

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR A PENDING SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION DECISION ON THE DALLAS TO HOUSTON HIGH SPEED RAIL PROJECT U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS SECTION 404 PERMIT APPLICATION NO. SWF-2011-00483 AND SWG-2014-00412

**Application.** Texas Central Railroad, LLC has applied to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for Department of the Army Permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for water quality certification under Section 401 of the CWA to discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States associated with the proposed construction of the Dallas to Houston High Speed Rail project in Dallas, Ellis, Navarro, Freestone, Limestone, Leon, Madison, Grimes, Waller, and Harris counties in Texas.

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), as the lead Federal agency, is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed project. The Draft EIS can be found on the FRA project website: <https://www.fra.dot.gov/Page/P1078>.

The TCEQ is reviewing the applications under Section 401 of the CWA and in accordance with Title 30, Texas Administration Code Chapter 279 to determine if the proposed work would be consistent with Texas Surface Water Quality Standards and the CWA.

**PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING.** The TCEQ will hold three public meetings on the 401 certification process for the proposed project. During any of the meetings, you may submit public comments related to TCEQ's certification decision on the application. The TCEQ will hold public meetings on the applications in several locations as requested by state legislators. The purpose of the public meetings is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about TCEQ's 401 water quality certification review of the application. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing under the Administrative Procedure Act.

Each public meeting will consist of two parts, an Informal Discussion Period and a Formal Comment Period. During the Informal Discussion Period, TCEQ staff will give a brief presentation about the TCEQ's role in the Section 404 permitting process for the high speed rail project. The public will be encouraged to ask questions of TCEQ staff concerning the Section 401 water quality certification review. Responses will be provided orally during the Informal Discussion Period. During the Formal Comment Period, members of the public may state their comments orally into the official record. All formal comments relevant to the TCEQ 401 certification review will be considered

before a final certification decision is made. A formal response to comment will not be provided.

**The following public meetings will be held:**

**Monday, August 27, 2018 at 7:00 PM  
Leon County Courthouse (2nd Floor Courtroom)  
130 E. St. Mary  
Centerville, Texas 75833**

**Thursday, August 30, 2018 at 7:00 PM  
Waxahachie High School (Lecture Hall)  
3001 U.S. Highway 287 Bypass  
Waxahachie, Texas 75167**

**Thursday, September 6, 2018 at 7:00 PM  
Waller County Community Center  
21212 FM 1098 Loop  
Prairie View, Texas 77446**

**INFORMATION.** Citizens are encouraged to submit written public comments related to the 401 certification during the meetings or by mail to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087 or electronically at <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/about/comments.html> (by entering 20180854MIS with no dashes in the Search Field) within 30 calendar days from the date of the last public meeting.

For more information about the 401 certification process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, toll free, at 1-800-687-4040. *Si desea información en Español, puede llamar 1-800-687-4040.* General information about the TCEQ can be found at our website at [www.tceq.texas.gov](http://www.tceq.texas.gov).

Persons with disabilities who need special accommodations at one of the meetings should call the Office of the Chief Clerk at 512-239-3300 or 1-800-RELAY-TX (TDD) at least one week prior to the meeting.

Issued: July 25, 2018