the same conditions as self-monitoring data are required to be kept and made available. Except for information required for TPDES permit applications, effluent data, including effluent data in permits, draft permits and permit applications, and other information specified as not confidential in 30 TAC §1.5(d), any information submitted pursuant to this permit may be claimed as confidential by the submitter. Any such claim must be asserted in the manner prescribed in the application form or by stamping the words "confidential business information" on each page containing such information. If no claim is made at the time of submission, information may be made available to the public without further notice. If the Commission or Executive Director agrees with the designation of confidentiality, the TCEQ will not provide the information for public inspection unless required by the Texas Attorney General or a court pursuant to an open records request. If the Executive Director does not agree with the designation of confidentiality, the person submitting the information will be notified.

8. Facilities that generate domestic wastewater shall comply with the following provisions; domestic wastewater treatment facilities at permitted industrial sites are excluded.
  - a. Whenever flow measurements for any domestic sewage treatment facility reach 75% of the permitted daily average or annual average flow for three consecutive months, the permittee must initiate engineering and financial planning for expansion and/or upgrading of the domestic wastewater treatment and/or collection facilities. Whenever the flow reaches 90% of the permitted daily average or annual average flow for three consecutive months, the permittee shall obtain necessary authorization from the Commission to commence construction of the necessary additional treatment and/or collection facilities. In the case of a domestic wastewater treatment facility that reaches 75% of the permitted daily average or annual average flow for three consecutive months, and the planned population to be served or the quantity of waste produced is not expected to exceed the design limitations of the treatment facility, the permittee shall submit an engineering report supporting this claim to the Executive Director of the Commission.

If in the judgment of the Executive Director the population to be served will not cause permit noncompliance, then the requirement of this section may be waived. To be effective, any waiver must be in writing and signed by the Director of the Enforcement Division (MC 149) of the Commission, and such waiver of these requirements will be reviewed upon expiration of the existing permit; however, any such waiver shall not be interpreted as condoning or excusing any violation of any permit parameter.

- b. The plans and specifications for domestic sewage collection and treatment works associated with any domestic permit must be approved by the Commission and failure to secure approval before commencing construction of such works or making a discharge is a violation of this permit and each day is an additional violation until approval has been secured.

- c. Permits for domestic wastewater treatment plants are granted subject to the policy of the Commission to encourage the development of area-wide waste collection, treatment, and disposal systems. The Commission reserves the right to amend any domestic wastewater permit in accordance with applicable procedural requirements to require the system covered by this permit to be integrated into an area-wide system, should such be developed; to require the delivery of the wastes authorized to be collected in, treated by or discharged from said system, to such area-wide system; or to amend this permit in any other particular to effectuate the Commission's policy. Such amendments may be made when the changes required are advisable for water quality control purposes and are feasible on the basis of waste treatment technology, engineering, financial, and related considerations existing at the time the changes are required, exclusive of the loss of investment in or revenues from any then existing or proposed waste collection, treatment or disposal system.
9. Domestic wastewater treatment plants shall be operated and maintained by sewage plant operators holding a valid certificate of competency at the required level as defined in 30 TAC Chapter 30.
10. For Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs), the 30-day average (or monthly average) percent removal for BOD and TSS shall not be less than 85%, unless otherwise authorized by this permit.
11. Facilities that generate industrial solid waste as defined in 30 TAC §335.1 shall comply with these provisions:
- Any solid waste, as defined in 30 TAC §335.1 (including but not limited to such wastes as garbage, refuse, sludge from a waste treatment, water supply treatment plant or air pollution control facility, discarded materials, discarded materials to be recycled, whether the waste is solid, liquid, or semisolid), generated by the permittee during the management and treatment of wastewater, must be managed in accordance with all applicable provisions of 30 TAC Chapter 335, relating to Industrial Solid Waste Management.
  - Industrial wastewater that is being collected, accumulated, stored, or processed before discharge through any final discharge outfall, specified by this permit, is considered to be industrial solid waste until the wastewater passes through the actual point source discharge and must be managed in accordance with all applicable provisions of 30 TAC Chapter 335.
  - The permittee shall provide written notification, pursuant to the requirements of 30 TAC §335.8(b)(1), to the Environmental Cleanup Section (MC 127) of the Remediation Division informing the Commission of any closure activity involving an Industrial Solid Waste Management Unit, at least 90 days prior to conducting such an activity.
  - Construction of any industrial solid waste management unit requires the prior written notification of the proposed activity to the Registration and Reporting Section (MC 129) of the Registration, Review, and Reporting Division. No person shall dispose of industrial solid waste, including sludge or other solids from wastewater treatment processes, prior to fulfilling the deed recordation requirements of 30 TAC §335.5.
  - The term "industrial solid waste management unit" means a landfill, surface impoundment, waste-pile, industrial furnace, incinerator, cement kiln, injection well, container, drum, salt dome waste containment cavern, or any other structure vessel, appurtenance, or other improvement on land used to manage industrial solid waste.
  - The permittee shall keep management records for all sludge (or other waste) removed from any wastewater treatment process. These records shall fulfill all applicable requirements of 30 TAC Chapter 335 and must include the following, as it pertains to wastewater treatment and discharge:
    - Volume of waste and date(s) generated from treatment process;
    - Volume of waste disposed of on-site or shipped off-site;
    - Date(s) of disposal;
    - Identity of hauler or transporter;
    - Location of disposal site; and
    - Method of final disposal.
- The above records shall be maintained on a monthly basis. The records shall be retained at the facility site, or shall be readily available for review by authorized representatives of the TCEQ for at least five years.
12. For industrial facilities to which the requirements of 30 TAC Chapter 335 do not apply, sludge and solid wastes, including tank cleaning and contaminated solids for disposal, shall be disposed of in accordance with THSC Chapter 361.

## SLUDGE PROVISIONS

The permittee is authorized to dispose of sludge only at a Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) authorized land application site or co-disposal landfill. **The disposal of sludge by land application on property owned, leased, or under the direct control of the permittee is a violation of the permit unless the site is authorized with the TCEQ. This provision does not authorize Distribution and Marketing of sludge. This provision does not authorize land application of Class A Sludge. This provision does not authorize the permittee to land apply sludge on property owned, leased or under the direct control of the permittee.**

### SECTION I. REQUIREMENTS APPLYING TO ALL SEWAGE SLUDGE LAND APPLICATION

#### A. General Requirements

1. The permittee shall handle and dispose of sewage sludge in accordance with 30 TAC Chapter 312 and all other applicable state and federal regulations in a manner that protects public health and the environment from any reasonably anticipated adverse effects due to any toxic pollutants that may be present in the sludge.
2. In all cases, if the person (permit holder) who prepares the sewage sludge supplies the sewage sludge to another person for land application use or to the owner or leaseholder of the land, the permit holder shall provide necessary information to the parties who receive the sludge to assure compliance with these regulations.
3. The permittee shall give 180 days prior notice to the Executive Director in care of the Wastewater Permitting Section (MC 148) of the Water Quality Division of any change planned in the sewage sludge disposal practice.

#### B. Testing Requirements

1. Sewage sludge shall be tested once during the term of this permit in accordance with the method specified in both 40 CFR Part 261, Appendix II and 40 CFR Part 268, Appendix I [Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP)] or other method, that receives the prior approval of the TCEQ for the contaminants listed in Table 1 of 40 CFR §261.24. Sewage sludge failing this test shall be managed according to RCRA standards for generators of hazardous waste, and the waste's disposition must be in accordance with all applicable requirements for hazardous waste processing, storage, or disposal. Following failure of any TCLP test, the management or disposal of sewage sludge at a facility other than an authorized hazardous waste processing, storage, or disposal facility shall be prohibited until such time as the permittee can demonstrate the sewage sludge no longer exhibits the hazardous waste toxicity characteristics (as demonstrated by the results of the TCLP tests). A written report shall be provided to both the TCEQ Registration and Reporting Section (MC 129) of the Registration, Review, and Reporting Division and the Regional Director (MC Region 13) within 7 days after failing the TCLP Test.

The report shall contain test results, certification that unauthorized waste management has stopped and a summary of alternative disposal plans that comply with RCRA standards for the management of hazardous waste. The report shall be addressed to: Director, Registration, Review, and Reporting Division (MC 129), Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, P. O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. In addition, the permittee shall prepare an annual report on the results of all sludge toxicity testing. This annual report shall be submitted to the TCEQ Regional Office (MC Region 13) and the Water Quality Compliance Monitoring Team (MC 224) of the Enforcement Division by September 1 of each year.

2. Sewage sludge shall not be applied to the land if the concentration of the pollutants exceeds the pollutant concentration criteria in Table 1. The frequency of testing for pollutants in Table 1 is found in Section I.C.

TABLE 1

<u>Pollutant</u>	<u>Ceiling Concentration</u> (Milligrams per kilogram)*
Arsenic	75
Cadmium	85
Chromium	3000
Copper	4300
Lead	840
Mercury	57
Molybdenum	75
Nickel	420
PCBs	49
Selenium	100
Zinc	7500

\* Dry weight basis

### 3. Pathogen Control

All sewage sludge that is applied to agricultural land, forest, a public contact site, or a reclamation site shall be treated by one of the following methods to ensure that the sludge meets either the Class A or Class B pathogen requirements.

- a. Six alternatives are available to demonstrate compliance with Class A sewage sludge. The first 4 options require either the density of fecal coliform in the sewage sludge be less than 1000 Most Probable Number (MPN) per gram of total solids (dry weight basis), or the density of Salmonella sp. bacteria in the sewage sludge be less than three MPN per four grams of total solids (dry weight basis) at the time the sewage sludge is used or disposed. Below are the additional requirements necessary to meet the definition of a Class A sludge.

Alternative 1 - The temperature of the sewage sludge that is used or disposed shall be maintained at or above a specific value for a period of time. See 30 TAC §312.82(a)(2)(A) for specific information.

Alternative 2 - The pH of the sewage sludge that is used or disposed shall be raised to above 12 std. units and shall remain above 12 std. units for 72 hours.

The temperature of the sewage sludge shall be above 52° Celsius for 12 hours or longer during the period that the pH of the sewage sludge is above 12 std. units.

At the end of the 72-hour period during which the pH of the sewage sludge is above 12 std. units, the sewage sludge shall be air dried to achieve a percent solids in the sewage sludge greater than 50%.

Alternative 3 - The sewage sludge shall be analyzed for enteric viruses prior to pathogen treatment. The limit for enteric viruses is less than one plaque-forming unit per four grams of total solids (dry weight basis) either before or following pathogen treatment. See 30 TAC §312.82(a)(2)(C)(i-iii) for specific information. The sewage sludge shall be analyzed for viable helminth ova prior to pathogen treatment. The limit for viable helminth ova is less than one per four grams of total solids (dry weight basis) either before or following pathogen treatment. See 30 TAC §312.82(a)(2)(C)(iv-vi) for specific information.

Alternative 4 - The density of enteric viruses in the sewage sludge shall be less than one plaque-forming unit per four grams of total solids (dry weight basis) at the time the sewage sludge is used or disposed. The density of viable helminth ova in the sewage sludge shall be less than one per four grams of total solids (dry weight basis) at the time the sewage sludge is used or disposed.

Alternative 5 (PFRP) - Sewage sludge that is used or disposed of shall be treated in one of the processes to Further Reduce Pathogens (PFRP) described in 40 CFR Part 503, Appendix B. PFRP include composting, heat drying, heat treatment, and thermophilic aerobic digestion.

Alternative 6 (PFRP Equivalent) - Sewage sludge that is used or disposed of shall be treated in a process that has been approved by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as being equivalent to those in Alternative 5.

- b. Three alternatives are available to demonstrate compliance with Class B criteria for sewage sludge.

Alternative 1 -

- i. A minimum of seven random samples of the sewage sludge shall be collected within 48 hours of the time the sewage sludge is used or disposed of during each monitoring episode for the sewage sludge.
- ii. The geometric mean of the density of fecal coliform in the samples collected shall be less than either 2,000,000 MPN per gram of total solids (dry weight basis) or 2,000,000 Colony Forming Units per gram of total solids (dry weight basis).

Alternative 2 - Sewage sludge that is used or disposed of shall be treated in one of the Processes to Significantly Reduce Pathogens (PSRP) described in 40 CFR Part 503, Appendix B, so long as all of the following requirements are met by the generator of the sewage sludge.

- i. Prior to use or disposal, all the sewage sludge must have been generated from a single location, except as provided in paragraph v. below;
- ii. An independent Texas Licensed Professional Engineer must make a certification to the generator of a sewage sludge that the wastewater treatment facility generating the sewage sludge is designed to achieve one of the PSRP at the permitted design loading of the facility. The certification need only be repeated if the design loading of the facility is increased. The certification shall include a statement indicating the design meets all the applicable standards specified in Appendix B of 40 CFR Part 503;
- iii. Prior to any off-site transportation or on-site use or disposal of any sewage sludge generated at a wastewater treatment facility, the chief certified operator of the wastewater treatment facility or other responsible official who manages the processes to significantly reduce pathogens at the wastewater treatment facility for the permittee, shall certify that the sewage sludge underwent at least the minimum operational requirements necessary in order to meet one of the PSRP. The acceptable processes and the minimum operational and record keeping requirements shall be in accordance with established EPA final guidance;
- iv. All certification records and operational records describing how the requirements of this paragraph were met shall be kept by the generator for a minimum of three years and be available for inspection by commission staff for review; and
- v. If the sewage sludge is generated from a mixture of sources, resulting from a person who prepares sewage sludge from more than one wastewater treatment facility, the resulting derived product shall meet one of the PSRP, and shall meet the certification, operation, and record keeping requirements of this paragraph.

Alternative 3 - Sewage sludge shall be treated in an equivalent process that has been approved by the EPA so long as all of the following requirements are met by the generator of the sewage sludge.

- i. Prior to use or disposal, all the sewage sludge must have been generated from a single location, except as provided in paragraph v. below;
- ii. Prior to any off-site transportation or on-site use or disposal of any sewage sludge generated at a wastewater treatment facility, the chief certified operator of the wastewater treatment facility or other responsible official who manages the processes to significantly reduce pathogens at the wastewater treatment facility for the permittee, shall certify that the sewage sludge underwent at least the minimum operational requirements necessary in order to meet one of the PSRP. The acceptable processes and the minimum operational and record keeping requirements shall be in accordance with established EPA final guidance;
- iii. All certification records and operational records describing how the requirements of this paragraph were met shall be kept by the generator for a minimum of three years and be available for inspection by commission staff for review;
- iv. The executive director will accept from the EPA a finding of equivalency to the defined PSRP; and
- v. If the sewage sludge is generated from a mixture of sources resulting from a person who prepares sewage sludge from more than one wastewater treatment facility, the resulting derived product shall meet one of the processes to significantly reduce pathogens, and shall meet the certification, operation, and record keeping requirements of this paragraph.

In addition, the following site restrictions must be met if Class B sludge is land applied:

- vi. Food crops with harvested parts that touch the sewage sludge/soil mixture and are totally above the land surface shall not be harvested for 14 months after application of sewage sludge.
- vii. Food crops with harvested parts below the surface of the land shall not be harvested for 20 months after application of sewage sludge when the sewage sludge remains on the land surface for 4 months or longer prior to incorporation into the soil.
- viii. Food crops with harvested parts below the surface of the land shall not be harvested for 38 months after application of sewage sludge when the sewage sludge remains on the land surface for less than 4 months prior to incorporation into the soil.
- ix. Food crops, feed crops, and fiber crops shall not be harvested for 30 days after application of sewage sludge.
- x. Animals shall not be allowed to graze on the land for 30 days after application of sewage sludge.
- xi. Turf grown on land where sewage sludge is applied shall not be harvested for one year after application of the sewage sludge when the harvested turf is placed on either land with a high potential for public exposure or a lawn.
- xii. Public access to land with a high potential for public exposure shall be restricted for one year after application of sewage sludge.
- xiii. Public access to land with a low potential for public exposure shall be restricted for 30 days after application of sewage sludge.
- xiv. Land application of sludge shall be in accordance with the buffer zone requirements found in 30 TAC §312.44.

#### 4. Vector Attraction Reduction Requirements

All bulk sewage sludge that is applied to agricultural land, forest, a public contact site, or a reclamation site shall be treated by one of the following alternatives 1 through 10 for Vector Attraction Reduction.

- Alternative 1 - The mass of volatile solids in the sewage sludge shall be reduced by a minimum of 38%.
- Alternative 2 - If Alternative 1 cannot be met for an anaerobically digested sludge, demonstration can be made by digesting a portion of the previously digested sludge anaerobically in the laboratory in a bench-scale unit for 40 additional days at a temperature between 30° and 37° Celsius (C). Volatile solids must be reduced by less than 17% to demonstrate compliance.
- Alternative 3 - If Alternative 1 cannot be met for an aerobically digested sludge, demonstration can be made by digesting a portion of the previously digested sludge with a percent solids of two percent or less aerobically in the laboratory in a bench-scale unit for 30 additional days at 20° C. Volatile solids must be reduced by less than 15% to demonstrate compliance.
- Alternative 4 - The specific oxygen uptake rate (SOUR) for sewage sludge treated in an aerobic process shall be equal to or less than 1.5 milligrams of oxygen per hour per gram of total solids (dry weight basis) at a temperature of 20° C.
- Alternative 5 - Sewage sludge shall be treated in an aerobic process for 14 days or longer. During that time, the temperature of the sewage sludge shall be higher than 40° C and the average temperature of the sewage sludge shall be higher than 45° C.
- Alternative 6 - The pH of sewage sludge shall be raised to 12 or higher by alkali addition and, without the addition of more alkali shall remain at 12 or higher for two hours and then remain at a pH of 11.5 or higher for an additional 22 hours at the time the sewage sludge is prepared for sale or given away in a bag or other container.
- Alternative 7 - The percent solids of sewage sludge that does not contain unstabilized solids generated in a primary wastewater treatment process shall be equal to or greater than 75% based on the moisture content and total solids prior to mixing with other materials. Unstabilized solids are

defined as organic materials in sewage sludge that have not been treated in either an aerobic or anaerobic treatment process.

Alternative 8 - The percent solids of sewage sludge that contains unstabilized solids generated in a primary wastewater treatment process shall be equal to or greater than 90% based on the moisture content and total solids prior to mixing with other materials at the time the sludge is used. Unstabilized solids are defined as organic materials in sewage sludge that have not been treated in either an aerobic or anaerobic treatment process.

Alternative 9 -

- i. Sewage sludge shall be injected below the surface of the land.
- ii. No significant amount of the sewage sludge shall be present on the land surface within one hour after the sewage sludge is injected.
- iii. When sewage sludge that is injected below the surface of the land is Class A with respect to pathogens, the sewage sludge shall be injected below the land surface within eight hours after being discharged from the pathogen treatment process.

Alternative 10-

- i. Sewage sludge applied to the land surface or placed on a surface disposal site shall be incorporated into the soil within six hours after application to or placement on the land.
- ii. When sewage sludge that is incorporated into the soil is Class A with respect to pathogens, the sewage sludge shall be applied to or placed on the land within eight hours after being discharged from the pathogen treatment process.

**C. Monitoring Requirements**

- 1. Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) Test once during the term of this permit;
- 2. PCBs once during the term of this permit;
- 3. All metal constituents and Fecal coliform or *Salmonella sp.* bacteria shall be monitored at the appropriate frequency shown below, pursuant to 30 TAC §312.46(a)(1):

<u>Amount of sewage sludge (*) metric tons per 365-day period</u>	<u>Monitoring Frequency</u>
0 to less than 290	Once/Year
290 to less than 1,500	Once/Quarter
1,500 to less than 15,000	Once/Two Months
15,000 or greater	Once/Month

(\*) *The amount of bulk sewage sludge applied to the land (dry weight basis).*

- 4. Representative samples of sewage sludge shall be collected and analyzed in accordance with the methods referenced in 30 TAC §312.7.

**SECTION II. REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIC TO BULK SEWAGE SLUDGE FOR APPLICATION TO THE LAND MEETING CLASS A or B PATHOGEN REDUCTION AND THE CUMULATIVE LOADING RATES IN TABLE 2, OR CLASS B PATHOGEN REDUCTION AND THE POLLUTANT CONCENTRATIONS IN TABLE 3**

For those permittees meeting Class A or B pathogen reduction requirements and that meet the cumulative loading rates in Table 2 below, or the Class B pathogen reduction requirements and contain concentrations of pollutants below listed in Table 3, the following conditions apply:

**A. Pollutant Limits**

**Table 2**

<u>Pollutant</u>	<u>Cumulative Pollutant Loading Rate (pounds per acre)*</u>
Arsenic	36
Cadmium	35
Chromium	2677
Copper	1339
Lead	268
Mercury	15
Molybdenum	Report Only
Nickel	375
Selenium	89
Zinc	2500

**Table 3**

<u>Pollutant</u>	<u>Monthly Average Concentration (milligrams per kilogram)*</u>
Arsenic	41
Cadmium	39
Chromium	1200
Copper	1500
Lead	300
Mercury	17
Molybdenum	Report Only
Nickel	420
Selenium	36
Zinc	2800

\* Dry weight basis

**B. Pathogen Control**

All bulk sewage sludge that is applied to agricultural land, forest, a public contact site, a reclamation site, shall be treated by either Class A or Class B pathogen reduction requirements as defined above in Section I.B.3.

**C. Management Practices**

1. Bulk sewage sludge shall not be applied to agricultural land, forest, a public contact site, or a reclamation site that is flooded, frozen, or snow-covered so that the bulk sewage sludge enters a wetland or other waters in the State.
2. Bulk sewage sludge not meeting Class A requirements shall be land applied in a manner that complies with the Management Requirements in accordance with 30 TAC §312.44.
3. Bulk sewage sludge shall be applied at or below the agronomic rate of the cover crop.

4. An information sheet shall be provided to the person who receives bulk sewage sludge sold or given away. The information sheet shall contain the following information:
  - a. The name and address of the person who prepared the sewage sludge that is sold or given away in a bag or other container for application to the land.
  - b. A statement that application of the sewage sludge to the land is prohibited except in accordance with the instruction on the label or information sheet.
  - c. The annual whole sludge application rate for the sewage sludge application rate for the sewage sludge that does not cause any of the cumulative pollutant loading rates in Table 2 above to be exceeded, unless the pollutant concentrations in Table 3 found in Section II above are met.

#### D. Notification Requirements

1. If bulk sewage sludge is applied to land in a State other than Texas, written notice shall be provided prior to the initial land application to the permitting authority for the State in which the bulk sewage sludge is proposed to be applied. The notice shall include:
  - a. The location, by street address, and specific latitude and longitude, of each land application site.
  - b. The approximate time period bulk sewage sludge will be applied to the site.
  - c. The name, address, telephone number, and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit number (if appropriate) for the person who will apply the bulk sewage sludge.
2. The permittee shall give 180 days prior notice to the Executive Director in care of the Wastewater Permitting Section (MC 148) of the Water Quality Division of any change planned in the sewage sludge disposal practice.

#### E. Record keeping Requirements

The sludge documents will be retained at the facility site and/or shall be readily available for review by a TCEQ representative. The person who prepares bulk sewage sludge or a sewage sludge material shall develop the following information and shall retain the information at the facility site and/or shall be readily available for review by a TCEQ representative for a period of five years. If the permittee supplies the sludge to another person who land applies the sludge, the permittee shall notify the land applier of the requirements for record keeping found in 30 TAC §312.47 for persons who land apply.

1. The concentration (mg/kg) in the sludge of each pollutant listed in Table 3 above and the applicable pollutant concentration criteria (mg/kg), or the applicable cumulative pollutant loading rate and the applicable cumulative pollutant loading rate limit (lbs/ac) listed in Table 2 above.
2. A description of how the pathogen reduction requirements are met (including site restrictions for Class B sludges, if applicable).
3. A description of how the vector attraction reduction requirements are met.
4. A description of how the management practices listed above in Section II.C are being met.
5. The following certification statement:

"I certify, under penalty of law, that the applicable pathogen requirements in 30 TAC §312.82(a) or (b) and the vector attraction reduction requirements in 30 TAC §312.83(b) have been met for each site on which bulk sewage sludge is applied. This determination has been made under my direction and supervision in accordance with the system designed to ensure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information used to determine that the management practices have been met. I am aware that there are significant penalties for false certification including fine and imprisonment."
6. The recommended agronomic loading rate from the references listed in Section II.C.3. above, as well as the actual agronomic loading rate shall be retained.

The person who applies bulk sewage sludge or a sewage sludge material shall develop the following information and shall retain the information at the facility site and/or shall be readily available for review by a TCEQ representative indefinitely. If the permittee supplies the sludge to another person who land applies the sludge, the permittee shall notify the land applier of the requirements for record keeping found in 30 TAC §312.47 for persons who land apply.

1. A certification statement that all applicable requirements (specifically listed) have been met, and that the permittee understands that there are significant penalties for false certification including fine and imprisonment. See 30 TAC §312.47(a)(4)(A)(ii) or 30 TAC §312.47(a)(5)(A)(ii), as applicable, and to the permittee's specific sludge treatment activities.
2. The location, by street address, and specific latitude and longitude, of each site on which sludge is applied.
3. The number of acres in each site on which bulk sludge is applied.
4. The date and time sludge is applied to each site.
5. The cumulative amount of each pollutant in pounds/acre listed in Table 2 applied to each site.
6. The total amount of sludge applied to each site in dry tons.

The above records shall be maintained on-site on a monthly basis and shall be made available to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality upon request.

#### F. Reporting Requirements

The permittee shall report annually to the TCEQ Regional Office (MC Region 13) and Water Quality Compliance Monitoring Team (MC 224) of the Enforcement Division, by September 1 of each year the following information:

1. Results of tests performed for pollutants found in either Table 2 or 3 as appropriate for the permittee's land application practices.
2. The frequency of monitoring listed in Section I.C. that applies to the permittee.
3. Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) results.
4. Identity of hauler(s) and TCEQ transporter number.
5. PCB concentration in sludge in mg/kg.
6. Date(s) of disposal.
7. Owner of disposal site(s).
8. Texas Commission on Environmental Quality registration number, if applicable.
9. Amount of sludge disposal dry weight (lbs/acre) at each disposal site.
10. The concentration (mg/kg) in the sludge of each pollutant listed in Table 1 (defined as a monthly average) as well as the applicable pollutant concentration criteria (mg/kg) listed in Table 3 above, or the applicable pollutant loading rate limit (lbs/acre) listed in Table 2 above if it exceeds 90% of the limit.
11. Level of pathogen reduction achieved (Class A or Class B).
12. Alternative used as listed in Section I.B.3.(a. or b.). Alternatives describe how the pathogen reduction requirements are met. If Class B sludge, include information on how site restrictions were met.
13. Vector attraction reduction alternative used as listed in Section I.B.4.
14. Annual sludge production in dry tons/year.
15. Amount of sludge land applied in dry tons/year.
16. The certification statement listed in either 30 TAC §312.47(a)(4)(A)(ii) or 30 TAC §312.47(a)(5)(A)(ii) as applicable to the permittee's sludge treatment activities, shall be attached to the annual reporting form.
17. When the amount of any pollutant applied to the land exceeds 90% of the cumulative pollutant loading rate for that pollutant, as described in Table 2, the permittee shall report the following information as an attachment to the annual reporting form.
  - a. The location, by street address, and specific latitude and longitude.

- b. The number of acres in each site on which bulk sewage sludge is applied.
- c. The date and time bulk sewage sludge is applied to each site.
- d. The cumulative amount of each pollutant (i.e., pounds/acre) listed in Table 2 in the bulk sewage sludge applied to each site.
- e. The amount of sewage sludge (i.e., dry tons) applied to each site.

The above records shall be maintained on a monthly basis and shall be made available to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality upon request.

**SECTION III. REQUIREMENTS APPLYING TO ALL SEWAGE SLUDGE DISPOSED IN A MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE LANDFILL**

- A. The permittee shall handle and dispose of sewage sludge in accordance with 30 TAC Chapter 330 and all other applicable state and federal regulations to protect public health and the environment from any reasonably anticipated adverse effects due to any toxic pollutants that may be present. The permittee shall ensure that the sewage sludge meets the requirements in 30 TAC Chapter 330 concerning the quality of the sludge disposed in a municipal solid waste landfill.
- B. If the permittee generates sewage sludge and supplies that sewage sludge to the owner or operator of a Municipal Solid Waste Landfill (MSWLF) for disposal, the permittee shall provide to the owner or operator of the MSWLF appropriate information needed to be in compliance with the provisions of this permit.
- C. The permittee shall give 180 days prior notice to the Executive Director in care of the Wastewater Permitting Section (MC 148) of the Water Quality Division of any change planned in the sewage sludge disposal practice.
- D. Sewage sludge shall be tested once during the term of this permit; annually; prior to sludge disposal in accordance with the method specified in both 40 CFR Part 261, Appendix II and 40 CFR Part 268, Appendix I (Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure) or other method that receives the prior approval of the TCEQ for contaminants listed in Table 1 of 40 CFR §261.24. Sewage sludge failing this test shall be managed according to RCRA standards for generators of hazardous waste, and the waste's disposition must be in accordance with all applicable requirements for hazardous waste processing, storage, or disposal.

Following failure of any TCLP test, the management or disposal of sewage sludge at a facility other than an authorized hazardous waste processing, storage, or disposal facility shall be prohibited until such time as the permittee can demonstrate the sewage sludge no longer exhibits the hazardous waste toxicity characteristics (as demonstrated by the results of the TCLP tests). A written report shall be provided to both the TCEQ Registration and Reporting Section (MC 129) of the Registration, Review, and Reporting Division and the Regional Director (MC Region 13) of the appropriate TCEQ field office within 7 days after failing the TCLP Test.

The report shall contain test results, certification that unauthorized waste management has stopped and a summary of alternative disposal plans that comply with RCRA standards for the management of hazardous waste. The report shall be addressed to: Director, Registration, Review, and Reporting Division (MC 129), Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, P. O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. In addition, the permittee shall prepare an annual report on the results of all sludge toxicity testing. This annual report shall be submitted to the TCEQ Regional Office (MC Region 13) and the Water Quality Compliance Monitoring Team (MC 224) of the Enforcement Division by September 1 of each year.

- E. Sewage sludge shall be tested as needed, in accordance with the requirements of 30 TAC Chapter 330.
- F. Record keeping Requirements

The permittee shall develop the following information and shall retain the information for five years.

1. The description (including procedures followed and the results) of all liquid Paint Filter Tests performed.
2. The description (including procedures followed and results) of all TCLP tests performed.
3. The above records shall be maintained on-site on a monthly basis and shall be made available to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality upon request.

- G. Reporting Requirements

The permittee shall report annually to the TCEQ Regional Office (MC Region 13) and Water Quality Compliance Monitoring Team (MC 224) of the Enforcement Division by September 1 of each year the following information:

1. Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) results.
2. Annual sludge production in dry tons/year.
3. Amount of sludge disposed in a municipal solid waste landfill in dry tons/year.
4. Amount of sludge transported interstate in dry tons/year.
5. A certification that the sewage sludge meets the requirements of 30 TAC Chapter 330 concerning the quality of

the sludge disposed in a municipal solid waste landfill.

6. Identity of hauler(s) and transporter registration number.
7. Owner of disposal site(s).
8. Location of disposal site(s).
9. Date(s) of disposal.
10. The above records shall be maintained on-site on a monthly basis and shall be made available to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality upon request.

**OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

1. The permittee shall employ or contract with one or more licensed wastewater treatment facility operators or wastewater system operations companies holding a valid license or registration according to the requirements of 30 TAC Chapter 30, Occupational Licenses and Registrations and in particular 30 TAC Chapter 30, Subchapter J, Wastewater Operators and Operations Companies.

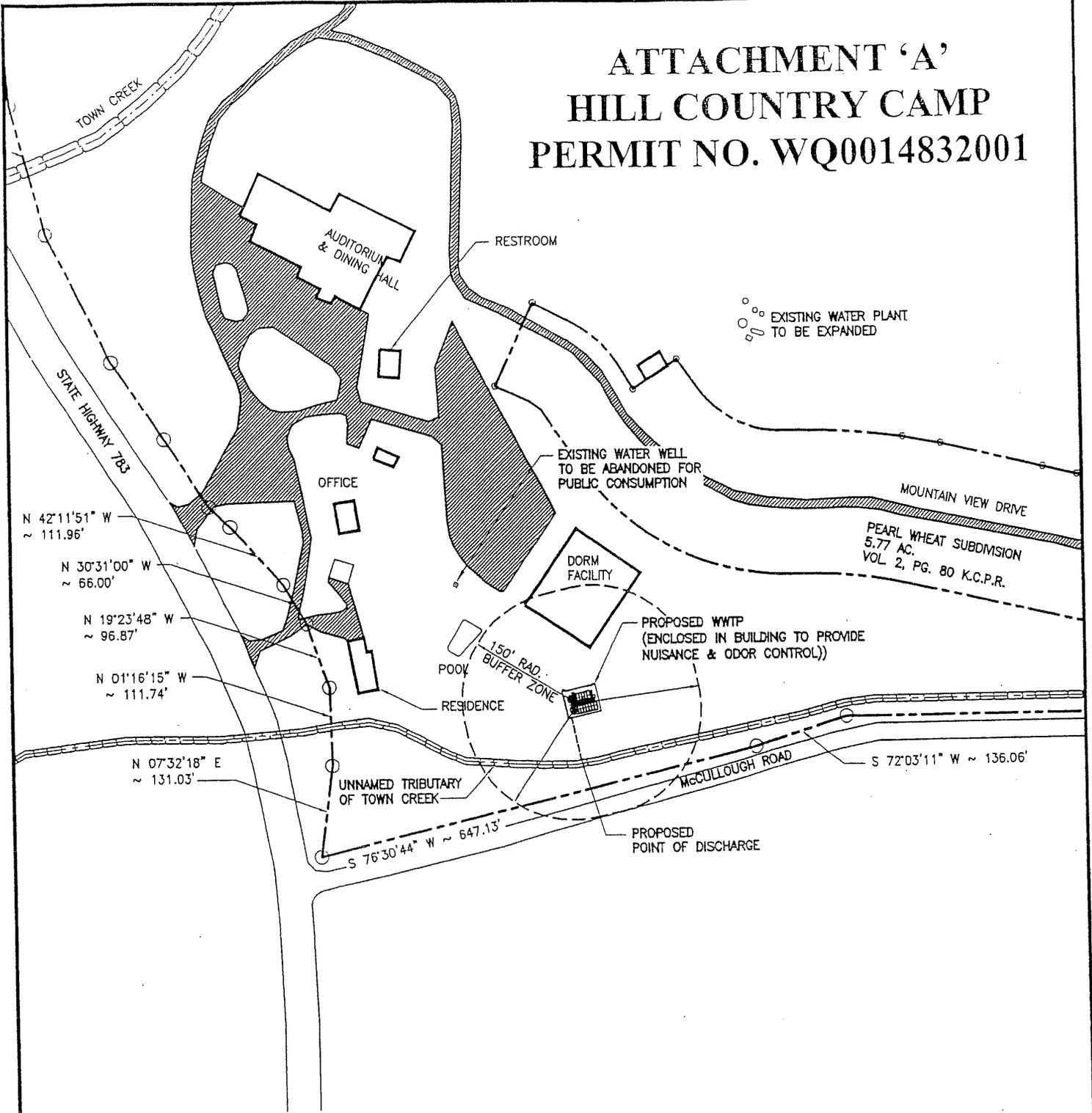
This Category C facility must be operated by a chief operator or an operator holding a Category C license or higher. The facility must be operated a minimum of five days per week by the licensed chief operator or an operator holding the required level of license or higher. The licensed chief operator or operator holding the required level of license or higher must be available by telephone or pager seven days per week. Where shift operation of the wastewater treatment facility is necessary, each shift that does not have the on-site supervision of the licensed chief operator must be supervised by an operator in charge who is licensed not less than one level below the category for the facility.

2. The facility is not located in the Coastal Management Program boundary.
3. The permittee is hereby placed on notice that this permit may be reviewed by the TCEQ after the completion of any new intensive water quality survey on Segment No. 1806 of the Guadalupe River Basin and any subsequent updating of the water quality model for Segment No. 1806, in order to determine if the limitations and conditions contained herein are consistent with any such revised model. The permit may be amended, pursuant to 30 TAC §305.62, as a result of such review. The permittee is also hereby placed on notice that effluent limits may be made more stringent at renewal based on, for example, any change to modeling protocol approved in the TCEQ Continuing Planning Process.
4. The permittee shall provide nuisance odor prevention in accordance with 30 TAC §309.13(e)(2). Prior to construction of the treatment facilities, the permittee shall submit a nuisance odor prevention request for approval by the executive director in care of the TCEQ Wastewater Permitting Section (MC 148). The request for nuisance odor prevention shall be in the form of an engineering report, prepared and sealed by a licensed professional engineer, in support of the request according to the requirements of 30 TAC §309.13(e)(2). The permittee shall comply with the requirements of 30 TAC §309.13(a) through (d). (See Attachment A.)
5. The permittee shall provide facilities for the protection of its wastewater treatment facilities from a 100-year flood.
6. Reporting requirements according to 30 TAC Sections 319.1-319.11 and any additional effluent reporting requirements contained in this permit are suspended from the effective date of the permit until plant startup or discharge, whichever occurs first, from the facility described by this permit. The permittee shall provide written notice to the TCEQ Regional Office (MC Region 13) and the Applications Review and Processing Team (MC 148) of the Water Quality Division at least forty-five (45) days prior to plant startup or anticipated discharge, whichever occurs first.
7. Prior to construction of the wastewater treatment facilities, the permittee shall submit to the TCEQ Wastewater Permitting Section (MC 148) of the Water Quality Division, a summary submittal letter in accordance with the requirements in 30 TAC Section 317.1. If requested by the Wastewater Permits Section, the permittee shall submit plans, specifications and final engineering design report which comply with 30 TAC Chapter 317, Design Criteria for Sewerage Systems. The permittee shall clearly show how the treatment system will meet the permitted effluent limitations and flow required on Page 2 of the permit.

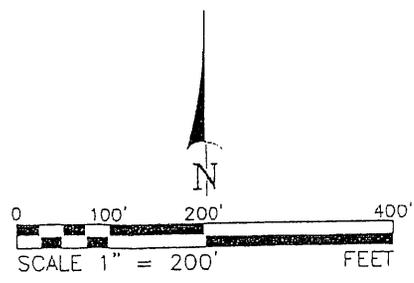
# ATTACHMENT 'A'

## HILL COUNTRY CAMP

### PERMIT NO. WQ0014832001



ATTACHMENT "ADMIN.04" BUFFER ZONE MAP		
HILL COUNTRY CAMP, INC. ~ APPLICANT HILL COUNTRY CAMP WWTP APPLICATION FOR A NEW TPDES PERMIT		
<b>WATER ENGINEERS, INC.</b> <i>Water &amp; Wastewater Treatment Consultants</i>		
17230 HUFFMEISTER ROAD CYPRESS, TEXAS 77429		TEL: 281-373-0500 FAX: 281-373-1113
DRAWN BY: JLW	SCALE: AS NOTED	DATE: 04-26-07
DESIGNED BY: DRY	CHECKED BY: DRY	REV. No.:
APPROVED BY: DRY	JOB No.: 4533.1	SHEET: 1





**STATEMENT OF BASIS/TECHNICAL SUMMARY  
AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S PRELIMINARY DECISION**

DESCRIPTION OF APPLICATION

Applicant: Hill Country Camp;  
Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No.  
WQ0014832001, TX0129828

Regulated Activity: Domestic Wastewater Permit

Type of Application: New Permit

Request: New Permit

Authority: Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) §402; Texas Water Code (TWC) §26.027;  
30 TAC Chapters 30, 305, 307, 309, 312, and 319; Commission policies;  
and EPA guidelines.

**DRAFT**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECOMMENDATION

The executive director has made a preliminary decision that this permit, if issued, meets all statutory and regulatory requirements. The proposed permit includes an expiration date of February 1, 2013 according to 30 TAC §305.71, Basin Permitting.

REASON FOR PROJECT PROPOSED

The applicant has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a new permit to authorize the discharge of treated domestic wastewater at a daily average flow not to exceed 0.025 million gallons per day. The proposed wastewater treatment facility will serve the Hill Country Camp.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The Hill Country Camp Wastewater Treatment Facility will be an activated sludge process plant operated in the extended aeration mode. Treatment units include bar screen, equalization basin, aeration basin, final clarifiers, aerobic digester, and chlorine contact chamber. The facility has not been constructed.

The draft permit authorizes the disposal of sludge at a TCEQ authorized land application site or co-disposal landfill.

The plant site will be located at 1319 Harper Road in Kerrville County, Texas. The treated effluent will be discharged to the unnamed tributary; thence to the on-channel lakes of Town Creek; thence to Guadalupe River Above Canyon Lake in Segment No. 1806 of the Guadalupe River Basin. The unclassified receiving water uses are no significant aquatic life use for the unnamed tributary and Town Creek, and high aquatic life use for the on-channel lakes. The designated uses for Segment No. 1806 are exceptional aquatic life use, public water supply, aquifer protection, and contact recreation. The effluent limitations in the draft permit will maintain and protect the existing instream uses.

In accordance with §307.5 and the TCEQ implementation procedures (January 2003) for the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards, an antidegradation review of the receiving waters was performed. A Tier 1 antidegradation review has preliminarily determined that existing water quality uses will not be impaired by this permit action. Numerical and narrative criteria to protect existing uses will be maintained.

A Tier 2 antidegradation review has preliminarily determined that by adding permit requirements for total phosphorus of 0.5 mg/L, there is no expectation that significant degradation of the on-channel lakes of Town Creek, which have been identified as having high aquatic life uses, will occur. Existing uses will be maintained and protected. The preliminary determination can be reexamined and may be modified if new information is received.

Effluent limitations for the conventional effluent parameters (i.e., Biochemical Oxygen Demand or Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand, Ammonia Nitrogen, etc.) are based on stream standards and waste load allocations for water quality limited streams as established in the Texas Water Quality Standards and the water quality management plan.

The effluent limitations in the draft permit have been reviewed for consistency with the State of Texas Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP). The proposed effluent limitations are not contained in the approved WQMP. However, these limits will be included in the next WQMP update. A Waste Load Evaluation has not been completed for Segment No. 1806.

The discharge from this permit action is not expected to have an effect on any federal endangered or threatened aquatic or aquatic dependent species or proposed species or their critical habitat. This determination is based on the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) biological opinion on the State of Texas authorization of the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES, September 14, 1998; October 21, 1998 update). To make this determination for TPDES permits, TCEQ and EPA only considered aquatic or aquatic dependent species occurring in watersheds of critical concern or high priority as listed in Appendix A of the USFWS biological opinion. The determination is subject to reevaluation due to subsequent updates or amendments to the biological opinion. The permit does not require EPA review with respect to the presence of endangered or threatened species.

Segment No. 1806 is currently listed on the State's inventory of impaired and threatened waters (the CWA §303(d) list). The listing is specifically for elevated bacteria levels from one mile upstream of Flat Rock Dam to the confluence with Camp Meeting Creek and from RR 394 to one mile downstream of that point. The facility is designed to provide adequate disinfection by chlorination, and if operated according to permit provisions, should not contribute to the elevated bacteria levels from one mile upstream of Flat Rock Dam to the confluence with Camp Meeting Creek and from RR 394 to one mile downstream of that point.

#### SUMMARY OF EFFLUENT DATA

Self-reporting data is not available since the facility is not in operation.

#### PROPOSED PERMIT CONDITIONS

The draft permit authorizes a discharge of treated domestic wastewater at a volume not to exceed a daily average flow of 0.025 million gallons per day.

The effluent limitations in the draft permit, based on a 30-day average, are 10 mg/l CBOD<sub>5</sub>, 15 mg/l TSS, 3 mg/l NH<sub>3</sub>-N, 0.5 mg/l Total Phosphorous, and 4.0 mg/l minimum dissolved oxygen (DO). The effluent shall contain a chlorine residual of at least 1.0 mg/l and shall not exceed a chlorine residual of 4.0 mg/l after a detention time of at least 20 minutes based on peak flow.

The draft permit includes a requirement for the permittee to provide nuisance odor prevention according to 30 TAC §309.13(e)(2).

The draft permit includes Sludge Provisions according to the requirements of 30 TAC Chapter 312, Sludge Use, Disposal and Transportation.

#### SUMMARY OF CHANGES FROM APPLICATION

The applicant requested effluent limitations, based on a 30-day average, of 10 mg/l BOD<sub>5</sub>, 15 mg/l TSS, 3 mg/l NH<sub>3</sub>-N, and 4.0 mg/l minimum dissolved oxygen (DO). However, effluent limitations in the draft permit, based on 30-day average, are 10 mg/l CBOD<sub>5</sub>, 15 mg/l TSS, 3 mg/l NH<sub>3</sub>-N, 0.5 mg/l Total Phosphorous, and 4.0 mg/l minimum dissolved oxygen (DO).

#### SUMMARY OF CHANGES FROM EXISTING PERMIT

New permit.

#### BASIS FOR PROPOSED DRAFT PERMIT

The following items were considered in developing the proposed permit draft:

1. Application received on July 3, 2007.
2. The effluent limitations and/or conditions in the draft permit comply with the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards, 30 TAC §§307.1 - 307.10.
3. The effluent limitations in the draft permit meet the requirements for secondary treatment and the requirements for disinfection according to 30 TAC Chapter 309, Subchapter A: Domestic Wastewater Effluent Limitations.
4. Interoffice memoranda from the Water Quality Assessment Section of the TCEQ Water Quality Division.
5. Consistency with the Coastal Management Plan: The facility is not located in the Coastal Management Program boundary.
6. "Procedures to Implement the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards", Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, January 2003.
7. Texas 2004 Clean Water Act §303(d) List, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, May 13, 2005; approved by USEPA on May 8, 2006.
8. TNRCC Guidance Document for Establishing Monitoring Frequencies for Domestic and Industrial Wastewater Discharge Permits, Document No. 98-001.000-OWR-WQ, May 1998.

PROCEDURES FOR FINAL DECISION

When an application is declared administratively complete, the Chief Clerk sends a letter to the applicant advising the applicant to publish the Notice of Receipt of Application and Intent to Obtain Permit in the newspaper. In addition, the Chief Clerk instructs the applicant to place a copy of the application in a public place for review and copying in the county where the facility is or will be located. This application will be in a public place throughout the comment period. The Chief Clerk also mails this notice to any interested persons and, if required, to landowners identified in the permit application. This notice informs the public about the application, and provides that an interested person may file comments on the application or request a contested case hearing or a public meeting.

Once a draft permit is completed, it is sent, along with the Executive Director's preliminary decision, as contained in the technical summary or fact sheet, to the Chief Clerk. At that time, Notice of Application and Preliminary Decision will be mailed to the same people and published in the same newspaper as the prior notice. This notice sets a deadline for making public comments. The applicant must place a copy of the Executive Director's preliminary decision and draft permit in the public place with the application. This notice sets a deadline for public comment.

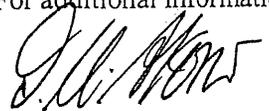
Any interested person may request a public meeting on the application until the deadline for filing public comments. A public meeting is intended for the taking of public comment, and is not a contested case proceeding.

After the public comment deadline, the Executive Director prepares a response to all significant public comments on the application or the draft permit raised during the public comment period. The Chief Clerk then mails the Executive Director's Response to Comments and Final Decision to people who have filed comments, requested a contested case hearing, or requested to be on the mailing list. This notice provides that if a person is not satisfied with the Executive Director's response and decision, they can request a contested case hearing or file a request to reconsider the Executive Director's decision within 30 days after the notice is mailed.

The Executive Director will issue the permit unless a written hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed within 30 days after the Executive Director's Response to Comments and Final Decision is mailed. If a hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed, the Executive Director will not issue the permit and will forward the application and request to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting. If a contested case hearing is held, it will be a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

If the Executive Director calls a public meeting or the Commission grants a contested case hearing as described above, the Commission will give notice of the date, time, and place of the meeting or hearing. If a hearing request or request for reconsideration is made, the Commission will consider all public comments in making its decision and shall either adopt the Executive Director's response to public comments or prepare its own response.

For additional information about this application contact David U. Akoma at (512) 239-1444.



David U. Akoma, Permit Coordinator  
Municipal Permits Team  
Wastewater Permitting Section (MC 148)

4/29/08  
Date



# Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP

816 Congress Avenue Suite 1700 Austin, Texas 78701 (512) 472-8021 Fax (512) 320-5638 www.bickerstaff.com

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July 25, 2008

OPA  
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BY BP

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
2008 JUL 25 PM 3:32  
CHIEF CLERKS OFFICE

Via Hand Delivery

Ms. LaDonna Castañuela, Chief Clerk  
Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
12100 Park 35 Circle  
Austin, Texas 78753

RE: Public Comments and Request for Contested Case Hearing on Proposed TPDES Permit No. WQ 0014832001

Dear Ms. Castañuela:

On behalf of the City of Kerrville, Texas ("City"), I hereby request a contested case hearing on the application Hill County Camp ("Applicant") for a wastewater discharge permit (proposed TPDES Permit No. WQ 0014832001). In addition, the City is providing comments to the draft permit for consideration by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ("TCEQ"). The City's and my contact information are as follows:

Mike Hayes  
City Attorney  
City of Kerrville  
800 Junction Highway  
Kerrville, Texas 78028-5069  
830-792-8380  
830-792-5804 (Fax)

Emily Rogers  
Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP  
816 Congress Avenue, Suite 1700  
Austin, Texas 78701  
512-472-8021  
512-320-5638 (Fax)

MWD

**The City is an affected person and entitled to a contested case hearing on the above-referenced application.**

The City is an affected person because it has a personal justiciable interest that will be affected by this application. The location of the proposed wastewater discharge is immediately upstream of the City's current corporate boundaries (approximately 2.2 miles); however, following a planned annexation to be completed in January 2010, the Applicant's property and discharge point will be within the City's 1 mile extraterritorial jurisdiction.

The proposed discharge from the Applicant's wastewater plant will ultimately flow into the Guadalupe River upstream of several City parks that are on the River, including Louise Hays Park, Lehmann Monroe Park and Kerrville Schreiner Park. Additionally, the City's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan recommends that Town Creek be incorporated into the City's trail and park system. This plan also recommends an additional Community Based Park consisting of 16 – 75 acres to be located near I-10 and State Road FM 783 (Harper Road) which is in close proximity to the discharge site. The proposed discharge will have an adverse affect upon the recreational opportunities within the above-mentioned City parks. Moreover, the proposed discharge will be at its peak during the summer months when the recreational use of Town Creek, the Guadalupe River, and the City parks are at their highest, which is also the time when the flows in the creek and the river are at their lowest.

**Comments on the Application**

The proposed effluent limits in the draft permit are not sufficiently stringent to protect the water quality of Town Creek and the Guadalupe River and will cause degradation the quality of the water to occur. The Applicant should be required to land apply its treated effluent as the Applicant has sufficient land available to do so. Requiring land application of the treated effluent is consistent with how similar entities, such as La Hacienda and Mo Ranch, in Kerr County dispose of treated effluent. Moreover, the City believes that disposing of the effluent through land application will reduce the costs for the Applicant because the Applicant will not be required to treat the effluent to reduce the phosphates and ammonia.

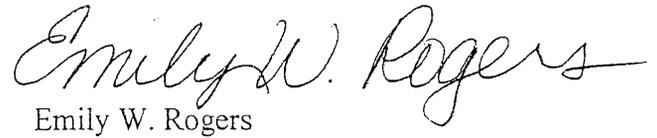
Alternatively, the proposed discharge parameters should be at least as strict as the City's existing wastewater permit parameters. The City's current parameters are: BOD - 5 ppm; TSS - 5 ppm; Total Phosphorus - 1 ppm; and NH<sub>3</sub>-N- 2 ppm. Additionally, the effluent discharge parameters should become stricter whenever the flow in the Guadalupe River is below 50 cfs – 5 ppm BOD, 5 ppm TSS, 0.5 ppm Total Phosphorous, and 1 ppm NH<sub>3</sub>-N. The Applicant should be required to meet 5 ppm BOD, 5 ppm TSS, and 1 ppm NH<sub>3</sub>-N, and 0.5 ppm Total Phosphorus during low flow conditions.

Finally, portions of Guadalupe River, Stream Segment 1806 are listed on the State's 303(d) inventory of impaired and threatened waters because of elevated bacteria levels. No new wastewater discharge permits should be issued within Segment 1806 above the impaired portions of the River until the TMDL implementation plan is completed and the TCEQ can ensure that the discharge will not exacerbate the existing problem.

Ms. LaDonna Castañuela, Chief Clerk  
July 25, 2008  
Page 3

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 512-472-8021.

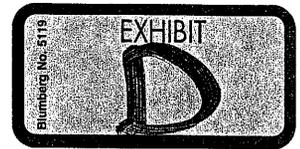
Sincerely,

  
Emily W. Rogers

EWR/mmr

cc: Mike Hayes, City of Kerrville Attorney





TCEQ PERMIT NO. WQ0014832001

APPLICATION BY HILL COUNTRY CAMP § § § § § BEFORE THE TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

The Executive Director (ED) of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (the Commission or TCEQ) files this Response to Public Comment on the Hill Country Camp (Applicant) application and on the ED's preliminary decision. As required by Title 30 of the Texas Administrative Code (30 TAC) Section (§) 55.156, before a permit is issued, the ED prepares a response to all timely, relevant and material, or significant comments. The Office of the Chief Clerk timely received comment letters and comments at the public meeting.

The following persons provided individual comment letters or provided oral or written comments at the public meeting:

- Wendy Barber
Stuart Barron, on behalf of the City of Kerrville
Carol Bayless-Washburn
Roger B. Borgelt, on behalf of the James Olafson Family
Penny Bowman
Raymond L. Buck, Jr. on behalf of the Upper Guadalupe River Authority
Bob Dittmar
Alice Follmar
Robert Follmar
Dean M. Gandy
James Haynie
Patricia S. Hulett, on behalf of the Kerr County Environmental Health Department
Cecil B. Jones
James Olafson
Pia Olafson
Kristine Ondrias, on behalf of the City of Kerrville
Tammy Paterson
William R. Rector, MD
Emily W. Rogers, on behalf of the City of Kerrville
Bruce Wasinger, on behalf of the City of Kerrville

The following persons signed a petition attached to an identical comment letter, and identified themselves as the Aqua Vista Landowners Association and the Tierra Vista Landowners Association. For the purposes of this response, they will be referred to as Group 1:

- Deann Allen
Corine Baerwah
Jerome E. Baerwah
Donna Brawd

Joseph Brooks  
Teruko Brooks  
Bub Burson  
Carroll Butler  
Michele Butler  
Jeanne Cecala  
Reg and Linore Cleveland, on  
behalf of the Cleveland Trust  
Concerned Citizen 1  
Concerned Citizen 2  
Concerned Citizen 3  
Jim Constante  
Rachel Constante  
Jenny Crowmor  
Barbara Dean Dill  
Richard I. Dill  
Gerry England  
James R. England  
Dr. Diane Fitch  
J.R. Fitch  
Jerry French  
Dorothy Gohlke  
Marivn H. Gohlke, MD  
June Holderness  
Tex D. Hood  
Chris Hughes  
Maeve Hughes  
Patsy M. Jackson  
Paul Jackson

Kathy B. Johnson  
Cecil B. Jones  
Marilyn O. Jones  
R. Jean Kunz  
Sidney Kunz  
Regan Land  
Stephanie Land  
James R. Lane  
Bobbie R. Lesser  
Allen H. Locher  
Joann M. Locher  
Daisy L. Murray  
Catherine Painter  
John Penry  
Olive Penry  
Joy Putnam  
Kenneth R. Robinson  
James H. Shanks  
Shelly Smart  
Steven Smart  
Judy Smits  
R.K. Smits  
Maria Stoffel  
Raymond L. Stoffel  
Mary V. Stokes  
W.M. Stokes  
Bettye Sontag  
Melanie Vanicek

This response addresses all such timely public comments received, whether or not withdrawn. If you need more information about this permit application or the wastewater permitting process, please call the TCEQ Office of Public Assistance at 1-800-687-4040. General information about the TCEQ can be found at our website at [www.tceq.state.tx.us](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us).

## **BACKGROUND**

### Description of Facility

The Applicant has applied to the TCEQ for a new permit that would authorize the Applicant to discharge treated domestic wastewater at a daily average flow not to exceed 25,000 gallons per day.

The treated effluent will be discharged to an unnamed tributary; then to Town Creek; then to the on-channel lakes of Town Creek; then to the Guadalupe River Above Canyon Lake in Segment No. 1806 of the Guadalupe River Basin. The unclassified

receiving water uses are no significant aquatic life use for the unnamed tributary and Town Creek, and high aquatic life use for the on-channel lakes of Town Creek. The designated uses for Segment No. 1806 are exceptional aquatic life use, public water supply, aquifer protection, and contact recreation. The proposed facility will be located at 1319 Harper Road, Kerrville, Texas 78028 in Kerr County, Texas, and will serve Hill Country Camp.

### Procedural Background

The permit application was received on July 3, 2007, and declared administratively complete on July 24, 2007. The Notice of Receipt and Intent to Obtain a Water Quality Permit (NORI) was published on July 27, 2007 in *The Kerrville Daily Times*. Notice of a Public Meeting was published on April 29, 2008 in *The Kerrville Daily Times*. A public meeting was held on May 29, 2008, in the Kerrville County Courthouse Commissioners Courtroom in Kerrville, Texas. The Notice of Application and Preliminary Decision for a Water Quality Permit (NAPD) was published on July 10, 2008 in *The Kerrville Daily Times*. The public comment period ended on August 11, 2008. This application was administratively complete on or after September 1, 1999; therefore, this application is subject to the procedural requirements adopted pursuant to House Bill 801 (76<sup>th</sup> Legislature, 1999).

## **COMMENTS AND RESPONSES**

### **COMMENT 1:** (Water Quality)

Group 1 expressed their concern that the proposed discharge could negatively impact the Guadalupe River, which is the major water supply for Kerrville. Raymond L. Buck, Jr. expressed his concern that the discharge into Town Creek could adversely impact water quality and exacerbate the water quality problem in the impaired area of the Guadalupe River. Roger Borgelt stated that the proposed permit action could adversely impact the health and environment of the Olafson family and property, the City of Kerrville, the City of Kerrville's residents, and many other landowners and users of the upper portion of the Guadalupe River. Mr. Borgelt also expressed his concern that the proposed discharge will enter an already impaired area of the Guadalupe River, Segment 1806, with very recent TMDL restrictions imposed by the TCEQ for bacteria levels. Mr. Borgelt and Emily Rogers also stated that no new wastewater discharge permit should be issued within Stream Segment 1806 above the impaired portions of the Guadalupe River until the TMDL implementation plan is completed and the TCEQ can ensure that the discharge will not exacerbate the existing problem. Tommy Olafson and Pia Olafson commented that the proposed discharge would have a negative effect on the water quality of the first lake on Town Creek below the discharge. Ms. Rogers also commented that the proposed effluent limits in the draft permit are not sufficiently stringent enough to protect the water quality of Town Creek and the Guadalupe River, and will cause the degradation of water quality. William Rector, MD, also expressed general concerns about water quality.

## RESPONSE 1:

The proposed draft permit was developed in accordance with the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards. These standards are designed to maintain the quality of water in the state and to be protective of human health and the environment. In accordance with 30 TAC § 307.5, no activities subject to regulatory action shall impair existing uses, i.e., contact recreation (Tier I Antidegradation), or decrease the water quality of waters that exceed fishable/swimmable quality by more than a *de minimis* extent (Tier 2 Antidegradation). Water quality sufficient to protect existing uses must be maintained. Fishable/swimmable waters are defined as waters which have quality sufficient to support propagation of indigenous fish, shellfish, and wildlife and recreation in and on the water. Waters that are assigned an intermediate, high, or exceptional aquatic life use are deemed as exceeding fishable/swimmable quality. A Tier 1 antidegradation review preliminarily determined that existing uses will not be impaired by the proposed permit action. Narrative and numerical criteria to protect existing uses will be maintained. A Tier 2 antidegradation review has preliminarily determined that by adding permit requirements for total phosphorus of 0.5 mg/L, no significant degradation of the on-channel lakes of Town Creek, which have been identified as having high aquatic life uses, will occur. Based on dissolved oxygen (DO) modeling results, the proposed effluent set of 10 mg/L CBOD<sub>5</sub>, 3 mg/L ammonia-nitrogen (NH<sub>3</sub>-N), and 4 mg/L effluent DO is predicted to be adequate to ensure that DO levels will be maintained above the assigned criteria for the unnamed tributary, Town Creek, Town Creek's on-channel lakes, and the Guadalupe River.

Finally, TCEQ's Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program works to improve water quality in impaired or threatened water bodies in Texas. The program is authorized by, and created to fulfill the requirements of, Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA). The goal of a TMDL is to restore the full use of a water body that has limited quality in relation to one or more of its uses. The TMDL defines an environmental target, and based on that target the state develops an implementation plan with waste load allocations for point source dischargers. The goal of the implementation plan is to mitigate anthropogenic (human-caused) sources of pollution within the watershed and restore the water body to its full use. The Guadalupe River Above Canyon Lake (Segment No. 1806) was identified as impaired for elevated levels of bacteria in the 2002 *Texas Water Quality Inventory and 303(d) List*. A TMDL was developed for Segment No. 1806, was approved by the Commission and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2007, and became part of the Texas Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP). The proposed facility's effluent limitations were included in the January 2008 Update of the WQMP, and, accordingly, a waste load allocation was assigned to this proposed discharge. In its letter dated April 11, 2008, the EPA approved the January 2008 Update of the Texas WQMP. Therefore, both the TCEQ and the EPA have determined that the proposed facility's projected effluent limitations and waste load allocation is consistent with the goal of restoring Segment No. 1806 to its full use.

## COMMENT 2: (Town Creek)

Roger Borgelt commented that Town Creek and its tributaries do not have sufficient water volume to handle the proposed discharge. Tommy Olafson, Pia Olafson, James Olafson, and Mr. Borgelt also commented that during the summer months or periods of drought “cesspool-like” conditions could create a human health hazard or cause groundwater contamination. Mr. Borgelt also stated that, due to the high levels of bacteria registered in Town Creek and immediately downstream in the Guadalupe River, it is inappropriate to allow the possible discharge of even more bacteria into the stream. William R. Rector, MD commented that since Town Creek does not flow throughout the year, any effluent discharged into a tributary of Town Creek will likely be highly concentrated and will seep into groundwater reservoirs such as the underlying Trinity Sands. Dr. Rector also stated that these groundwater reservoirs serve as the source of drinking water for residents in Kerr and Gillespie counties as well as the City of Kerrville. Dr. Rector also commented that, due to the small size of Town Creek and the intermittent nature of its flow, the proposed discharge will significantly increase the level of organic material present and change the clarity, desirability, and ecosystem of the stream.

## **RESPONSE 2:**

### Surface Water

As previously stated, after conducting the antidegradation review, the ED has preliminarily determined that existing water quality uses will not be impaired by the proposed discharge and that no significant degradation of waters which exceed fishable/swimmable quality will occur. This preliminary determination can be reexamined and may be modified if new information is received.

The Guadalupe River Above Canyon Lake (Segment No. 1806) was identified as impaired for elevated levels of bacteria in the 2002 *Texas Water Quality Inventory and 303(d) List*. A TMDL was developed for Segment No. 1806, was approved by the Commission and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2007, and became part of the Texas Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP). The proposed facility’s effluent limitations were included in the January 2008 Update of the WQMP, and, accordingly, a waste load allocation was assigned to this proposed discharge. In its letter dated April 11, 2008, the EPA approved the January 2008 Update of the Texas WQMP. Therefore, both the TCEQ and the EPA have determined that the proposed facility’s projected effluent limitations and waste load allocation is consistent with the goal of restoring Segment No. 1806 to its full use.

### Groundwater

The Water Quality Division has preliminarily determined that the draft permit has been developed in accordance with the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards, which ensure that the effluent discharge is protective of aquatic life, human health, and the environment. The review process for surface water quality is conducted by the Standards Implementation Team and Water Quality Assessment Team surface water modelers. The

Water Quality Division has determined that if the surface water quality is protected, then the groundwater quality in the vicinity will not be impacted by the discharge.

**COMMENT 3: (Human Health & Wildlife)**

Tammy Patterson commented that the proposed discharge will adversely affect the dense residential population of the area, as well as the local habitat consumption of water, and local habitat quality of life. Roger Borgelt also commented that excessive nitrogen and phosphorus contained in stagnant water, which regularly forms behind Town Creek's dams, creates a hazard to both human health and aquatic life. James Olafson commented that during periods of low flow the dam would become a storage tank for treated sewage, and excessive contaminants would kill aquatic plants and wildlife. Tommy and Pia Olafson commented that the proposed discharge will result in excess nitrogen and phosphorus being introduced to the first lake on Town Creek below the discharge, causing an algal bloom which will be detrimental to fish and aquatic wildlife in the lake. Tommy and Pia Olafson also commented that the proposed discharge would have a negative effect on the aquatic ecosystem of the first lake on Town Creek below the discharge. William R. Rector, MD commented that the discharge of treated effluent into Segment 1806 of the Guadalupe River Basin, an area that has already been shown to contain elevated bacterial levels, will significantly increase the risks of public health hazards. Bonnie Olafson commented that, during periods of low flow in the summer, the proposed discharge would stagnate on her property; and that this stagnant water would cause the fish to be poisoned or at the very least not be fit for human consumption. James Haynie expressed his concern that the proposed discharge could negatively impact the creeks and rivers used as drinking water for the City of Kerrville. Cecil Jones asked if the Applicant would acknowledge its responsibility for any illnesses and deaths that may occur from polluted sediment being blown on downwind property during periods where the discharge route may be dry.

**RESPONSE 3:**

As previously stated, after conducting the antidegradation review, the ED has preliminarily determined that existing water quality uses will not be impaired by the proposed discharge and that no significant degradation of the on-channel lakes of Town Creek, which have been identified as having high aquatic life uses, will occur. This preliminary determination can be reexamined and may be modified if new information is received.

Pursuant to 30 TAC §307.6(b)(3), water in the state must be maintained to preclude adverse toxic effects on human health resulting from contact recreation, consumption of aquatic organisms, consumption of drinking water, or any combination of the three. Water in the state with sustainable fisheries and/or public drinking water supply uses may not exceed applicable human health toxic criteria. 30 TAC §307.6(b)(4) requires water in the state to be maintained to preclude adverse toxic effects on aquatic life, terrestrial wildlife, livestock, or domestic animals, resulting from contact, consumption of aquatic organisms, consumption of water, or any combination of the

three. Since the proposed discharge is less than one million gallons per day and the Applicant is not conducting manufacturing, commercial, mining, or silvicultural activities, the ED does not anticipate the discharge of toxic effluent from the proposed facility.

**COMMENT 4:** (Water Table)

William Rector, MD, commented that the proposed discharge will lower the water table of all of the people who live in the area.

**RESPONSE 4:**

The draft permit does not authorize the withdrawal of groundwater for use at this facility. TCEQ rules do not require applicants for TPDES wastewater discharge permits to provide information on possible water sources for the proposed facility. If the Applicant chooses to use groundwater as an onsite water source, groundwater withdrawal may be regulated by the Headwaters Groundwater Conservation District and/or the TCEQ Public Water Supply Division. The Headwaters Groundwater Conservation District may be reached at (830) 896-4110. The TCEQ Public Water Supply Division may be reached at (512) 239-4691.

**COMMENT 5:** (Odor)

Group 1 expressed their concern about the proposed facility possibly emitting odor. Bonnie Olafson commented that, during periods of low flow in the summer, the proposed discharge would stagnate on her property; and that this stagnant water would emit odor. Cecil Jones asked, based upon their assessment of the proposed handling of the treated sewage effluent, can Water Engineers, Inc. assure the Commission and the potentially affected community around the Hill Country Camp that there will be no offensive odor or health hazard from the proposed plan.

**RESPONSE 5:**

30 TAC § 309.13(e) requires that the Applicant meet one of three options to abate and control nuisance odor. Those options are: (1) owning the buffer zone area, (2) obtaining restrictive easements from adjacent property owners for any portion of the buffer zone area that the Applicant does not own, or (3) providing odor control. According to Other Requirement No. 4 of the draft permit, the Applicant will provide odor control. Prior to constructing the proposed facility, the Applicant will submit a nuisance odor prevention request to the ED for approval.

Additionally, the proposed wastewater treatment will be an aerobic biological process. Aerobic biological processes use oxygen from the air to reduce the organic content of the wastewater through biological action. Oxygen turns sulfide compounds (the most common odor-causing compounds) into odorless sulfates. Wastewater without dissolved oxygen can also produce offensive odors. The draft permit requires that the effluent contain a minimum of 4.0 mg/l of dissolved oxygen.

Finally, the issuance of a permit does not limit an adjacent landowner's ability to seek legal remedies against a permittee regarding any potential trespass, nuisance, or other causes of action in response to activities that may result in injury to human health or property or that interfere with the normal use and enjoyment of property.

**COMMENT 6: (Effluent Limits and Monitoring)**

Roger B. Borgelt, Raymond L. Buck, Jr., Emily Rogers, Kristine Ondrias, Stuart Barron, William Rector, MD, and Bruce Wasinger requested that the proposed facility contain effluent limits and monitoring standards that are at least as stringent as those contained in the City of Kerrville's discharge permit. James Olafson questioned how well the wastewater treatment system would be monitored. James Haynie stated his concern that the proposed facility would not be properly maintained or monitored. Mr. Borgelt also commented that if the permit is granted, it should incorporate long term monitoring of phosphorus and chlorophyll levels immediately downstream, with appropriate triggers for an immediate permit review if excessive phosphorous or chlorophyll is found. Ms. Rogers and Mr. Wasinger also stated that "the effluent discharge parameters should become stricter whenever the flow in the Guadalupe River is below 50 cfs, - 5 ppm BOD, 5 ppm TSS, 0.5 ppm Total Phosphorus, and 1 ppm NH<sub>3</sub>-N."

**RESPONSE 6:**

The City of Kerrville's effluent limitations are 5 mg/L CBOD<sub>5</sub>, 5 mg/L TSS, 2 mg/L NH<sub>3</sub>-N, 4 mg/L (minimum) effluent dissolved oxygen (DO), and 1 mg/L total phosphorus when flow in the Guadalupe River exceeds 50 cfs and 5 mg/L CBOD<sub>5</sub>, 5 mg/L TSS, 1 mg/L NH<sub>3</sub>-N, 4 mg/L (minimum) effluent DO, and 0.5 mg/L total phosphorus when flow in the Guadalupe River is less than or equal to 50 cfs. With the exception of the TSS and total phosphorus limits, these very stringent effluent limits are included in the City of Kerrville's permit primarily to ensure that DO levels in the Guadalupe River will be maintained above its designated DO criterion for varying flow conditions. Kerrville's 4.5 million gallons per day discharge to Third Creek is located 2.0 miles upstream of the Guadalupe River. Should the permit be issued, Hill Country Camp's 25,000 gallons per day discharge to a tributary of Town Creek would be located 5.5 miles upstream of the Guadalupe River, and would go through several on-channel lakes on Town Creek prior to reaching the river.

A DO modeling analysis was performed using the proposed flow of 25,000 gallons per day, and the proposed effluent limits of 10 mg/L CBOD<sub>5</sub>, 3 mg/L NH<sub>3</sub>-N, and 4 mg/L effluent DO to ensure that DO levels will be maintained above their assigned criteria for the unnamed tributary, Town Creek, and the on-channel lakes of Town Creek. The CBOD<sub>5</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub>-N, and effluent DO concentrations in Hill Country Camp's treated effluent will have a negligible effect on DO levels in the Guadalupe River at the proposed effluent limits included in the draft permit. The amount of flow in the Guadalupe River does not affect the CBOD<sub>5</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub>-N, or DO effluent limits predicted to be necessary for

the Hill Country Camp discharge in order to be protective of DO levels in the unnamed tributary, Town Creek, the on-channel lakes of Town Creek, or the Guadalupe River.

The proposed discharge will be monitored pursuant to the conditions set out in the "Monitoring and Reporting Requirements" section of the draft permit and 30 TAC Chapter 319. The Executive Director has preliminarily determined that an effluent limit for total phosphorus of 0.5 mg/L will not cause significant degradation of the on-channel lakes of Town Creek. Should additional information be presented to the ED after the issuance of the permit, the ED may initiate and the Commission may order a major amendment, minor amendment, modification, or minor modification to a permit in accordance with 30 TAC § 305.62(d).

**COMMENT 7:** (Alternative Methods of Wastewater Treatment)

Raymond L. Buck, Jr. suggested that alternative methods of wastewater treatment be considered; including: 1.) onsite sewage facilities, 2.) tertiary treatment from an approved treatment plant, and 3.) surface or subsurface discharge from an approved treatment plant. William R. Rector, MD, and James Olafson commented that the TCEQ should consider requiring the Applicant to deliver its sewage to the City of Kerrville. Dr. Rector and Mr. Olafson stated that alternatives to surface discharge that have been successfully implemented by others in the Hill Country should be considered. Roger Borgelt commented that alternatives to discharging into public waters do not appear to have been considered. Additionally, Mr. Borgelt, Penny Bowman, Bob Dittmar, Emily Rogers, James Haynie, Kristine Ondrias, Stuart Barron, James Olafson, Pia Olafson, and Bruce Wasinger stated that the Applicant should be required to either land apply or reuse its treated effluent. Cecil Jones asked did Water Engineers, Inc. recommend any other treated sewage effluent solutions to the Applicant that would mitigate odor and health hazards associated with an open sewage effluent drain; specifically, was piping the sewage effluent water to Town Creek recommended and rejected by the Applicant.

**RESPONSE 7:**

Section 26.027 of the Texas Water Code authorizes the Commission to issue permits for the discharge into water in the state. The ED evaluates applications for wastewater treatment plants based on the information provided in the application, and either issues the permit or denies the application because the proposed discharge would not meet the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards. The ED does not have the authority to mandate that an applicant apply for an alternative method of wastewater treatment.

**COMMENT 8:** (On-Channel Lakes)

Roger Borgelt commented that a dye study should be completed to show the effect of the proposed discharge on aquatic life in the on-channel lakes of Town Creek, rather than relying on default hydraulics to determine that there will be no impairment. Mr. Borgelt also stated that the antidegradation policy of 30 TAC 307.5 would certainly be violated by any discharge into an impoundment that is not flowing.

## RESPONSE 8:

The model used by the ED evaluated the potential impact of the proposed facility's discharge on dissolved oxygen (DO) levels in the unnamed tributary, and the first on-channel lake of Town Creek. This model simulated the effect on DO levels in the receiving waters by the oxygen-demanding constituents CBOD<sub>5</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub>-N in the discharge in combination with the DO concentration of the effluent itself. The DO impact of these parameters is expected to be contained entirely within the unnamed tributary and this first on-channel lake. The proposed effluent limits for a permitted flow of 25,000 gallons per day were predicted to be adequate to ensure that DO levels in the tributary and the lake would be maintained above their assigned criteria. CBOD<sub>5</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub>-N, and DO concentrations at the downstream end of the lake were predicted to be at background (ambient) levels, so the DO modeling analysis was not extended downstream of the lake.

The model incorporates default hydraulic coefficients only in the approximately 1,200 feet of the unnamed tributary (the initial receiving water). The model of the lake was originally developed using lake surface areas measured from aerial imagery and estimated average lake depths. These surface areas and average depth estimates were later refined based on conversations with the owner of the land surrounding the lake (Mr. James Olafson) following the May 29, 2008 public meeting, and the lake was then remodeled for both "full" and "low" conditions. The proposed effluent limits were still predicted to be adequate to ensure that DO levels would be maintained above the assigned criterion for the lake during either of these conditions.

The modeling analysis was further scrutinized following the public meeting because of the public's stated concerns regarding potential buildup of pollutants from the discharge at times when flows into the lake are confined within the lake for extended periods (i.e., no outflow from the lake). Model results indicated that the oxygen-demanding constituents from the discharge are predicted to be almost entirely assimilated within the upper portion of the reservoir under both full-lake and low-lake conditions. These oxygen-demanding constituents are predicted to be at such low levels when they enter the lower portion of the reservoir that they will not accumulate within the lake regardless of whether flow from the proposed discharge is passing through the lake or confined within it for extended periods. The DO model predictions are thus considered valid for periods when flows pass through the lake to Town Creek and also during non-flow-through periods.

A dye study can be used to refine hydraulic assumptions in generally advective (flowing) water bodies, or to help define dispersion characteristics in large lakes. A dye study would not provide sufficient information to make significant refinements to the model of this small, variable-level lake. Performing a dye study to refine the hydraulic coefficients for the short unnamed tributary would not have a significant impact on lake model results. Similarly, since the modeling analysis does not extend beyond the first on-

channel lake, performing a dye study on Town Creek downstream of this lake would not affect oxygen-demanding constituent effluent limit recommendations.

As previously stated, after conducting the antidegradation review, the ED has preliminarily determined that existing water quality uses will not be impaired by the proposed discharge and that no significant degradation of the on-channel lakes of Town Creek, which have been identified as having high aquatic life uses, will occur. This preliminary determination can be reexamined and may be modified if new information is received.

**COMMENT 9:** (Recreation)

Emily Rogers and Bruce Wasinger commented that the proposed discharge will have an adverse affect upon the recreational opportunities within Louise Hays Park, Lehmann Monroe Park, and Kerrville Schreiner Park, where there is a significant risk of ingestion of water (i.e. contact recreation). Kristine Ondrias stated that the proposed discharge could negatively impact recreational amenities such as Louise Hays Park, Lehman Monroe Park, and Kerrville Schreiner Park, and the future hike and bike trail, which are important to the City of Kerrville and are a continued draw for tourists that come to the community. Ms. Ondrias also commented that the City of Kerrville is concerned that the proposed discharge could endanger recreational users of the river who accidentally ingest the water. Ms. Ondrias also stated the proposed discharge combined with low flow conditions could lessen the water quality to such a degree as to cause the City to prohibit access during the busiest and hottest times of the year. Roger Borgelt stated that the beauty and recreational opportunities provided by the Guadalupe River are the driving force behind the growth of tourism, hunting, fishing, and other economic development in the region; and that the TCEQ should consider whether allowing sewage discharges into these waters is in the long term interests or welfare of anyone. James Olafson and Bonnie Olafson commented that, during periods of low flow in the summer, the proposed discharge would stagnate on their property; and that this stagnant water would prevent them from enjoying wading, swimming, boating, and fishing. Robert Follmar and Alice Follmar stated their concern that the proposed treatment plant would prohibit their children and grandchildren from playing, swimming, and fishing in Town Creek and the Guadalupe River. James Haynie expressed his concern that the proposed discharge would negatively impact the aesthetic beauty of the creeks and river, which would negatively impact the community's economy.

**RESPONSE 9:**

As previously stated, after conducting the antidegradation review, the ED has preliminarily determined that existing water quality uses will not be impaired by the proposed discharge and that no significant degradation of the on-channel lakes of Town Creek, which have been identified as having high aquatic life uses, will occur. This preliminary determination can be reexamined and may be modified if new information is received.

The legislature has given the TCEQ the responsibility to protect water quality. However, neither the Texas Water Code nor the applicable TCEQ rules authorize the ED to consider a proposed project's potential impact on economic development in the region when reviewing a permit application. Therefore, the ED lacks regulatory authority to consider a proposed project's potential impact on economic development in the region when reviewing wastewater applications and preparing draft permits. Nevertheless, the ED does not expect any impairment of contact recreational use from this proposed discharge.

**COMMENT 10:** (Sludge)

Roger Borgelt stated that the fact that there are no registered sludge hauling companies in Kerr County could lead to a sludge accumulation issue, which could cause further problems for everyone downstream of the facility. Mr. Borgelt asked who will dispose of the sludge generated at the proposed facility, if the City of Kerrville refuses to accept the proposed facility's sludge. Mr. Borgelt also asked who will be transporting sludge from the proposed facility. Stuart Barron stated that if the Applicant plans on having the City of Kerrville accept the sludge generated at the facility, the draft permit should have the same sludge requirements and limits as the City of Kerrville's wastewater treatment facility.

**RESPONSE 10:**

The draft permit authorizes the Applicant to dispose of sludge only at a TCEQ authorized land application site or co-disposal landfill. TCEQ rules do not require an applicant to identify or submit any information regarding potential sludge haulers as part of its application for a Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) wastewater discharge permit; nor do they require an applicant to identify the method or location of disposal of the proposed facility's sludge. Should the permit be issued, the Applicant will be required to comply with all of its terms.

**COMMENT 11:** (Letter)

Patricia S. Hulett asked that the October 26, 2006 letter from Miguel Arreola, Director of the Kerrville County Environmental Health Department, to L'Oreal Stepney, Director of the Water Quality Division of the TCEQ, be made a part of the record.

**RESPONSE 11:**

Ms. Hulett timely filed her letter and the October 26, 2006 letter and its attachments with the TCEQ's Office of the Chief Clerk; therefore, the documents are part of the administrative record.

**COMMENT 12:** (Air Quality)

Tammy Patterson commented that the proposed discharge will adversely affect air quality.

**RESPONSE 12:**

The Texas Clean Air Act provides that certain facilities may be exempt from the requirements of an air quality permit if, upon review, it is found that those facilities will not make a significant contribution of air contaminants to the atmosphere and that human health and the environment will be protected. Wastewater treatment plants have undergone this review, and are permitted by rule so long as the wastewater treatment plant only performs those functions listed in 30 TAC § 106.532. The Applicant is not required to obtain an air permit for the proposed facility because the proposed facility should not significantly affect air quality.

**COMMENT 13:** (Property and Quality of Life)

Tammy Patterson commented that the proposed discharge will adversely affect her property, and her property value, the view, and her quality of life. Wendy Barber commented that the proposed permitted activity will cause her property value to decline. James Olafson commented that if Hill Country Camp discharges 25,000 gallons per day, Mr. Olafson would need to install a culvert or build a bridge to access the back of his property.

**RESPONSE 13:**

A proposed project's potential impact on surrounding property values is outside the scope of the normal evaluations of a wastewater discharge permit application. The permitting process is limited to controlling the discharge of pollutants into water in the state and protecting the water quality of the state's rivers, lakes, and costal waters.

The issuance of this permit does not grant the permittee the right to use private or public property to convey wastewater along the discharge route described therein. The issuance of this permit does not authorize any invasion of personal rights, or any violation of federal, state, or local laws or regulations. It is the responsibility of the permittee to acquire any property rights that may be necessary to use the discharge route. The issuance of this permit does not limit the ability of nearby landowners to use common law remedies to seek redress for any interference with the use and enjoyment of their property.

**COMMENT 14:** (Potential Upset)

Tommy and Pia Olafson commented that they were concerned about human health issues associated with elevated fecal coliform counts that may result from malfunctions at the proposed treatment facility, i.e. power failures and broken pipes. Wendy Barber and William Rector, MD, commented that the draft permit requirement that the facility be operated a minimum of five days per week by the licensed chief

operator or an operator holding the required level of license or higher is inadequate to protect from a possible upset.

**RESPONSE 14:**

Should the draft permit be issued, the Applicant will be required to minimize the possibility of an accidental discharge of untreated wastewater. For example, Operational Requirement No. 4 of the proposed draft permit requires that the permittee maintain adequate safeguards to prevent the discharge of untreated or inadequately treated wastes during electrical power failures by means of alternative power sources, standby generators, or equipment to retain inadequately treated wastewater. In addition, pursuant to Other Requirement No. 8(b), the plans and specifications for domestic sewage collection and treatment works associated with any domestic permit must be approved by the Commission. Also, Operational Requirement No. 8(a) of the proposed draft permit states that when the flow reaches 75% of the permitted daily average flow for 3 consecutive months, the permittee must initiate engineering and financial planning for expansion or upgrade of the domestic wastewater treatment or collection facilities. When the flow reaches 90% of the permitted daily average flow for three consecutive months, the permittee must obtain authorization from the TCEQ to begin constructing the necessary additional treatment or collection facilities.

Other Requirement No. 1 of the draft permit requires the facility to be operated a minimum of five days per week by the licensed chief operator or an operator holding a Category C license or higher. According to the requirements of 30 TAC § 30.350, activated sludge treatment facilities with a flow of 0.10 million gallons per day (MGD), which contain permit requirements for nutrient reduction are required to have a Category C operator. In its application, the Applicant indicated that the proposed facility will be an activated sludge plant operated in the extended aeration mode. Since the draft permit contains effluent limits for total phosphorus and ammonia nitrogen, the facility will be required to be operated by a Class C operator. 30 TAC § 30.350 also requires that the licensed chief operator or an operator holding the required level of license or higher be available by telephone or pager seven days per week. When shift operation of the wastewater treatment facility is necessary, each shift must be operated by an operator in charge who is licensed at not less than one level below the category of the facility. The TCEQ rules and permit provisions referenced above are designed to prevent the unauthorized discharge of untreated wastewater.

**COMMENT 15:** (Enforcement)

James Haynie commented that he was concerned about a lack of effective enforcement. Mr. Haynie also stated that the TCEQ would not take swift punitive action in the event of a release of raw sewage.

**RESPONSE 15:**

Acceptance of the permit by the applicant to whom it is issued constitutes acknowledgement and agreement that the applicant will comply with all the terms and conditions embodied in the permit, and the rules and other orders of the Commission. In accordance with 30 TAC Section 305.125(9), any noncompliance that may endanger human health or safety, or the environment must be reported by the permittee to the TCEQ. This information must be reported orally or by facsimile transmission to the appropriate Regional Office within 24 hours of becoming aware of the noncompliance. A written submission of such information must also be provided by the permittee to the appropriate Regional Office and the Enforcement Division within five working days of becoming aware of the noncompliance. The TCEQ conducts periodic inspections of wastewater treatment facilities and also conducts investigations based on complaints received from the public. If a permit is issued and the facility is constructed, to report complaints about the facility please contact the TCEQ at 1-888-777-3186 to reach the appropriate TCEQ Regional Office or by e-mail at [complaint@TCEQ.state.tx.us](mailto:complaint@TCEQ.state.tx.us). Citizen complaints may also be filed on-line at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/compliance/complaints>. Noncompliance with TCEQ rules or the permit may result in an enforcement action.

**COMMENT 16:** (Design)

Stuart Barron commented that it would be difficult for the Applicant to maintain the proposed effluent limit of "0.5 ppm phosphorus" if the Applicant installed an anaerobic digester, as indicated in the application.

**RESPONSE 16:**

The proposed facility will be an activated sludge process plant operated in the extended aeration mode with an aerobic digester, not an anaerobic digester as indicated by Mr. Barrow. Please note that the Applicant plans to remove phosphorus through the introduction of alum and the use of a tertiary clarifier.

**COMMENT 17:** (Support of the Proposed Project)

Carol Bayless-Washburn commented that she supports the building and operation of the proposed wastewater treatment plant.

**RESPONSE 17:**

The TCEQ appreciates this comment.

**COMMENT 18:** (Adequacy of Notice)

Dean Gandy commented that notice of the public meeting was invalid due to the TCEQ's failure to notify entities that either appear to own or have owned an interest in the Applicant's property.

**RESPONSE 18:**

Notice of a Public Meeting was published on April 29, 2008 in *The Kerrville Daily Times*. A copy of the notice was mailed by the TCEQ's Office of the Chief Clerk to the Applicant and those individuals and agencies contained on the Chief Clerk's mailing list. No applicable statute, rule, or regulation requires the TCEQ to provide individual notice to entities which own or may own an interest in the Applicant's property.

**COMMENT 19:** (Financial Responsibility)

Dean Gandy commented that the Applicant should be required to show financial responsibility.

**RESPONSE 19:**

The TCEQ addresses financial responsibility through its Financial Assurance Program, governed by 30 TAC Chapter 37. Chapter 37 requires owners or operators of certain types of facilities to have financial instruments in place to ensure proper closure and, if necessary, timely post-closure care or corrective action. Owners or operators of domestic wastewater treatment facilities are not required to meet the TCEQ's Financial Assurance requirements.

**COMMENT 20:** (Corporate Status)

Dean Gandy commented that Hill Country Camp is a shell corporation designed to protect the South Texas District Council of the Assemblies of God from liability.

**RESPONSE 20:**

ED staff checks the Secretary of State and Texas Comptroller records to verify that an applicant has listed the correct entity name, charter number, and tax identification number (if the entity is a company, corporation or partnership) on its permit application. The Applicant's status as a domestic nonprofit corporation was verified with the Secretary of State records before the permit application was declared administratively complete. The water quality permitting process is limited to controlling the discharge of pollutants into water in the state and protecting the water quality of the state's rivers, lakes, and coastal waters. Whether the Hill Country Camp is a shell corporation designed to protect the South Texas District Council of the Assemblies of God from liability is outside of the scope of review of the wastewater permitting process.

**COMMENT 21:** (Population Density)

William Rector, MD, commented that the proposed discharge permit is evidence that the population density of Hill Country Camp has reached a point where it cannot be supported by the property.

**RESPONSE 21:**

The Applicant has applied for a new permit authorizing the discharge of treated domestic wastewater at a daily average flow not to exceed 25,000 gallons per day (gpd). The anticipated maximum flow of the proposed facility is 18,905 gpd, with 6,095 gpd of contingency flow.

Hill Country Camp consists of: (1) the Tabernacle/Event Center (1,000 seats, at an estimated 2,500 gpd); (2) dorms (114 beds, at an estimated 3,420 gpd ); (3) cabins (60 beds, at an estimated 1,800 gpd); (4) an office (6 employees, at an estimated 120 gpd); (5) a residence (1 home, at an estimated 315 gpd); (6) a lodge (100 rooms, at an estimated 10,000 gpd); and (7) a recreational vehicle park (25 spaces, at an estimated 750 gpd). The design flow estimate should be sufficient to support the population of Hill Country Camp at maximum capacity.

**COMMENT 22:** (Reporting Complaints)

William Rector, MD, asked how citizens could report complaints about the proposed facility to the TCEQ.

**RESPONSE 22:**

The TCEQ conducts periodic inspections of wastewater facilities and also conducts investigations based on complaints received from the public. Should the permit be issued and the proposed facility constructed, to report instances of noncompliance with the permit or TCEQ rules please contact TCEQ's Region 13 Office in San Antonio at (210) 490-3096, or call the 24-hour toll-free Environmental Complaints Hotline at 1-888-777-3186. Complaints phoned in to the toll-free Environmental Complaints Hotline from Kerr County are automatically routed to TCEQ's Region 13 Office in San Antonio. Citizen complaints may also be filed on-line at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/compliance/complaints>, or by e-mail at [cmplaint@TCEQ.state.tx.us](mailto:cmplaint@TCEQ.state.tx.us). The TCEQ investigates all complaints received. If the facility is found to be out of compliance with the terms and conditions of its permit or TCEQ rules, it will be subject to investigation and possible enforcement action.

**CHANGES MADE TO THE DRAFT PERMIT IN RESPONSE TO COMMENT**

In preparing his response to public comment regarding the water quality in Town Creek, the ED determined that the description of the discharge route needed to be clarified. The ED also corrected an error contained in the draft permit and Statement of Basis/Technical Summary of the Executive Director's Decision regarding the county where the proposed facility will be located.

Respectfully submitted,

Texas Commission on Environmental  
Quality

Mark R. Vickery, P.G.  
Executive Director

Robert Martinez, Director  
Environmental Law Division

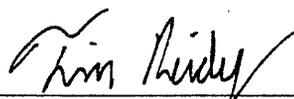
By Tim Reidy

Timothy J. Reidy, Staff Attorney  
Environmental Law Division  
State Bar No. 24058069  
P.O. Box 13087, MC 173  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087  
(512) 239-0969

REPRESENTING THE EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR OF THE TEXAS  
COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL  
QUALITY

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that on December 9, 2008 the "Executive Director's Response to Public Comment" for Permit No. WQ0014832001 was filed with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Office of the Chief Clerk.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Timothy J. Reidy, Staff Attorney  
Environmental Law Division  
State Bar No. 24058069



39471

# Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP



816 Congress Avenue Suite 1700 Austin, Texas 78701 (512) 472-8021 Fax (512) 320-5638 www.bickerstaff.com

August 27, 2007

Via Hand Delivery

Ms. LaDonna Castañuela, Chief Clerk  
Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
12100 Park 35 Circle  
Austin, Texas 78753

OPA

H AUG 28 2007

BY DL

CHIEF CLERKS OFFICE

2007 AUG 27 PM 4: 29

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

RE: Public Comments and Request for Contested Case Hearing on Proposed Permit No. WQ 0014832001

Dear Ms. Castañuela:

The City of Kerrville, Texas, submits the following public comments and requests a contested case hearing on the application for proposed permit No. WQ 0014832001 filed by Hill Country Camp.

The location of the proposed wastewater discharge is immediately upstream of the City's current extraterritorial jurisdictional boundary (approximately 1.2 miles) and will ultimately flow into the Guadalupe River upstream of several City parks that are on the River, including Louis Hays Park, Lehmann Monroe Park and Schreiner Park. The proposed wastewater discharge is also upstream of some of the City's water diversion facilities on the Guadalupe River. The proposed discharge will also have an adverse affect upon the recreational opportunities, such as a significant risk of ingestion of water (i.e. contact recreation), within the above-mentioned City parks. Moreover, the proposed discharge may not meet water quality standards during low flow conditions in the Guadalupe River (e.g. below 50 cfs).

The applicant has sufficient land available to dispose of its wastewater by land application. The City requests that a no-discharge permit be issued instead of discharging treated wastewater effluent into the creeks and Guadalupe River running through the heart of the City. Alternatively, the proposed discharge parameters should be as strict as the City's existing wastewater permit parameters. The City's current parameters are: BOD - 5 ppm; TSS - 5 ppm; Total Phosphorus - 2 ppm; and NH3-N- 1 ppm. Additionally, the effluent discharge parameters should become stricter whenever the flow in the Guadalupe River is below 50 cfs. (5 ppm BOD, 5 ppm TSS, 1 ppm Total Phosphorous, and 0.5 ppm NH3-N).

MW

Ms. LaDonna Castañuela, Chief Clerk  
August 27, 2007  
Page 2

The contact information for the City of Kerrville is as follows:

Mike Hayes  
City Attorney  
City of Kerrville  
800 Junction Highway  
Kerrville, Texas 78028-5069  
830-792-8380  
830-792-5804 (Fax)

Bruce Wasinger  
Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP  
816 Congress Avenue, Suite 1700  
Austin, Texas 78701  
512-472-8021  
512-320-5638 (Fax)

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 512-472-8021. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Bruce Wasinger

BW/bc

cc: William D. Dugat III, of the firm  
Mike Hayes, City of Kerrville Attorney