



SMALL BUSINESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
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# Small Business The Advocate

For and about small businesses affected by environmental regulations

*Healthy Environment. Strong Business. Good Sense.*

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## Air Issues Loom Large in New Year

Air quality issues take center stage in Texas for 2001. By the end of '01, Texas should know whether comprehensive ozone-reduction plans for Dallas/Fort Worth, Beaumont/Port Arthur, and Houston/Galveston pass federal muster and if similar plans will be required of Austin, San Antonio, and Longview/Tyler/Marshall.

The Houston/Galveston State Implementation Plan (SIP) – the last of three SIPs to be developed – was approved by the three TNRCC commissioners on December 6. As required by the federal Clean Air Act, the plan lays out specific strategies for reducing emissions of air pollutants that contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone. The strategies include new controls on industrial sources, lowered speed limits, cleaner fuel, and more stringent vehicle testing.

The Houston SIP has been submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for review, a process that can take up to a year to complete. EPA also is finishing its review of the Dallas/Fort Worth and Beaumont/Port Arthur SIPs, which were submitted by the TNRCC in April 2000. Houston/Galveston, Dallas/Fort Worth, and Beaumont/Port Arthur have been classified as “nonattainment” areas under the Clean Air Act because they fail to meet federal air quality standards for ozone.

Three “near-nonattainment” areas of the state – Austin, San Antonio, and Longview/Tyler/Marshall – meanwhile await a U.S. Supreme Court ruling on whether tighter

*(continued on other side)*

## Every Vote Counts!

We're working to improve the Advocate and serve you better. Please take a moment to fill out the survey and return it to us.



1. How useful are articles on the following topics?

	<i>not useful</i>	.....	<i>very useful</i>
pending rules:	1	.....	5
new rules:	1	.....	5
enforcement issues:	1	.....	5
compliance assistance:	1	.....	5
company success stories:	1	.....	5
upcoming events:	1	.....	5

2. Do you save back issues of the Advocate for future reference?

*(not ever)* 1 ..... 5 ..... 10 *(usually)*

3. How frequently do you look for information on the TNRCC's website?

*(not ever)* 1 ..... 5 ..... 10 *(several times per month)*

4. Do you ever download past issues of the Advocate from the TNRCC website?

*(not ever)* 1 ..... 5 ..... 10 *(frequently)*

5. How would you prefer to receive the Advocate?  via mail  via Internet

6. Do you want to stay on the mailing list for the Advocate?  yes  no

*(If no, please attach your mailing label here.)*

7. Other comments on the Advocate and/or Small Business & Local Government Assistance:

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You can clip this form and mail it back to us (be sure to tape it shut when doing so), or you can fax it to 512/239-1065. *Thank you for your input!*

'Air Issues' continued from other side

ozone standards proposed by EPA are valid. The tighter standards would likely push the areas into nonattainment status. The Supreme Court held oral arguments on the issue November 7 and is expected to rule on the matter this spring.

In the meantime, the TNRCC has recommended that these areas be designated as unclassifiable, and has engaged in discussions with EPA officials that would allow these areas to more quickly develop and implement plans for reducing ozone-causing emissions. More stringent vehicle emissions testing is likely to be a core element in any plan. ▼

## 2001 Environmental Trade Fair: Something for Everyone

Mark your calendars now! The 2001 Environmental Trade Fair and Conference will be held April 30 through May 2 at the Austin Convention Center. The premier environmental educational forum in Texas, this annual event offers 12 educational tracks for business owners, local government managers, industry professionals, engineers, educators, and environmental consultants. All workshops are conducted by TNRCC experts and invited authorities from industry and academia and offer continuing education credits for environmentally related professions. Added bonus: the exhibit hall will feature more than 200 exhibits by firms that supply environmental products and services.

For more information, contact the Event Coordination and Education Section at 512/239-3150, or e-mail [etfc@tnrcc.state.tx.us](mailto:etfc@tnrcc.state.tx.us). ▼



## EPA Issues Oil Spill Enforcement Alert

EPA is conducting nationwide inspections to ensure that facilities handling oil of any kind - including animal and vegetable - maintain a plan for preventing and controlling spills. Under the federal Clean Water Act, these plans must include containment and countermeasures to prevent spilled oil from reaching navigable waters. Spill contingency measures also are required if the facility is unable to provide secondary containment, such as berms around an oil storage tank.

EPA stresses that it defines "oil" to include not only crude oil and petroleum products but also non-petroleum oil, such as vegetable and animal oil. Facilities may be required to have plans if they drill for, produce, gather, store, process, refine, transfer, distribute, or consume oil.

In a recent *Enforcement Alert*, EPA says it's uncovering "large scale compliance problems," including pipeline breaks, leaking tanks, faulty valves, overturned trucks, and illegal dumping. These types of violations could be subject to penalties of up to \$27,500 per day. For more information, log on to <http://es.epa.gov/oeca/ore/enfalert/vol3num8.html>. ▼

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Electronic Reporting Training for Industrial, Hazardous Waste Generators, Receivers** (512/239-6925)  
Austin: Feb. 2, March 2, April 6, May 4

**Emissions Inventory Seminar** (512/239-6327)  
Houston: Feb. 12-13

**Partnerships for a Livable Texas Conference** (512/239-3187)  
Dallas: Feb. 22-23

**Permanent Pollution Prevention Program (P4) Workshop** (512/239-3100)  
Houston: March 14

**Small Business Advisory Committee Meetings**  
Dallas: Feb. 13 • Fort Worth: Feb. 14 • Beaumont (Golden Triangle): Feb. 22 • Houston: Mar. 1



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## Dates to Remember

Pull out your calendar and jot down these dates! We've done our best to compile a list of reporting deadlines and dates for other events of interest to small businesses and local governments. If a report you must file is not on the list, it may pertain to very few regulated entities. Unless otherwise stated, these dates are when the report is due to the TNRCC.

### January

- 25: Industrial & Hazardous Waste Annual Waste Summary (paper filers only)  
Used Oil Collection Center Report and Re-registration
- 31: Stage II Vapor Recovery Exemption Confirmation Form

### March

- 1: Annual Water Use Report by Water Rights Holders  
Industrial & Hazardous Waste Annual Waste Summary (electronic filers)  
Medical Waste Transporter Annual Waste Report  
On-Site Treatment of Medical Waste on Mobile Vehicles Report  
Scrap Tire Transporter Annual Activity Report  
Scrap Tire Facility and Storage Site Combined Annual Activity Report
- 31: Air Point Source Emissions Inventory Combined Annual Activity Report

### April

- 9-13: Environmental Crimes Prevention Week
- 22: Earth Day
- 30: TNRCC Environmental Trade Fair opening day

### May

- 1: Texas Environmental Excellence Awards Banquet

### June

- 15: Sludge Transporter Annual Report

### July

- 1: Deadline for distributing Consumer Confidence Reports (on drinking water quality) to community water system customers  
Deadline for submitting Toxics Release Inventory Form R to TNRCC and EPA

### August

- 1: Certificate of Delivery of Consumer Confidence Reports
- 31: Deadline for grandfathered facilities operators to apply for Voluntary Emission Reduction Permit

### September

- 17-23: Pollution Prevention Week

### November

- 9: Application deadline for 2002 Texas Environmental Excellence Awards
- 15: Texas Recycles Day

The Small Business Advocate is published bi-monthly by the Small Business Assistance Program. Comments or suggestions for future articles should be sent to:

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