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Natural Outlook MONTHLY UPDATE

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Natural Outlook Monthly Update is the TNRCC's monthly publication of environmental issues in Texas with a focus on air quality, water quality, drought, and Sunset Advisory Commission Review.

October 2000 Issue



[Allocating Water on the Rio Grande](#)

With the border area plagued by drought longer than any region of the state, the TNRCC's Rio Grande Watermaster is busy allocating, monitoring, and controlling the use of surface water from the Rio Grande. Following the terms of a 30-year-old management plan, the Watermaster prioritizes water allotments for municipal, industrial, and domestic uses over all other adjudicated water rights, including those for agriculture.



[Emissions Testing Evolving](#)

Motorists in the Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston-Galveston metro areas will have to put their cars and trucks through more rigorous emissions tests, due to a new program that will be phased in from 2002 to 2004. The expanded testing, which is part of the state's plans to reduce ozone levels in those urban areas, will check for excessive levels of hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide. The examinations will be conducted in conjunction with annual safety inspections.



[Addressing Atrazine](#)

The TNRCC is monitoring 10 lakes and one river in North Texas for contamination of the herbicide atrazine. Much of the agency's efforts have focused on Aquilla Lake, which is the source of drinking water for Hillsboro and other nearby communities. Local groups are getting involved to change farm management practices and deter runoff containing the herbicide.

The above information is also published as TNRCC print publication PD-020/00-010.

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