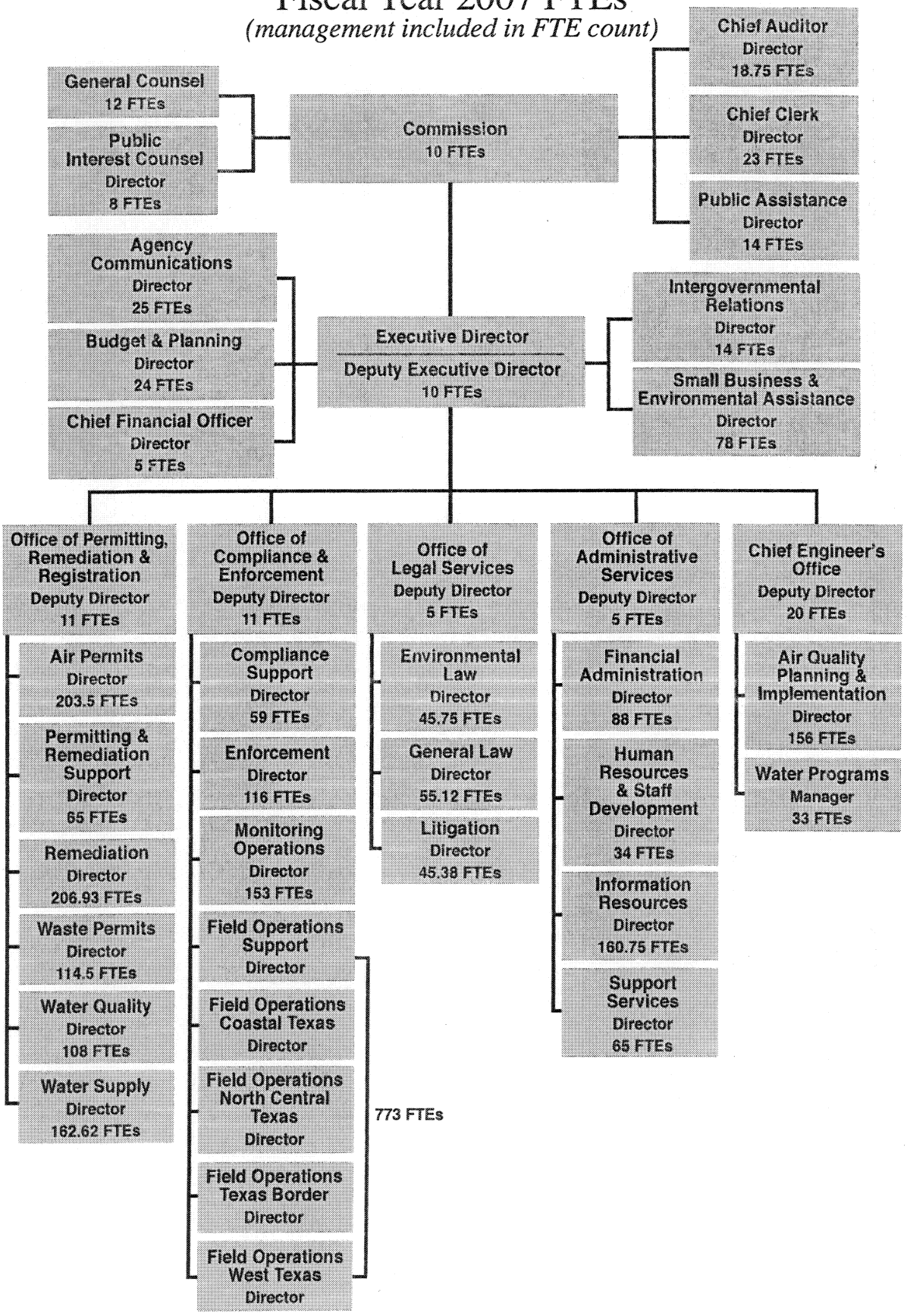
TCEQ Organizational Chart
Fiscal Year 2007 FTEs
(management included in FTE count)



Organizational Structure
80th Regular Session, Agency Submission

Agency Code: 582 Agency Name: Commission on Environmental Quality

At the top of the operating structure of the TCEQ are the offices of the commissioners. The executive director reports to the commissioners, with several divisions lending direct support. The agency's primary environmental programs and administrative offices are represented by five major offices, all of which have broad responsibilities. Under each of those offices are divisions with clearly defined duties.

Commissioners
Three full-time commissioners are appointed by the governor to establish overall agency direction and policy, and to make final determinations on contested permitting and enforcement matters. They are appointed for six-year terms with the advice and consent of the Texas Senate. A commissioner may not serve more than two six-year terms, and the terms are staggered so that a different member's term expires every two years. The governor also names the chairman of the commission. The following five offices report directly to the commissioners.

General Counsel
The general counsel is the chief legal and the chief ethics advisor for the agency. The general counsel provides legal assistance to the commissioners for their review of permits, proposed enforcement actions, rules, and other matters, in addition to managing the administrative affairs of the commissioners' office.

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) staff under the general counsel assist permit applicants and persons opposed to the applications in resolving their differences informally, if possible, to avoid the time and expense of a contested public evidentiary hearing. ADR procedures are voluntary, and participation in ADR does not forfeit a person's right to a hearing if ADR does not result in a settlement.

Chief Auditor
The Chief Auditor's Office (CAO) helps the commissioners and management meet agency goals and objectives by providing independent and objective assessments and recommendations relating to TCEQ programs and business activities. The Chief Auditor's Office includes two sections, Internal Audit and External Audit.

Chief Clerk
The chief clerk issues required notices of applications, public hearings, and public meetings. The chief clerk also prepares the commission agendas, transmits final decision documents to applicants and other parties, and maintains the official records of pending commission proceedings.

Public Assistance
The Office of Public Assistance (OPA) answers questions about TCEQ permits, explains how the TCEQ makes permitting decisions, helps citizens understand how to participate in the permitting process, and conducts public meetings around the state on permit applications. The office includes an Environmental Equity Program that helps minority and low-income communities work toward solutions to problems with industries and facilities near their homes. OPA is responsible for distributing the TCEQ Customer Satisfaction Survey, which encourages customers to provide feedback on their experiences with the agency. Every two years OPA summarizes the most recent biennium's survey responses in a Report on Customer Service, which it provides to the Legislative Budget Board. The director is the agency's Customer Service Representative, and OPA is the point of contact for all complaints against the agency.

Public Interest Counsel
This office was created by the legislature to ensure that the public's interest is represented in issues considered by the commission. The office does not formally represent individuals at commission proceedings. However, citizens who have questions about the legal aspects of dealing with the TCEQ, its hearing process, and its rules can obtain help from the Office of Public Interest Counsel. Assistance is available to anyone who is affected by a particular permit application or other agency authorization. The staff of the Public Interest Counsel also provides assistance to people with questions about enforcement proceedings.

Office of the Executive Director
The executive director, who is hired by the commissioners, is responsible for managing the agency's day-to-day operations. Major responsibilities include directing operations of approximately 3,000 employees, implementing commission policies, making recommendations to the commissioners about contested permitting and enforcement matters, and approving uncontested permit applications and registrations. The deputy executive director serves as the chief operating officer to assist the executive director in the administration of the agency. Five divisions report directly to the executive director.

Agency Communications
Agency Communications works to continuously improve and streamline the delivery of print and Web information to the public and within the agency. This division coordinates the agency response to all media inquiries, prepares and distributes agency news releases, and coordinates news conferences. The division also includes the agency library and a publishing staff, that coordinates, produces, or distributes regulatory and general information materials for both print and Web.

Budget and Planning
The Budget and Planning Division is responsible for developing and monitoring the agency's annual operating budget. Staff prepares, submit, and monitor all of the agency's federal grant applications and work plans, providing centralized grants management in support of TCEQ programs. The division also develops and submits the agency's strategic plan, biennial legislative appropriations request, and quarterly performance reports to the Governor and Legislature. In addition, staff conducts special analyses to monitor the achievement of agency goals and priorities.

Chief Financial Officer

The Chief Financial Officer oversees all budgeting and financial issues in the agency. This office oversees the development of the agency's strategic plan, biennial appropriations request, and quarterly performance reports to the Legislature and the Governor. On fiscal matters, this office is the point of contact for the TCEQ's oversight agencies. The office is involved in bill implementation and fiscal notes that have revenue requirements, and it monitors revenue and expenditures, estimates revenue collections, and provides fiscal analysis and reporting. Staff coordinates the development and maintenance of financial systems for the agency.

Intergovernmental Relations

Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) coordinates the agency response to legislative inquiries and constituent issues, legislative initiatives, and interim committee studies affecting the agency. IGR also coordinates the agency's testimony and participation during legislative sessions and ensures that the Legislature is informed of the TCEQ's initiatives and activities. IGR serves as a clearinghouse for border affairs information for the TCEQ.

Small Business and Environmental Assistance

The Small Business and Environmental Assistance Division (SBEA) helps Texans prevent pollution, conserve resources, and achieve compliance with regulations; educates customers; and promotes conservation of natural resources through partnerships in Texas and along its border with Mexico. The division offers services to a variety of customers, including small businesses and local governments, industries and manufacturers; agricultural operations, students and academia; and anyone interested in environmental stewardship. SBEA services include:

- Free technical assistance on site and through hotlines;
- Resources and assistance for regulatory compliance;
- Assistance on pollution prevention planning and reporting;
- Seminars and workshops on regulatory and pollution prevention;
- Assistance on environmental management systems, tax exemptions for pollution control equipment and other innovative programs, practices, and technologies;
- Resources and assistance to market compost and products that are recycled or recyclable;
- Opportunities and resources for environmental education;
- Awards and special events to recognize environmental leadership;
- Recycling and disposal opportunities for urban, rural, and agricultural communities;
- Recycling information and resources for individuals, communities, schools, and businesses; and
- Voluntary programs, advisory committees, and partnerships encouraging public participation.

Five office clusters report to the executive director. Each cluster is headed by a deputy director. These deputies are responsible for administering the agency's regulatory and administrative programs.

Office of Administrative Services

This office provides service and support to agency staff and external customers, including the essential administrative infrastructure required to maintain business operations. Services include:

- Financial administration,
- Human resources management and staff development,
- Information technology and document management, and
- Physical assets and support services.

Financial Administration Division

The Financial Administration Division is responsible for managing the agency's financial transactions, ensuring the integrity of the accounting records, and maintaining adequate internal controls to safeguard the agency's financial assets. Division responsibilities include payroll and timekeeping, payments to employees and vendors, billing and collection of fees and federal grants, centralized revenue management, financial assurance, and monitoring participation by Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUBs).

Human Resources and Staff Development

The Human Resource and Staff Development Division performs a wide range of personnel services. For example, the division recruits qualified staff to fill openings; offers training to help employees advance along career paths and formalized career ladders; administers employee benefit programs; and ensures compliance with state and federal laws on equal opportunity and fair labor practices. As part of its training responsibilities, the division surveys and adopts new technology, such as computer-based training.

Information Resources Division

The Information Resources Division is responsible for the installation, operation, and direct customer support of the agency's physical information technology infrastructure at the TCEQ's Austin and regional locations. The division provides technical leadership in software development and enhancement services for enterprise information systems and IT project management and business analysis to agency programs. The division also administers the agency's central records system through a contract with a commercial records management firm, and coordinates the agency's response to public information requests.

Support Services Division

The Support Services Division is responsible for managing assets and equipment for all TCEQ programs and five state-owned buildings in Austin. The division reviews and processes risk management and workers' compensation claims, provides safety training and conducts safety inspections, and provides centralized receiving services. The division is responsible for procurement of goods and services, centralized contracts management, and contract workforce monitoring. The division also provides copying and mail services, telephone services and equipment, and maintains the telecommunications wiring facilities.

Chief Engineer's Office

The Chief Engineer's Office (CEO) develops and implements statewide and regional plans, rules, strategies, and technical guidance to attain quality standards for air, surface water, and groundwater. This includes a broad range of specific responsibilities:

- Assess the status of air quality and model outcomes of planning scenarios and compare them against real-world results.
- Assess risks to human health from air and water pollution, and from remediation of polluted sites.
- Implement plans to protect and restore air and water quality in cooperation with local, regional, state, and federal stakeholders.
- Track progress toward environmental goals and adapt plans as necessary.
- Advise the executive director and the deputy directors regarding uniform compliance with engineering standards, specifically regarding executive-level technical and policy matters.
- Review plans, processes, permits, and regulations for scientific accuracy and feasibility.

Toxicology

The Toxicology Program helps focus TCEQ resources on areas with the greatest potential risks by:

- Assessing risks to human health from exposure to environmental pollutants; and
- Reviewing models, data, assessments, permits, and cleanup plans for possible risks to human health, and estimating their effects on overall air and water quality.

Water Programs

The CEO's Water Programs work to protect and restore the quality of surface and groundwater through the development and implementation of environmental plans.

The Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program develops TMDLs, defining allowable loadings of pollutants that may be discharged into Texas waters. Once loadings are set, plans are put into place to implement the pollution control strategies. The program works in cooperation with local, regional, state, and federal stakeholders.

Two estuary programs are designed to implement 20-year, scientific and community developed plans for the restoration and protection of bay systems. Both programs, the Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP) and Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program (CBBEP), emphasize wetland and habitat protection and water quality improvements.

Both programs are collaborative efforts, advised by large stakeholder working groups comprised of local, state, and federal governmental entities, business and environmental, commercial and recreational fishermen, academia, and other stakeholders. GBEP is directly administered by TCEQ; staff are state employees. CBBEP was outsourced, at the request of local stakeholders, to a nonprofit organization of the same name.

Water Program staff have been designated by the Executive Director to chair the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee. The committee coordinates groundwater protection activities of member agencies and develops and implements a groundwater protection strategy for the state. Staff provide technical assistance and review to the Edwards Aquifer Program (EAP) and have developed a cooperative agreement between U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the TCEQ. The agreement provides a method for streamlined approvals for land development under the Edwards Aquifer Program.

Air Quality

The Air Quality Division works to protect and restore air quality through five programs.

Air Implementation Grants

- Implements financial incentive programs under the Texas Emission Reduction Plan (TERP) to provide $116 million in funding annually to offset the costs of eligible projects that reduce emissions of NO_x from high-emitting diesel sources. These programs include the:
  - Emissions Reduction Incentive Grants (ERIG) Program, and;
  - Rebate Grants Program, which is only available for eligible on-road and non-road replacement and repowering projects.
- Provides contractual oversight for the TCEQ contract with the Texas Environmental Research Consortium (TERC) for the implementation and administration of the New Technology Research and Development (NTRD) Program to provide $8 million in funding annually to promote the development and commercialization of technologies that will support projects that can be funded under the TERP ERIG program.

Air Industrial Emissions Assessment

- Provides information about the Toxic Release Inventory Program.
- Maintains the inventory of point source emissions for industrial sources of air contaminants.
- Assists companies in interpreting emissions and inspection fee rules and performs audits to ensure fees have been correctly reported.

Air Modeling and Data Analysis

- Calculates the emissions from nonpoint sources of air contaminants, such as mobile sources including motorized vehicles, and area emissions from small businesses that are not regulated as point sources.
- Analyzes data and produces computer models in support of pollution control strategies and designs.
- Administers air quality research for the agency, including the Texas Air Quality Study 2000) and TexAQS, These studies focus on collecting data critical to developing controls to meet new federal clean air standards, and used in the development of the State Implementation Plan.

Air Quality Planning

- Drafts the State Implementation Plan (SIP) — the state's plan for air quality protection and improvement — outlining how the state will comply with federal air quality standards.
- Reviews aviation, road, and port facility projects for air quality benefits, and to ensure they meet transportation conformity and general conformity requirements.
- Administers the state's Low-Emission Diesel Program and Low Reid Vapor Pressure Gasoline Program.
- Implements a number of other programs to reduce pollution related to transportation:
  - Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Program
  - Low Income Vehicle Repair Assistance, Retrofit, and Accelerated Vehicle Retirement Program
  - Smoking Vehicle Program.

Office of Compliance and Enforcement

This office enforces compliance with the state's environmental laws, conducts field investigations, responds to emergency events and natural disasters that threaten human health and the environment, oversees dam safety, monitors air and water quality within the state, and issues occupational licenses, and oversees the agency's Homeland Security activities. In addition, the office oversees the operations of four regional areas consisting of 16 regional and three special project offices across the state.

Compliance Support Division

This division includes four sections, supporting the Office of Compliance and Enforcement, with the following diverse responsibilities:

- Oversee 10 occupational licensing and registration programs for operators and installers, including operators of wastewater facilities and waterworks, and installers of underground storage tanks, landscape irrigation systems, and on-site sewage facilities (OSSFs).
- Manage the OSSF program and the landscape irrigation program.
- Provide administrative support functions for the Texas Onsite Wastewater Treatment Research Council (TOWTRC).
- Investigate complaints concerning licensing and compliance with OSSF and landscape irrigation programs.
- Provide technical support on emission measurement and regulatory compliance.
- Oversee the Consolidated Compliance and Enforcement Data System (CCEDS), which tracks investigations, enforcement, and licensing activities.
- Oversee the lab accreditation program, and conduct audits of laboratories.
- Oversee the agency's quality assurance program for federally funded activities.

Enforcement Division

This division develops formal enforcement cases in accordance with state statutes and agency rules and consistent with the agency's philosophy that enforcement, when necessary, must be swift, sure, and just. The division drafts proposed enforcement orders, including technical requirements and administrative penalties, and negotiates the actions until settlement is reached. All settled matters are scheduled for commission consideration. When settlement cannot be reached, the division refers the action to the TCEQ's Litigation Division for a contested case hearing or to the Office of the Attorney General for trial. In addition to enforcement-related activities, the division is responsible for the following functions:

- Administering the TPDES Compliance Monitoring Program;
- Monitoring compliance with the TPDES 75/90 rule which imposes requirements whenever flow measurements at a sewage treatment plant reach 75% and 90% of permitted capacity;
- Reviewing and responding to notices and disclosures submitted pursuant to the Texas Environmental, Health & Safety Audit Privilege Act; and
- Processing Compliance History appeals.

Monitoring Operations

This division is responsible for monitoring ambient air and surface water quality within the state and for reporting that information to the public and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The division oversees the statewide air and water quality monitoring networks, and operates laboratories in Austin and Houston and mobile laboratories based in Austin. These labs analyze air, water, and waste samples. Monitoring Operations staff in coordination with other program areas and agencies examine and interpret the causes, nature, and behavior of air and water

pollution in Texas and issue forecasts of possible high concentrations of ground-level ozone and particulate matter in Texas urban areas.

The division is responsible for coordinating surface water quality monitoring and conducting the water quality assessment throughout the state. This collaborative effort is accomplished by coordinating the Surface Water Quality Monitoring Program and administering the Texas Clean Rivers Program through local river authorities and municipalities as well as the Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program. The Texas Clean Rivers Program collects water quality data in support of the state-wide water quality assessment and conducts additional water quality assessments within their basin. The Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program is a federally funded program that helps prevent and abate nonpoint source water pollution and aids in watershed restoration projects. The division also produces the Texas Water Quality Inventory, an overview of the quality of the state's surface waters, and the 303(d) list, the list of water bodies not meeting water quality standards. This surface water quality monitoring and the resultant assessment utilizes information collected by both traditional and continuous water quality monitoring sites throughout the state.

Field Operations
The division is responsible for central office field operations and support of Regional Areas: Coastal Texas, North Central Texas, Texas Border and West Texas. Major responsibilities of the regional offices include:

- Conducting investigations for compliance at the permitted and registered air, water, and waste facilities, including Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations, located across the state;
- Investigating complaints at permitted and non-permitted facilities and operations, based on requests for assistance from citizens, entities, or other concerned parties;
- Developing enforcement action referrals for violations identified during investigations;
- Monitoring the quality of ambient air and surface water (rivers, lakes, and bays);
- Monitoring the quality of public drinking water;
- Reviewing and issuing temporary water right permits;
- Overseeing and ensuring compliance with water rights and, when drought conditions exist, allocating the limited water resources in certain designated areas of the state;
- Administering the three Water Master programs;
- Administering the Edwards Aquifer program and approving pollution abatement plans to ensure protection of the underground water supplies (aquifers) in two regions;
- Administering the Dam Safety Program;
- Responding in a timely manner to statewide emergencies and natural disasters, such as oil and hazardous substance spills, and hurricanes;
- Responding in a timely manner to statewide air emissions events;
- Responding to alerts from the Governor's Homeland Security concerning critical infrastructures, such as dams;
- Maintaining and providing the Strike Team's specialized personnel and equipment for response to large-scale emergencies and natural disasters in any region in the state; and
- Providing environmental education and technical assistance to communities as needed.

Field Operations Coastal Texas is responsible for the operations of:

- Region 10 (Beaumont)
- Region 12 (Houston)
- Region 14 (Corpus Christi)

Field Operations North Central Texas is responsible for the operations of:

- Region 4 (Dallas/Fort Worth)
- Region 5 (Tyler)
- Region 9 (Waco)
- Region 11 (Austin)
- Region 13 (San Antonio)

Field Operations Texas Border is responsible for the operations of:

- Region 6 (El Paso)
- Region 15 (Harlingen)
- Region 16 (Laredo)

Field Operations West Texas is responsible for the operations of:

- Region 1 (Amarillo)
- Region 2 (Lubbock)
- Region 3 (Abilene)
- Region 7 (Midland)
- Region 8 (San Angelo)

Homeland Security Coordinator

The Homeland Security Coordinator works with all TCEQ program areas and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and the Governor's Division of Emergency Management on issues and activities related to all hazards, including homeland security and emergency management. The TCEQ Homeland Security Coordinator assists in the planning, development, coordination, and implementation of initiatives to promote the governor's homeland security strategy to detect, deter, respond to, and recover from an incident either manmade or natural. These initiatives include providing notification to and coordination with many of the State's critical infrastructures including public drinking water producers and purchasers, high risk dams, refineries, petrochemical facilities and wastewater treatment facilities.

The Homeland Security Coordinator is the agency representative designated to serve on the state's Homeland Security Council, which is comprised of the Governor and a representative from each state agency that is responsible for the protection of critical infrastructure. The Homeland Security Coordinator also heads up a TCEQ Homeland Security Coalition which assists in determining our role in helping regulated facilities and industries in their security vulnerability assessments and emergency response plans, helps identify and mobilize agency resources available for emergency responses, establishes lines of communication with other agencies and the Governor's Office on security matters, and establishes clear lines of communication, assistance, and response within the TCEQ.

Office of Legal Services

This office manages legal services for the agency in the areas of environmental law, enforcement litigation, and general agency operations. The office's mission is to provide legal counsel and support the executive director; the program areas; and, in conjunction with the Office of General Counsel and the Office of Public Interest Counsel, the commissioners. The office's goals are to ensure that commission decisions follow the law and that rules developed by the agency comply with statutory authority and are applied consistently.

Environmental Law Division

The Environmental Law Division represents the other offices in the agency in implementing state, federal, and federally delegated programs related to air, waste, water quality, and drinking water. Other areas of involvement concern permits for water rights, water utilities, and underground injection control; permits for industrial, municipal, and hazardous waste facilities; the State Implementation Plan (SIP); Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs); the Title V Operating Permit Program; federal program negotiations and updates; biennial legislative implementation; and support to the Attorney General's Office in lawsuits and administrative appeals to which the TCEQ is a party.

General Law Division

The General Law Division provides legal counsel to the agency on issues related to personnel and employment law; contracts, grants, and procurement; public information processing and distribution; and records retention. The division also prepares the administrative records for appeals under the Administrative Procedures Act and provides the Office of Legal Services with administrative support (paralegals and legal secretaries). In addition, the division performs a variety of activities related to rulemaking, including coordination of statewide public hearings on rules, management of the agency's rulemaking process and publication of agency rules in the *Texas Register*, and tracking of rule projects and posting of rule information and public notices on the agency's Web site. General Law also provides paralegals, legal secretaries, and other administrative support to the Office of Legal Services.

Litigation Division

The Litigation Division provides legal representation and support to the Office of Compliance and Enforcement, the Financial Administrative Division, and the Remediation Division. The division negotiates agreed enforcement orders; litigates enforcement actions; pursues delinquent fee and penalty payments; advises the agency concerning cleanup standards and cost recovery for cleanup costs; and coordinates the Supplemental Environmental Projects and Environmental Audits programs. Through the Special Investigations Section, it investigates and assembles evidence on environmental crimes.

Office of Permitting, Remediation and Registration

The Office of Permitting, Remediation, and Registration is responsible for implementing the federal and state laws and regulations governing all aspects of permitting for the air, water, and waste programs. The office also oversees the investigation and cleanup of hazardous pollutants released into the environment, registers and manages the reporting requirements for certain facilities, and implements the petroleum storage tank reimbursement program. Office staff in the agency's bankruptcy program pursues debtors in United States bankruptcy courts for recovery of claims owed to the TCEQ.

Air Permits Division

The Air Permits Division processes air permits and other types of authorizations for facilities that, when operational, would emit air contaminants into the atmosphere. The division does this through two major air permitting programs, New Source Review (NSR) Permits and Title V Federal Operating Permits. Air Permits is also responsible for the administration of the agency's Emissions Banking and Trading Programs.

New Source Review Permits

There are six kinds of possible permits under the category of NSR Permits:

- De Minimis;
- Permits by Rule (PBR);
- Standard Permit (SP);
- Construction, Modification;
- Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD); and
- Nonattainment .

Title V Federal Operating Permits

There are two kinds of possible permits under the category of Title V Federal Operating Permits:

- Site Operating Permit and
- General Operating Permit.

Permitting and Remediation Support Division

The Permitting and Remediation Support Division promotes and supports various agency programs. Division responsibilities include the following:

- State of Texas Environmental Electronic Reporting System ;
- Central Registry;
- Dry Cleaner Registrations;
- Dry Cleaner Registration Fees;
- Industrial and Hazardous Waste Registrations and Reports;
- Industrial and Hazardous Waste One Time Shipments;
- Medical Waste Transporter Registrations and Reports;
- PST Facility Registrations and Notifications;
- PST Self-certification of Compliance;
- Sludge Transportation Registration and Reports;
- Stationary Compactor Special Permits; and
- Used Oil and Oil Filter Registration and Reports.

Remediation Division

The Remediation Division oversees the investigation and cleanup of hazardous pollutants released into the environment. This includes activities conducted by responsible parties, state contractors and the state itself. The division also seeks restoration of damaged natural resources resulting from such releases. Division programs include:

- Brownfields Redevelopment Initiatives;
- Contracting Support;
- Dry Cleaning Program;
- Industrial Hazardous Waste (IHW) Corrective Action;
- Innocent Owner/Operator Program (IOP);
- Natural Resource Trustee Program;
- Petroleum Storage Tank Program;
- Superfund;
- Superfund Site Discovery and Assessment;
- Texas Risk Reduction Program (TRRP); and
- Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP).

Waste Permits Division

The Waste Permits Division performs activities associated with the permitting, licensing, and registering of facilities that are involved in the storing, processing, or disposing of one or more of the following: hazardous waste, nonhazardous industrial waste, municipal solid waste, special waste, and radioactive material waste. The division also:

- Performs technical analysis of notifications for waste management, including recycling of industrial and municipal solid waste;
- Performs technical analysis related to waste received from international sources;
- Performs technical analysis of submittals from regulated entities;
- Evaluates underground injection control (UIC) applications for Class I, III and V wells;
- Evaluates authorization requests for Class V wells;
- Performs dose assessments for licensing and decommissioning radioactive waste facilities; and
- Provides groundwater protection recommendations to the Railroad Commission of Texas and applicants for oil and gas wells, Class II (oil and gas) wells, enhanced recovery injection wells, cathodic protection wells, and seismic programs.

Water Quality Division

The Water Quality Division is responsible for protecting the quality of water in Texas. This division:

- Issues wastewater permits under the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System,
- Develops the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards,
- Updates the Water Quality Management Plan,
- Issues permits to control pollution from concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) and storm water runoff, and
- Conducts state water quality certification reviews of Section 404 permit applications for federal dredging and filling activities.

Water Supply Division

The Water Supply Division is responsible for programs that ensure the efficient administration of surface water use, the delivery of safe and adequate drinking water, and the provision of dependable, viable utility service at fair levels of compensation. The division performs the following functions:

- Oversees public drinking water protection by implementation of the Safe Drinking Water Act;
- Provides source water assessment and protection for drinking water;
- Provides technical assistance on the design and operation of public water systems;
- Provides water systems with guidance on Homeland Security preparation and response;
- Reviews applications for rate changes, certificates of convenience and necessity, utility sales, district creation, and district bond issues;
- Reviews engineering plans for new or significantly modified public water systems;
- Assesses the financial, managerial and technical capabilities of public water systems; and
- Reviews applications for surface water use, water rights ownership changes, and use of river beds and banks;
- Provides support to interstate water compacts;
- Maintains water availability models for all river basins;
- Serves as state coordinator for the National Flood Insurance Program;
- Evaluates water conservation plans and drought contingency plans; and
- Administers the Water-Saving Plumbing Fixtures Program;
- Manages the Water Utility Database and the Water Availability Modeling Database;
- Performs groundwater quality planning and assessments;
- Provides support for the interagency Texas Groundwater Protection Committee and the *Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy*; and
- Manages the state's plan for preventing groundwater pollution from pesticides and the state's program for the identification of priority groundwater management areas.