

Water Quality Advisory Group

Meeting Summary

January 20, 2009

Welcome and Introductions – James Moore, Water Quality Assessment Section Manager

Changes in Electronic Discharge Monitoring Report – Michael Beatty, Office of Compliance & Enforcement

- eDMRs changing to netDMR by summer of 2009
- New system has enhancements
 - Permitted entities can manage users, i.e. can delegate from signatory to others electronically
 - Capability to accept attachments
 - Enhanced appearance
- All current users will be notified

New Water Quality Planning Division– Kelly Keel, Division Director

- See organizational chart attachment
- Has three sections: Planning and Implementation, Monitoring & Assessment and the Houston Lab Section
- Established for a more comprehensive approach to Water Quality
- Encompasses Standards that were previously with the Water Quality Division
- Charles Maguire is the new Assistant Division Director
- Laurie Curra is the Section Manager for the Monitoring & Assessment Section
- Lori Hamilton is the Work Leader for the Water Quality Standards Group
- Dr. Jim Davenport will work with that Section as Technical Specialist and will continue to work on the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards
- Still works closely with WQD on Implementation Procedures
- WQPD hopes to better communicate within and outside the agency
- Will partner with river authorities and the Texas State Soil Board
- Focused on the standards and the current standards revision
- More focus will be placed on Watershed Action Plans and conducting UAAs
- Moving forward with Buffalo Bayou TMDL project this summer
- Shifting to more holistic approach

Water Quality Standards Update – Lori Hamilton

- See handout “Revisions to the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards”
- Final meeting of Standards Workgroup was January 6, 2009
- The same group met on the Implementation Procedures on January 7, 2009
- Markups for the entire Standards on website in November, 2008
- Comments due January 23, 2009
- Looking at broader range of recreational uses and criteria
- Developing draft recreational UAA procedures
- Looking at new numerical nutrient criteria for reservoirs
- Updating numerous toxic criteria for both human-health and aquatic-life protection
- Proposed site specific standards
 - Appendix A – Revising uses and/or criteria for over 40 larger water bodies
 - Appendix D – Establishing aquatic life uses for new small streams
 - Appendix E – Adding site-specific toxic criteria to 16 water bodies

Implementation Procedures Update – Karen Holligan

- See handout “Summary of Significant Potential Changes to the Implementation Procedures”
- Continues to coordinate with Water Quality Standards
- Draft Implementation Procedures are posted at www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_quality/stakeholders/swqsawg.html
- Comment period closed on January 23, 2009

Chapter 217 Design Criteria Update – Louis Herrin

- WEAT Seminar in San Antonio Friday, January 23, 2009
- Summaries and submittal letters down by 15% probably due to economy
- February is usually the busiest month
- Will be updating web to add FAQ on design
- In the process of posting a simple application on line for getting review authority
- Will have 30 days to review plans instead of two weeks under new Chapter 217 rules
- Applicants will then have 30 days to resubmit
- Variance for Chapter 317 ends March 1, 2009
- Applicants must request a variance before then
- Chapter 217 requires back up power at all plant’s disinfection units
- Systems are still approved under Chapter 317 if nothing has changed
- Those systems should still have approval letters on file, and should be able to show them to inspectors
- Variances should be listed on submittal letter
- Regional offices have copies of all design criteria on file since 1950

Update on MS4 Phase II NOI and SWMP Processing – Kim Wilson

- Received 424 NOIs/waivers
- Total of 378 NOIs
 - Issued – 127 (34%)
 - Denied – 2
 - Pending – 249 (66%)
 - In TCEQ Chief Clerk’s Office for public notice – 188 (50%)
 - In technical review – 61 (16%)
- Total of 46 Waivers
 - Approved – 41
 - Denied – 3
 - In technical review – 1
 - Withdrawn – 1
- EPA Region 6 Conference in June

Update on Recent Stakeholder Meetings – Beth Seaton

- Agency received petition from City of Austin and the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District requesting that the TCEQ adopt new rules concerning water quality management in the Onion Creek and Barton Creek watersheds
- Commissioners denied the petition, but instructed WQD to conduct stakeholder meetings to receive input and identify areas of concern from the public
- First meeting was held January 16, and the next one will be March 12
- HB 595 has been filed to prohibit discharge into certain zones of the Edward Aquifer

Upcoming Stakeholder meeting – Sherry Smith

- Stakeholder meeting January 23 to discuss the rulemaking that resulted from the TCEQ’s agreement with EPA to add E. coli or Enterococcus effluent limits to TPDES permits that cover domestic wastewater and industrial wastewater that has a domestic component
- Both written and oral comments may be submitted

- Submit written comments to Sherry Smith MC 148, PO Box 13087, Austin, Texas, 78711-3087 or by email to shesmith@tceq.state.tx.us
- Meeting is open to all interested parties

Next Meeting – April 28, Building E, Room 201S at 1:15

Suggested topics: Legislative update, E. coli update, Chapter 217

Adjourn

**Water Quality Advisory Work Group
Attendee List
January 20, 2009**

Gloria Broussard	LCRA
Karen Holligan	TCEQ
James Moore	TCEQ
Chris Linendoll	TCEQ
Jaron Bergin	Calpine
Richard Eyster	TDA
Janelle Taylor	TPWD
Mark Lowry	AECOM
Carol Batterton	WEAT
Susan Meckel	LCRA
Debbie Magin	GBRA
Gerard Sala	SRA
Jason Ford	SBLGA
David Ham	TXDOT
Kevin Rucker	TXDOT
Isaac Jackson	TCEQ
Sam Jones	AWBD
Patty Gray	USGS
Janet Sims	APAI
Michelle Smith	Lloyd Gosselink