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# Natural OUTLOOK

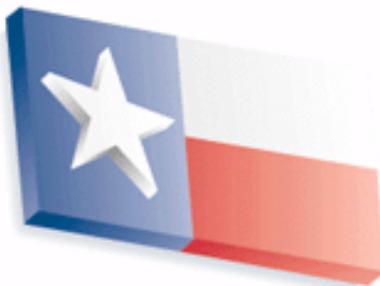
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[Past Issues](#)

*Natural Outlook* is the TNRCC's quarterly publication of environmental issues in Texas. Below is the Web version of the Spring 1999 issue for your viewing.

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## Spring 1999 Issue



### [The Spirit of 76](#)

The 76th Texas Legislature is tackling an array of tough political and economic issues that are making it one of the more memorable Sessions in recent history. The TNRCC is working closely with lawmakers developing legislation that will help ensure a cleaner, safer Texas and help the state meet federal and state standards established to improve the environment.

## [Texas' New Environmental Steward](#)

Robert J. Huston, the TNRCC's new chairman, is making a smooth transition from the corporate world to his first role in public service. Best known as co-founder of the environmental consulting firm, Espey, Huston & Associates, Huston believes that "the regulators and the regulated need not be 'us and them.' We're dealing with big issues that require collaboration and close communication."



## [The Water Below Us](#)

The Texas Groundwater Protection Committee, which brings regulatory and agricultural agencies to the same table, is

charged by the Texas Legislature with developing a comprehensive groundwater protection program. The TNRCC, the lead agency in the committee, is helping develop a plan that will take all types of contamination into account and better protect the precious resource.

## [Payback Time: Restoring Habitats](#)

Spills and other environmental disasters have led to the restoration or replacement of wildlife habitats across the state—even in such unlikely places as the Houston Ship Channel. The Natural Resource Trustee Program, led by state and federal resource management agencies, ensures that businesses and others responsible for environmental damage restore contaminated areas or provide equivalent habitats.



## [Out of the Woods](#)

With good-natured respect, agency wags have dubbed the newly formed Strategic Environmental Analysis group of planners and analysts the "big heads." The group strives to improve environmental outcomes—such as safe drinking water—by providing comprehensive analysis and recommendations for sound decision making. By focusing on agency-wide planning, new ways to measure success, and overarching agency goals, they are helping turn an assortment of tress into a forest.



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## **No-leak Zone: Petroleum Storage Tanks**

Dec. 22, 1998, marked the final deadline for complying with federal requirements regulating petroleum storage tanks (PSTs). Despite a decade of lead time, an estimated one-fourth of Texas gas stations and other tank operators were noncompliant at the deadline. The TNRCC accelerated inspections of PSTs early this year but continues to work with those making concerted, good-faith efforts to comply.

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The above information is also published as TNRCC print publication PD-020/99-2.

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