



Natural Outlook

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Summer 1998 Issue



Safeguarding Public Health from Mexican Smoke

Mammoth plumes of smoke and haze caused by the largest fires in Mexico in half a century blanketed Texas for several weeks in May and June. On May 15, the first statewide health alert for air pollution in Texas history was announced.



Strategic Passage

With the goal of elevating performance to a new level of effectiveness, the TNRCC engaged in an intense period of strategic planning and management review in the first half of 1998. The strategic initiatives will enable the agency to reposition itself to do an even better job of protecting Texas citizens and natural resources.



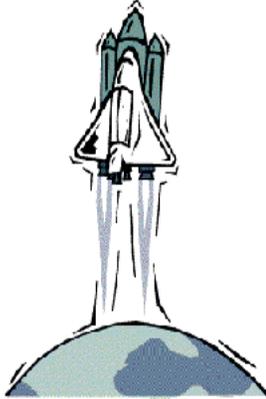
Texans Speak Out at Town Hall Meetings

A series of lively public meetings across the state provided the TNRCC with local citizen input for its regional strategic planning process. The agency's strategic plan submitted to the Texas Legislature on June 15 echoed the voices of citizens, business people, ranchers, and hundreds of others who participated in the meetings, and linked those voices to the TNRCC's environmental priorities for the next century.



Texas' First Line Against Spills

No day is routine for the TNRCC's emergency response teams, who are ready round-the-clock to handle oil and hazardous substance spills, emergencies, and human-caused disasters. The TNRCC ER staff members share stories which reveal that the key to emergency response work is flexibility in the face of unexpected, rapidly changing events.



NASA Declares War on Pollution

The Johnson Space Center in Houston, a member of the TNRCC's CLEAN INDUSTRIES 2000 program, has achieved dramatic reductions in hazardous waste with a comprehensive pollution prevention program.

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