



Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments: On-Site Sewage Facilities

Water Body	Galveston Bay System
Location	Galveston and other coastal counties
River Basin	San Jacinto-Brazos Coastal (11)
Contractor	Texas AgriLife Research
Project Period	May 12, 2010 to August 31, 2013
Project Total	\$932,590 (Federal 60% and Local Match 40%)

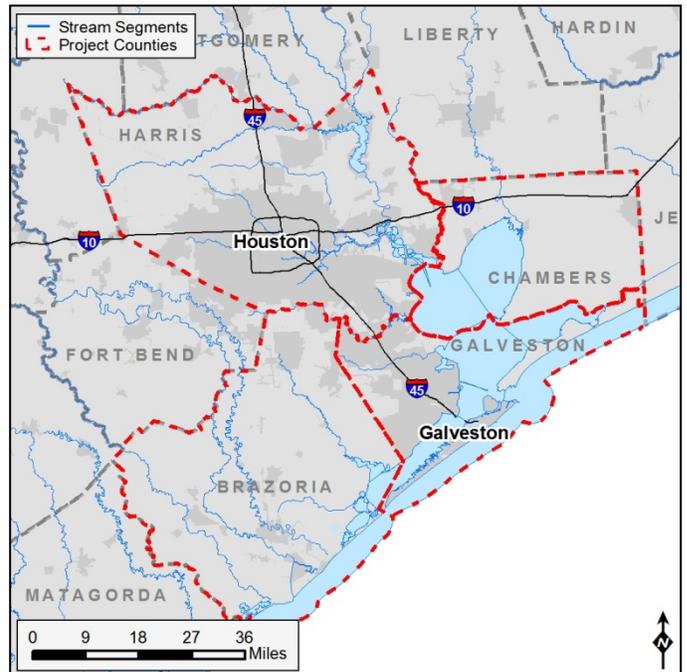
Project Description

Section 6217 of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (CZARA) of the Coastal Management Act created a requirement for states and territories with federally approved Coastal Zone Management Programs to develop and implement a coastal non-point source (NPS) control program. The program is unique in that it establishes a set of management measures for states to use in addressing polluted runoff.

On-site sewage facilities (OSSF) are a potential contributor of contaminants to coastal watersheds. Proper operation of these systems is critical to removal of contaminants from wastewater and limiting the transport of contaminants to water resources. These systems need to be evaluated at a specified frequency to determine the operational status and limit the risk of OSSFs contributing contaminants to the watershed.

In 2008, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) adopted a **total maximum daily load (TMDL)** for bacteria in waters of the Upper Texas Coast. The TMDL indicated that OSSFs are a potential source of nonpoint source (NPS) pollution in the Galveston Bay System.

For this project, Texas AgriLife Research and Texas AgriLife Extension Service will implement activities to reduce overall loading of contaminants from OSSFs in Galveston County and other coastal counties identified by Section 6217 jurisdictional areas. Reconnaissance will be conducted to identify areas of chronic OSSF failure. Guidance will be developed for conducting visual evaluations of anaerobic OSSFs, and a training event will be held to teach local health department staff how to conduct visual inspections. A list of targeted sites for conducting septage removal from anaerobic OSSFs will be developed and, if necessary, malfunctioning OSSFs may be replaced. **Free educational programs** that will provide guidance on the proper operation and maintenance of an OSSF will be made available to homeowners.



Current Status

Inspections of malfunctioning systems are ongoing. Training to teach local health department staff on how to conduct inspection will be held in July 2013.

For More Information

TCEQ Project Manager

Anju Chalise
512.239.1529; Anju.Chalise@tceq.texas.gov

Texas AgriLife Research

Project Manager
Ryan Gerlich
979-458-4185; ragerlich@ag.tamu.edu

Websites

<<http://ossf.tamu.edu/>>

Project Highlights

- 05/12/2010 – Signed contract for project initiation.
- 04/07/2011 – A Homeowner Maintenance of Septic System Course was held at the Brazoria County Extension office in Angleton, TX. 26 people were in attendance.
- 04/14/2011 – The Final OSSF Reconnaissance Report for Galveston and Brazoria County was completed.
- 04/28/2011 – A Homeowner Maintenance of Septic System Course was held at the Galveston County Extension office in Dickinson, TX. 28 people were in attendance.
- 11/17/2011 - Competitive Bid to select a registered sludge transporter to was posted.
- 12/01/2011 - Competitive Bid to select a registered sludge transporter to was closed.
- 03/29/2012 - A Homeowner Maintenance of Septic System Course was held at the Texas AgriLife Extension office in La Marque, TX. 21 people were in attendance.
- 04/01/2012 – OSSF inspections started.
- 04/22/2013 – Competitive bids from OSSF installers were opened. An OSSF installer in Brazoria County was selected to install the first six OSSF replacements.
- 05/15/2013 – Another Homeowner Maintenance of Septic System Course was held in League City. 45 people attended.
- 05/17/2013 – 33 OSSFs have been inspected to date.