



border-commerce coordinator's report and reports on colonia activities, such as the continuing reports required by Senate Bill 99, 80th regular session, on tracking the progress of colonia projects funded by the State of Texas.

- TCEQ personnel meet regularly with personnel from other agencies as needed to ensure completion of border-related projects and activities. For example, the TCEQ is an integral stakeholder within the newly created Texas Water Infrastructure Coordination Committee.

## National and International

The TCEQ works in national and international arenas to accomplish environmental-protection goals. The agency works with other U.S. and Mexican states, federal agencies in both countries, and binational institutions created under environmental side agreements to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

### Partnerships with Other States

- **Border Governors Conference.** Through the Border Governors Conference, the TCEQ participates in the Environment and Water Work Tables with members of all 10 states to develop annual declarations.
- **State-to-State Strategic Environmental Plans.** The TCEQ has developed strategic environmental plans with Texas' four neighboring Mexican states (Tamaulipas, Nuevo León, Coahuila, and Chihuahua) and is now updating these plans. The plan developed with Nuevo León has been used extensively in the past two years, and a new agreement was signed with Nuevo León on May 5, 2010. In addition, the TCEQ and the Secretariat of Urban Development and Environment in Tamaulipas signed a new plan on May 4, 2011. The plans promote technical exchange between the TCEQ and the counterpart environmental agencies of the other states, as well as foster mutually beneficial cooperative work.

### Collaboration with NAFTA Environmental Agencies

- **North American Commission on Environmental Cooperation (CEC).** The TCEQ monitors the activities of the CEC, which was created under the trilateral (Canada-U.S.-Mexico) environmental side agreement to NAFTA. Under the CEC charter, each nation can have two committees advising its respective cabinet-level environmental minister regarding CEC implementation. Commissioner Rubinstein serves on the Governmental Advisory Committee and, with other members, makes consensus recommendations to the EPA Administrator.
- **The Border Environment Cooperation Commission and the North American Development Bank.** The TCEQ works closely with these two agencies, created under a U.S.-Mexico environmental side agreement to NAFTA, to ensure construction of environmental

infrastructure in the border region with Mexico and to protect the environment and public health.

### Partnerships with Local, State, Federal, and Binational Stakeholders

- **Border 2012.** The Border 2012 binational environmental-protection program is the means by which the U.S. and Mexico implement the La Paz Agreement for the protection of the U.S.-Mexico border environment. The TCEQ works with local individuals and organizations (including border residents, local communities, academic institutions, and non-governmental organizations [NGOs]) and local, state, and federal agencies from both sides of the border on common environmental goals. The U.S. EPA and its Mexican counterpart, SEMARNAT, lead Border 2012—a multimedia program (including air, water, and waste) requiring participation from agency personnel in six binational work groups, chaired by U.S. and Mexico federal representatives. Agency personnel also participate in two regional work groups in Texas and neighboring states—the Tri-State (Texas, New Mexico, and Chihuahua) and Four-State (Texas, Tamaulipas, Nuevo León, and Coahuila); both work groups consist of geographic task forces chaired by local elected officials from both countries, with a federal and state co-chair from each country. Commissioner Rubinstein is the Texas co-chair for the Tri-State and Four-State work groups. TCEQ management and personnel are significantly involved in developing the goals and strategies of Border 2020, the successor program to Border 2012.
- **Good Neighbor Environmental Board.** A representative of the State of Texas sits on the GNEB, an advisory board to the U.S. President and Congress on environmental infrastructure along the U.S.-Mexico border. The GNEB is charged with producing an annual report for its clients. The TCEQ Border Affairs manager is the current Texas GNEB representative.
- **Joint Air Quality Advisory Committee.** The JAC is a binational group created under the La Paz Agreement. Composed of 22 members—half from each nation in the Paso del Norte air shed—the group makes recommendations to the La Paz Air Work Group on ways to improve air quality in the air shed, as one nation alone cannot resolve air quality problems. Since its creation in 1996 and due in large part to implemented recommendations—such as delivery of oxygenated fuels to Ciudad Juárez to reduce carbon monoxide in the winter—the number of times the national carbon monoxide standard was exceeded has dropped from 30 per year to one or two. In El Paso, initiatives such as the vehicle inspection and maintenance program have resulted in no monitored violations since 2001, and a federal redesignation to attainment status for carbon monoxide. Additionally, in October 2008, the 10-year maintenance plan for reductions of carbon monoxide emissions, as developed by the TCEQ, was approved.

- **Lower Rio Grande Watershed Initiative.** The agency is continuing efforts that began in 2008, with Mexican state and federal agencies, the EPA, and the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) to develop a watershed initiative to restore and protect water quality in the Rio Grande downstream of Falcon Dam. One objective of the plan is to determine the maximum amount of pollutants of human origin that can be discharged to the Lower Rio Grande while still maintaining its designated uses.
- **Sister-City Planning.** Agency personnel, in both the regional offices and in Border Affairs, support sister cities (cities located on both sides of the border) in their local planning efforts. For example, in 2009, personnel in the Harlingen regional office worked with McAllen and Reynosa in the Lower Rio Bravo–Rio Grande Valley to update their joint contingency plan, adding seven smaller, neighboring cities on both sides of the border. The plan was enhanced to include response to “all hazards,” such as hurricanes and floods, not just chemical releases. In February of 2011, in the spirit of binational cooperation and because of a close rapport through meetings and exercises, the City of Brownsville gave support to Matamoros during a landfill fire.

## 2011–12 Action Plan

The following actions will be carried out by the TCEQ in 2011 and 2012 as part of the agency’s Border Initiative. This list is not comprehensive.

### Water

- **Assist Water Systems in the Border Area with Current or Pending Enforcement Actions.** Personnel from the TCEQ Office of Water will perform financial, managerial, and technical assessments for local water systems that are under enforcement. In addition, the TCEQ will either perform consolidation analysis or produce compliance–feasibility studies, as requested.
  - **Conduct Training for Border Municipalities, Districts, and Investor-Owned Utilities.** The border area presents several unique challenges for water systems of all sizes, and the TCEQ Water Supply Division conducts regular workshops for local water utilities.
  - **Define “Extraordinary Drought.”** In 2007 the TCEQ, through the Border Governors Conference Water Table, worked to include a declaration that the Water Table would develop a definition of “extraordinary drought” for the Rio Grande Basin only. The lack of a definition of this term contributed to delays in settling Mexico’s Rio Grande water debt of 1.5 million acre-feet to the U.S. a decade ago. The TCEQ developed a draft definition and presented it at a March 2009 drought conference to several Mexican states on the BGC Water Table and, in September 2009, to all the Mexican states on the Water Table. Mexican states are considering the proposal and the TCEQ will continue to work
- with Mexican states. Once in agreement, a final draft will be submitted to appropriate federal agencies in both countries for approval.
  - **Develop a Binational Lower Rio Grande Watershed Initiative.** The TCEQ is working with local, state, and federal agencies to collect data and develop a framework for a binational watershed initiative to address indicator bacteria in the TCEQ’s Rio Grande Segment 2302, the 231-mile-long reach of the Rio Grande below Falcon Reservoir. These efforts include discussions with agencies from both the U.S. and Mexico and the development of a sampling and analysis plan to collect detailed water quality data and information on potential pollutant sources. In August 2011, EPA Region 6 released a request for proposals to develop a binational sampling and analysis plan associated with the initiative. Multiple meetings have been held along the border from El Paso to Brownsville. In addition to important meetings in 2010, three meetings were held in 2011 to discuss the issues with stakeholders and policy makers from both nations. Most recently the TCEQ and the Texas General Land Office have been collaborating with the University of Texas at Austin to develop a local stakeholder-participation plan associated with the project.
  - **Environmental Flows for the Rio Grande, Rio Grande Estuary, and Lower Laguna Madre.** Senate Bill 3, 80th Texas Legislature, sets out a new regulatory approach for ensuring surface water meets environmental-flow needs. The TCEQ will adopt basin-specific recommendations for environmental-flow standards to be used in deciding on new (and amended) water-right applications and to establish an amount of unappropriated water, if available, to be set aside for the environment. The TCEQ will facilitate the process through the Basin and Bay Area Stakeholders Committee. The rules for the three basins and bay system are to be completed by September 1, 2013. The first meeting was held January 25, 2011 in Weslaco.
  - **Serve on a Binational Data and Technical Support Committee to Enhance Emergency Response to Changing Conditions of the Rio Grande–Rio Bravo.** In close coordination with the National Weather Service, U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission, and their counterparts in Mexico, the TCEQ will work to (1) inventory existing data, (2) identify gaps in the data, and (3) implement an improved protocol for binational data exchange for daily operations. The diverse binational group will meet regularly to further develop capacity to respond to emergency events that may affect the Rio Grande Basin such as floods, rains, hurricanes and other types of disasters.
  - **Participate in Upper Rio Grande Salinity Management.** Salinity management is under way in southern New Mexico and west Texas along the Rio Grande; the TCEQ participates as part of a coalition of local water utilities, irrigation districts, university

research organizations, and state and federal agencies. Agency efforts include five continuous water quality monitoring stations on the upper Rio Grande and eight continuous water quality monitors on tributaries to the Rio Grande that affect the salinity in Amistad Reservoir. Phases I and II, which included the evaluation of six specific areas of elevated salinity for targeted control projects, have been completed. Phase III, which began November 2011, will conduct feasibility, economic losses, and pilot-scale project testing for two or three selected locations.

- **Rio Grande Restoration.** The TCEQ was invited to participate in this initiative of federal and state agencies and nongovernmental organizations from both sides of the border. Multiple offices of the agency are involved in this project, which aims to explore using flow-release schedules on the Rio Grande to maintain channel capacity, minimize flooding, and benefit aquatic habitat. In December 2009 TCEQ managers participated in a field study of the Río Conchos and its two main reservoirs in the state of Chihuahua. The group continues to evaluate ways to provide additional flows to the Rio Grande for environmental purposes. Several members of this group have been nominated to participate in the stakeholder group for Senate Bill 3 (80th Texas Legislature), Texas Environmental Flows (see above, "Environmental Flows for the Rio Grande").

## Air

- **Advance Binational Air Quality Monitoring in Ciudad Juárez.** The Ciudad Juárez air quality monitoring network is integrated into TCEQ's reporting system for air quality data (Leading Environmental Analysis and Data System, or LEADS). After discussion in the JAC to expand the Juárez network, given the growth of that city's urban footprint and the desire for additional monitoring, in summer 2010 Ciudad Juárez deployed several sampling devices for PM<sub>10</sub> (particulate matter smaller than 10 microns, or fine dust) to new regions of the city. The expansion of the Juárez network provides critical sampling data for the southwest and southeast parts of the city.
- **Continue Work on the Joint Advisory Committee for Air Quality Improvement.** The TCEQ serves as U.S. state co-chair and a personnel member performs administrative support for quarterly meetings of the JAC. On November 4, 2010, the JAC celebrated its 50th meeting and 15 years of operation. Meeting minutes, agendas, and presentations are maintained at the JAC website, <[www.jac-ccc.org](http://www.jac-ccc.org)>.
- **Deploy an Additional Camera in Big Bend National Park.** TCEQ Region 6 and Border Affairs personnel are currently preparing to deploy an additional high-resolution digital camera at the park to augment the West Texas Visibility Monitoring Network (see below).
- **Develop Emission Estimation Model for Cross-Border Vehicle Activity at the El Paso–Juárez Bridge.** Vehicle traffic at border crossings contributes

to total on-road mobile source emissions in border cities. As there is currently no methodology to estimate this impact as part of the on-road mobile-source inventory, the TCEQ will develop a robust estimation methodology to allow analysis of cross-border vehicle activity and accurate calculations of the potential effect of control strategies. TCEQ will construct the model to facilitate modeling at other inland ports the length of the U.S.-Mexico border, especially Laredo–Nuevo Laredo, the highest commercial volume inland port in the United States.

- **Develop Ciudad Juárez Emissions Inventory.** In fiscal years 2011 and 2012, the EPA awarded funds to the TCEQ for special projects to improve air quality in the binational Paso del Norte air shed. The Border Affairs personnel is working closely with the TCEQ Chief Engineer's Office and contracting with the University of Texas–Center for Energy and Environmental Resources (UT-CEER) to collaborate with officials from Mexico and develop an emissions inventory of Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua. The new emissions inventory, combined with that of El Paso and Doña Ana County, New Mexico, will help both countries model air quality in the air shed, home to an estimated 2.1 million people (2010 census data).
- **Enhance West Texas Visibility Monitoring.** The TCEQ currently operates the West Texas Visibility Monitoring Network, a network of high-resolution digital cameras used to identify and track natural events such as dust storms in the El Paso region and to track regional haze at Guadalupe and Big Bend national parks, both identified as federal Class I Areas. In fiscal years 2011 and 2012, the TCEQ and the EPA are sharing the cost of a project to update and expand the network to include more monitoring sites, update old servers, and enhance the website image display and archival access to images.
- **Implement of the 2008 Ozone Standard.** On September 22, 2011, the EPA decided to retain the 2008 ozone standard of 0.075 parts per million, and will not be proceeding with the 2011 ozone standard at this time. The 2010 design value for El Paso is 0.071 parts per million and below the ozone standard for 2008 through 2010. The TCEQ will continue to work with local organizations in El Paso to maintain the monitored ozone values below the 2008 standard. The next ozone standard review is scheduled to be final in 2014.
- **Maintain Good Air Quality in El Paso.** El Paso continues to maintain ambient air levels below the current National Ambient Air Quality Standards for three pollutants—ozone, carbon monoxide, and particulate matter. However, enhanced monitoring and best management practices by the community are necessary to continue achieving the current standards and continue improving air quality to meet future standards. In the next few years, the TCEQ will work with local governments to update the emissions inventory in the Texas part of the basin.

Recently, funds have been appropriated by multiple sponsors to update the emissions inventories in the New Mexico and Mexico parts of the air basin.

- **Operation and Maintenance of a New Auto-Gas Chromatograph Air Monitor in El Paso.** In fiscal year 2011, the EPA and TCEQ funded installation of a new AutoGC monitor near Ascarate Park in east El Paso. With a 35% funding contribution from EPA, TCEQ will oversee operation and maintenance of the monitor during fiscal years 2012 and 2013. The monitor will further quantify and define ozone formation in El Paso and is the first of its kind deployed to El Paso since 1995.
- **Rider 8 Funding for Air Quality Planning.** The Texas Legislature appropriated funds through Rider 8 of the 2009 appropriations bill to the TCEQ for air quality planning to reduce ozone in local areas around the state, including El Paso. Beginning in fall 2009, the Air Quality Planning Division began working with the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to develop and implement a grant worth close to \$800,000 and associated work plan for this purpose. In fall 2010, the TCEQ and the MPO signed a contract and began work on the projects, including installation of the new AutoGC Air Monitor (see previous item).

## Waste

- **Improve the Management of Scrap Tires.** Unauthorized disposal of scrap tires is a priority issue on the border and poses a significant threat to human health and air quality (in the event of a fire). The TCEQ will work with federal, state, and local stakeholders in the border region, both in the U.S. and Mexico, to develop and implement strategies to track and properly dispose of scrap tires. One such forum in which the TCEQ participates actively is the U.S.-Mexico Tire Initiative Collaborative Effort.
- **Illegal Tire Dumping Initiative.** Illegal dumping of used tires in active Irrigation and Water Improvement District canals throughout Texas impedes the adequate and intended flow of water. In addition, districts must expend their limited resources and incur disposal costs to clean up unauthorized dumps. Along with standard compliance investigations at tire transporters and generators, the TCEQ also partnered with districts and other local governments on the problem of illegal dumping in many ways, among them educational outreach to tire generators—including used-tire workshops—and working with districts, such as El Paso County Water Improvement District #1, on a scrap-tire-collection day.

## Other

- **Continue State-to-State Environmental Programs.** Agency personnel, especially in Border Affairs, will work with counterparts from Mexican state agencies on mutual issues to enhance and protect our shared border environment. The agency is updating these plans as necessary to accommodate ongoing needs,

both of the TCEQ and its counterpart agencies in the four neighboring Mexican states.

- **Continue Coordinated Emergency-Response Measures with the International Boundary and Water Commission.** The TCEQ interacts routinely with the U.S. section of the IBWC to coordinate emergency management response and discuss border safety. The TCEQ has also incorporated the IBWC into the state's emergency management as a counterpart in preparing for floods and other natural disasters along the Rio Grande. The two agencies will continue to support each other and partner on important matters.
- **Develop a Proposed Annex VI (Enforcement) to the La Paz Agreement.** The La Paz Agreement for the protection of the U.S.-Mexico environment does not explicitly reference environmental enforcement or compliance assistance. The proposed Annex VI would include these critical subjects and would be developed with the EPA and its Mexican counterpart, SEMARNAT, as well as other stakeholders.
- **Expand the Efforts of the Compliance Assistance, Environmental Stewardship, and Cooperative Enforcement (CAESCE) Task Force in the Border 2012 Three-State Regional Work Group.** The TCEQ Region 6 (El Paso) small business and local government assistance compliance specialist currently serves as co-leader for the Border 2012 CAESCE Task Force, which examines ways to promote environmental compliance and enforcement in the Paso del Norte region, especially with respect to movement of hazardous waste across the international boundary.
- **Expand Environmental Summits.** The TCEQ, especially through its Small Business and Environmental Assistance Division, gives logistical and other support to an annual environmental summit in El Paso. On October 1, 2010, about 400 people attended the El Paso summit, which included elected officials, industry representatives, and local residents. With the success of the El Paso summits, held since 2000, the agency worked successfully with legislators and local officials to expand them to the Lower Rio Grande Valley and Laredo. On September 24 and October 14, 2010, respectively, the first environmental summits were held in those areas. The 2011 border environmental summits were a huge success, held on October 7 in El Paso, October 20 in Laredo, and October 28 in the Lower Rio Grande Valley (McAllen).
- **Serve on the Eagle Ford Shale Task Force.** The Eagle Ford Shale is one of the largest domestic crude oil and natural gas developments in more than 40 years. Roughly 50 miles wide and 400 miles long, the Eagle Ford spreads across Texas from the Mexican border towards Brazos County, covering all or parts of 24 Texas counties. The TCEQ Rio Grande Watermaster was selected by the Texas Railroad Commissioner to participate on the Eagle Ford Shale Task Force. The Task Force had its first meeting in San Antonio on July 27 and will meet monthly at distinct locations throughout the Eagle Ford Shale region.

- **Support Local Stakeholders through the Border 2012 Program.** Border Affairs personnel will support local stakeholders, including NGOs, in El Paso, the area from Del Rio to Zapata County, and the Lower Rio Grande Valley and assist them in applying for environmental-management grants to meet their needs. The Border Affairs personnel is also working with stakeholders and the EPA to develop the next-generation program, Border 2020.
- **Work with Stakeholders on Cross-Border Emergency-Response Planning.** The TCEQ will work with local stakeholders to create regional emergency-response plans from a binational perspective. Personnel will work with fire departments and protección civil (local and state emergency-response agencies in Mexico) to update and further develop sister-city contingency plans for the groups of sister cities along the international border Texas shares with the four Mexican states of Tamaulipas, Nuevo León, Coahuila, and Chihuahua. Improvements to these plans often include “all hazards,” not just responses to chemical releases. The TCEQ serves as lead for regular meetings, knowledge exchanges, and exercises where emergency officials from both countries respond to an incident in real time.

## 2010-11 Accomplishments

- **Assist Water Systems with Current or Pending Enforcement Actions.** In fiscal 2011, the Office of Water, through its contract for financial, managerial, and technical assistance, consulted with 19 troubled water and wastewater systems in the border area. The on-site assistance varied from consolidation assessment to assistance with compliance issues and rate setting.
- **Conduct Aquatic-Life Monitoring of the Upper Pecos River.** The aquatic-life use for the Upper Pecos River is impaired for 24-hour dissolved oxygen per the 2010 303(d) list (report of impaired water bodies required annually by the federal Clean Water Act). TCEQ surface water quality monitoring personnel collected water and biological samples in 2010 and 2011. Data obtained from the Aquatic-Life Monitoring effort will be used to track implementation of the Watershed Protection Plan, support development of water quality standards and potentially improve the tools used to evaluate attainment with aquatic life-use standards in arid regions of west Texas.
- **Construct Water Quality Wetlands in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.** The TCEQ Office of Water provided technical and financial assistance to the cities of La Feria, San Juan, and San Benito to design and construct wetlands to further improve the quality of water in area arroyos. The projects were developed in accordance with the Watershed Protection Plan for the Arroyo Colorado <[www.arroyocolorado.org](http://www.arroyocolorado.org)>, a document presenting a comprehensive strategy of voluntary actions to address the water quality

impairments and concerns in the watershed. The Arroyo Colorado Partnership is a coalition of public and private organizations and concerned individuals who have committed their time and resources to address water quality issues. The projects in La Feria and San Juan were successfully completed in 2009 and the project in San Benito was completed in 2010. The wetlands provide water quality, recreational, and ecological benefits to the communities.

- **Continue Participation on the Good Neighbor Environmental Board.** The TCEQ representative on the GNEB drafted the water section for the 13th annual GNEB report, *A Blueprint for Action on the U.S.-Mexico Border*. The report was released in June 2010, in Washington, D.C., and was accepted on behalf of the president by Council on Environmental Quality chair Nancy Sutley, who subsequently attended a March 2011 meeting of the board. The 14th annual report, which focused on clean energy in the border region, was released on December 14, 2011.
- **Continue State-to-State Environmental Programs.** In May 2010, former TCEQ Commissioner Buddy Garcia signed a new agreement with Secretary of Sustainable Development Fernando Gutiérrez of Nuevo León, and later that month Commissioner Garcia met with Secretary Gutiérrez and Governor Medina of Nuevo León to discuss actions the TCEQ and the Secretariat of Sustainable Development (SDS) can implement. Based on an action item from that meeting, and as part of rebuilding efforts after Hurricane Alex in summer 2010, the TCEQ and the SDS coordinated a technical exchange with experts from both states on the potential use of selected waste streams in road-building (scrap tires, recycled plastics, and recycled asphalt). Then, in May 2011, TCEQ Commissioner Garcia signed a new Memorandum of Cooperation with the Tamaulipas Secretary of Environment and Urban Development (SEDUMA), Homero de la Garza. The two agencies subsequently worked together with the Border Environment Cooperation Commission to organize a binational training on best operating procedures for municipal solid waste landfill operators in September 2011.
- **Continuous Water Quality Monitoring in the Rio Grande.** The Water Quality Planning and Field Operations Support divisions of the agency, in conjunction with personnel from the Rio Grande Watermaster’s program, maintain and operate a network of eight continuous water quality monitoring stations downstream of Falcon Dam. The monitors measure the concentration of total dissolved solids (TDS—salts in this case) in agricultural return flows. These monitors supply data to Texas and Mexico to facilitate management of TDS concentrations of the lower Rio Grande, allowing for action if levels are so elevated that saline waters could damage agricultural production—a major economic activity in the area. Long-term flooding after Hurricane Alex in July 2010

destroyed this network of stations. All stations have since been restored at their previous location or relocated as appropriate. The real-time data are viewable online at [www.texaswaterdata.org](http://www.texaswaterdata.org).

- **Develop *Eco-Vida* Public-Service Announcements and Outreach in the Tri-State (Texas–New Mexico–Chihuahua) Area.** TCEQ personnel from the El Paso regional office and Border Affairs team worked with NGOs to conduct monthly stakeholder meetings, host a website, and develop short TV spots that presented environmentally friendly options for everyday activities.
- **Focus on Border Issues at the TCEQ Environmental Trade Fair.** During the TCEQ Environmental Trade Fair on May 4, 2011, Border Affairs organized a full day of presentations on important environmental quality issues along the Texas border with Mexico. Topics included compliance assistance and enforcement on the border, Mexico’s response to flooding in Monterrey after Hurricane Alex, the TCEQ-IBWC response to flooding of the Rio Grande after Hurricane Alex, and a discussion of air quality in Juárez–El Paso, which Victor Valenzuela of the TCEQ presented in Spanish. About 200 people attended the various panels. On the same day TCEQ Chairman Shaw and Commissioner Rubinstein joined Commissioner Garcia at a ceremony for the signing of a memorandum of cooperation with Secretary Homero de la Garza of the Tamaulipas environmental agency (SEDUMA).
- **Identify the Best SmartWay Technologies for Drayage Trucks.** The SmartWay Transport Partnership is a voluntary collaboration between the U.S. EPA and the freight industry. Through a contract with the Texas Transportation Institute, with support from the EPA, the TCEQ funded a study that characterized typical drayage-truck drive cycles, tested SmartWay technologies for emission reductions, and performed cost-benefit analyses. Among the SmartWay technologies analyzed were fuel additives, ultra-light trailers, and “eco-driving” techniques. The study was completed in August 2009; the final report with results and recommendations was presented on April 15, 2010 at the 48th annual JAC meeting. On July 1, 2010, the JAC passed a joint resolution to encourage “eco-driving” techniques and to train drayage truck drivers to implement the practice. The report is available online at [tti.tamu.edu/about\\_tti/international/cross\\_border/truck\\_emissions.htm](http://tti.tamu.edu/about_tti/international/cross_border/truck_emissions.htm).
- **Install Continuous Water Quality Monitoring on the Pecos River.** Six water quality monitoring stations have been established in Texas and one continuous water quality monitoring station has been established near Red Bluff, New Mexico to monitor water quality conditions and changes in water quality during implementation of the Pecos River watershed protection plan. Two additional stations are in the planning stages in coordination/cooperation with U.S. Geological Services and Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board.
- **Launch a Community Road Show in the El Paso Region.** During spring 2010, the TCEQ El Paso regional office organized a traveling “open house” to address local and rural environmental concerns. Personnel traveled to Alpine, Marfa, Van Horn, Presidio, and Jeff Davis County to address complaints and explain the agency’s role in the community.
- **Organize and Participate in Conferences on Border Security.** In February 2010, agency personnel worked closely with the Texas Division of Emergency Management to organize a workshop on border security and emergency response. The Border Affairs manager also presented at a conference on Impacts of Security on the U.S.-Mexico Border in February 2011 at UT Austin’s LBJ School of Public Affairs.
- **Participate in the Colonias Workgroup, the Economically Distressed Areas Program Task Force, and Related Issues.** The agency’s Colonias Coordinator represented the TCEQ at regular meetings to implement Senate Bill 99 (79th legislative session), regarding tracking of state-funded projects that benefit colonias. The TCEQ leads meetings on specific colonia issues along the U.S.-Mexico border and in Nueces County and is an active participant in colonia issues through participation in quarterly meetings led by the Secretary of State. In August 2011 the agency’s Colonias Coordinator presented at the “BienESTAR Workshop,” on environmental issues and health impacts in colonias. UT-El Paso and the Pan American Health Organization hosted the workshop.
- **Partner for Binational Emergency Preparedness and Mock Drills.** In May 2010, more than 80 stakeholders representing municipalities on both sides of the border in the Rio Grande Valley plus state and federal governments met for two days at Rancho Viejo, Texas, for the third consecutive year to hold a “knowledge exchange” and plan an upcoming simulation. TCEQ personnel played a key role in organizing the event, during which each authority described its available resources and discussed how it could support the others. The group also reviewed a GIS risk map showing locations and types of hazardous materials in the region. In April 2011 the TCEQ assisted with a joint simulated-emergency exercise at the Veterans International Bridge between Brownsville and Matamoros. In August 2011 TCEQ personnel in the Harlingen and Laredo regional offices worked closely with the EPA, the U.S. Northern Command, and counterparts in Mexico to hold three one-week training events, one each for emergency responders from Matamoros, Reynosa, and Nuevo Laredo. The training covered use and maintenance of specialized equipment and included a 40-hour certification class in emergency response involving hazardous materials. In El Paso a similar training is planned for fall 2011 for responders from Ciudad Juárez, as well as a tri-national (U.S., Mexico, and Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Tribe) tabletop exercise.

- **Provide Clean School Bus Grants.** The Texas Clean School Bus program awards grants to school districts and charter schools for the purchase and installation of retrofit technology to reduce diesel emissions and improve air quality for schoolchildren and bus drivers. In fiscal years 2010 and 2011 the program invested \$485,000 of state and federal funds for the improvement of onboard air quality for 70 school buses in five school districts along the Texas border with Mexico.
- **Purchase and Placement of a New Auto GC Air Monitor in El Paso.** Leveraging federal funds, TCEQ purchased and installed a second Auto GC air monitor in El Paso via contract with UT-CEER. The new data will more broadly characterize the specific pollutants that contribute to high-ozone days, and their sources. The monitor began collecting data on August 3, 2011.
- **Response and Coordination during the July 2010 Flooding of the Rio Grande.** As the liaisons between the IBWC and the Texas Division of Emergency Management, TCEQ personnel were instrumental in coordinating efforts to control the flooding after Hurricane Alex, acting as the eyes and ears of the

IBWC by patrolling floodgate levees saturated by the floodwater and notifying the IBWC of any cracks or boils discovered along 160 miles of the Rio Grande from Falcon Dam downstream to Brownsville and 270 miles of floodway levees in Hidalgo, Cameron, and Willacy Counties. In addition, specialized teams of TCEQ employees conducted 75 water and wastewater inspections, three landfill inspections, and inspected 2,799 irrigation and flood-control features including lateral gates, levees, temporary pumps, and others in the affected counties.

- **Workshops on Petroleum Storage Tanks for the Regulated Community.** In November 2010, in Harlingen and El Paso, the Small Business and Local Government Assistance section of the TCEQ held free workshops where all owners and operators of petroleum storage tanks and other members of the public could learn about state and federal PST regulations. The speakers explained the general rules and requirements for PSTs and how to use the TCEQ's latest compliance tool, the *Petroleum Storage Tank Super Guide: A Comprehensive Guide to Compliance in Texas* (available upon request as agency publication RG-475).

**For more information:**

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