

STATUS OF INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER GENERAL PERMITS

July 14, 2008

TITLE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS/ISSUES
<u>TXG110000</u> Discharges from Concrete Production	Authorizes the discharge from concrete production facilities Contact: YMiramontes (6922)	Expires November 7, 2011
<u>TXG130000</u> Aquaculture	Authorizes the discharge from aquaculture facilities. Contact: YMiramontes (6922)	Expires April 18, 2011
<u>TXG340000</u> Petroleum Bulk Storage and Terminals	Authorizes the discharge from PBSTs Contact: YMiramontes (6922)	Expires April 23, 2012.
<u>TXG500000</u> Discharges from quarries in the John Graves Scenic Waterways	Authorizes discharges from quarries in the John Graves Scenic Waterways Contact: KWilson (4644)	Working on draft.
<u>TXG530000</u> Harris County On-site	Authorizes discharge from on-site treatment systems from single family residences located within the San Jacinto River Basin Contact: YMiramontes (6922)	Expired on April 31, 2008.
<u>TXG670000</u> Hydrostatic Testing	Authorizes the discharges resulting from the hydrostatic testing of vessels. Contact: YMiramontes (6922)	Expires April 5, 2010.
<u>TXG830000</u> Water Contaminated by Petroleum Product	Authorizes the discharge of water contained by petroleum fuel or petroleum substances. Contact YMiramontes(6922)	Expired October 2007. Waiting for agenda date.
<u>WQG200000</u> Manure Compost	Authorizes the land application of wastewater from manure compost. Contact: YMiramontes(6922)	Expired October 2007. Waiting for agenda date.

WATER QUALITY STANDARDS REVISIONS - OVERVIEW
TCEQ STAFF DRAFT July 22, 2008

STATUS OF REVISIONS:

- Water Quality Standards Advisory Workgroup – Four daylong sessions in 2007
- Last workgroup meeting: May 5, 2008:
 - Markup of main sections of WQ Standards, and whole-effluent testing procedures
 - Focus: recreational criteria, whole-effluent toxicity testing
 - TCEQ staff is incorporating workgroup comments

NEXT STEPS:

- Staff mark-up of revisions for all WQ Standards Sections, and Implementation Procedures
- Management review of draft mark-up
- Final workgroup meeting
- Agency review and presentation of proposed revisions at TCEQ Agenda

MAJOR PROPOSED REVISIONS:

Toxic Criteria:

- Notes:
 - EPA has substantially updated guidance for human-health toxic criteria
 - EPA has published new guidance criteria for mercury – to apply directly to fish tissue
 - New toxicity data is available for a variety of aquatic-life and human-health toxic criteria
- Staff suggestions:
 - Include child exposure (EPA); assume people eat more fish (17.5 grams per day)
 - Set mercury criterion as 0.7 ppm in fish tissue
 - Add new human-health criteria for 23 toxicants; new aquatic-life criteria for 2 toxicants
 - Revise numerous human-health and aquatic-life criteria

Recreation Criteria:

- Notes:
 - There are now only two recreational categories – contact and noncontact
 - Almost all water bodies are assigned contact recreation in current standards
- Staff suggestions:
 - Expand recreational-use categories:
 - Primary contact 1 [126 *E. coli*/ 100 ml] – reservoirs, rivers, bays
 - Primary contact 2 [206 *E. coli*/100 ml] – “unclassified” perennial streams
 - Secondary contact [630 *E. coli*/100 ml] – intermittent streams
 - Noncontact [1260 *E. coli*/100 ml] – restricted areas (such as some ship channels)
 - Establish methodology for use-attainability analyses (UAAs) for site-specific recreation
 - Revise provisions for assessing standards attainment
 - Assess impairments with the average criterion, rather than both average and max
 - Consider better definition of representative sampling locations and conditions

Nutrient Criteria:

- Notes:
 - EPA is requiring numerical criteria for nutrients for major water bodies
 - TCEQ submitted an updated nutrient development plan in Nov 2006 that EPA agreed to
 - The plan calls for criteria for reservoirs first; then rivers, estuaries
- Staff suggestions:
 - Establish criteria for chlorophyll *a* for about 100 major reservoirs based on historical data
 - Apply criteria as median long-term averages, for the main bodies of reservoirs
 - Establish secondary screening criteria for phosphorus and for nitrogen

Site-specific Standards:

- Notes:
 - Numerous standards, such as at permit sites and for impaired waters, may need adjusting
 - TCEQ and others have conducted numerous supporting studies (UAAs)
- Staff suggestions:
 - Revise uses and/or criteria for more than 50 larger water bodies:
 - e.g., dissolved salts for Nolan River, Lake Tawakoni, Lake Lavon
 - D.O. criteria for Lavaca River, W. Fork Trinity River, Little Wichita River
 - Add aquatic-life uses for ~ 50 new small streams based on receiving water assessments
 - Add site-specific toxic criteria for 16 water bodies, based on permittee's studies

Whole-Effluent Toxicity Testing (in Standards Implementation Procedures):

- Notes:
 - Existing procedures in permits to conduct whole-effluent toxicity testing (WET):
 - Applicable permits require WET testing for both lethal and sublethal effects
 - If significant lethality occurs, a TRE based on lethal effects is required
 - After a TRE, permittee is given a permit limit for the chemical causing toxicity
 - If no chemical is identified, permittee is given a WET limit for lethal effects
 - New EPA requirements by July 2008:
 - Implement sublethal testing, in addition to existing requirements for lethality
 - Require WET limits for any "reasonable potential" for toxicity
- Staff suggestions:

Reasonable potential:

 - Explicitly define "reasonable potential" (e.g., sublethal failures in > than 50 % of tests)
 - Permittees with "reasonable potential" will conduct a toxicity reduction evaluation (TRE)
 - Also present EPA's procedures to define and address reasonable potential as an option

Sublethal WET testing, TREs and WET limits:

 - Define a sublethal failure with a 99% confidence interval (rather than 95% as for lethal)
 - During routine WET testing, require a higher failure rate for sublethal testing than for lethal testing before requiring a TRE (2 out of 3 retests, instead of 1 out of 2)
 - Allow additional time for TRE before imposing sublethal WET limit