

Stakeholder Meetings on Amending Alternative Language Public Notice Requirements and Public Participation

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is soliciting your input on a rulemaking project concerning alternative language public notice requirements for certain permit applications (Rule Project Number 2020-018-039-LS).

A petition for rulemaking was filed with the TCEQ on November 12, 2019, by the Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services and Sierra Club requesting that the commission extend the existing alternative language requirements found at 30 TAC § 39.405(h). This rulemaking project was initiated pursuant to the commission's order dated December 18, 2019, in which the commission granted the petition and directed the executive director initiate rulemaking for further evaluation of the issues raised in the petition (Project No. 2020-012-PET-NR).

The Executive Director's staff is evaluating extending existing alternative language requirements to additional public notice in waste, water, and air permit applications that must meet House Bill 801 (76th Texas Legislature, 1999) notice requirements, beyond the requirements for alternative language newspaper publication of the Notice of Receipt of Application and Intent to Obtain Permit (NORI) and the Notice of Application and Preliminary Decision (NAPD). Staff is evaluating the necessity and feasibility of extending the requirements for providing notice in an alternative language to various agency meetings held on permit applications, and potentially translating related documents for these applications. Staff is also evaluating the feasibility of requiring additional supplemental information from the applicant during the notice process to explain the application in plain language. Staff is also evaluating the feasibility of requiring professional translation services at meetings conducted by the commission during the public notice process for an application.

Because of the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, TCEQ will be holding virtual stakeholder meetings on this rulemaking project. The stakeholder meetings will be held on the Go To Webinar platform and will also include a telephone call in line for those without internet access. Additionally, simultaneous Spanish translation will be provided for these meetings.

Stakeholder Meeting Details

Webinar link for all sessions: <https://www.gotomeeting.com/webinar/join-webinar>

Dates, times, and webinar info for each session:

Monday, October 19, 2020 @ 2:00 PM

Webinar ID 208-620-755

Tuesday, October 20, 2020 @ 6:00 PM

Webinar ID 989-284-419

Thursday, October 22, 2020 @ 10:00 AM

Webinar ID 839-919-251

For those persons without computer or internet access who would like to participate in the webinar (in English): Call 844-368-7161 and enter code 435007#.

Las personas que deseen escuchar o participar en la reunión en español pueden llamar al 844-368-7161 e ingresar el código de acceso 904535#. Para obtener más información o asistencia, comuníquese con Jaime Fernández al 512-239-2566.

Written stakeholder comments may be submitted to Andreea Vasile, MC 205, Texas Register Rule Development Team, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087, or faxed to 512-239-4808.

Electronic stakeholder comments may be submitted at:

<https://www6.tceq.texas.gov/rules/ecomments/>. File-size restrictions may apply to comments being submitted via the *eComments* system. All comments should reference **Stakeholder Comments on 2020-018-039-LS**. The stakeholder comment period closes **November 23, 2020**. Stakeholder comments will be considered by commission staff as they evaluate the issues raised in the petition but will not be formally responded to. For further information, please contact Amy Browning at 512-239-0891 or amy.browning@tceq.texas.gov.

If you need translation services, please contact TCEQ at 800-687-4040.

Si desea información general en español, puede llamar al 800-687-4040.