

# The Advocate

For and about small businesses and local governments affected by environmental regulations

**Healthy Environment. Strong Business. Sound Government. Good Sense.**

PD-006/01-04

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## Introducing the New & Improved Advocate

You spoke; we listened and took action. *Advocate* readers who returned our survey questionnaire from the January-February issue said new rules, pending rules, and enforcement issues are by far the most useful topics. Many also said they wanted more information on upcoming events, particularly regional

training opportunities. A large majority also said they save issues for future reference; an overwhelming majority said they'd rather receive the *Advocate* by mail than via electronic means.

In your hands now is the new and improved *Advocate*. We've kept the focus on rules and enforcement and

retained the familiar look, but redesigned the format so that now you can easily save issues in a three-ring binder for later reference.

The new design features these changes:

- "Upcoming Events" and mailing information now appear on a new back page.
- A new page 3 lists Small Business and Local Government Assistance (SBLGA) services and names and telephone numbers of regional SBLGA contacts.
- An index of articles that have appeared in the *Advocate* over the past year will be provided with the November-December issue to help you find a particular topic.

And while you'll still be able to download the *Advocate* from our Web site, you'll continue to receive a paper copy in the mail every two months.

Thank you for helping us make the *Advocate* better than ever! ■

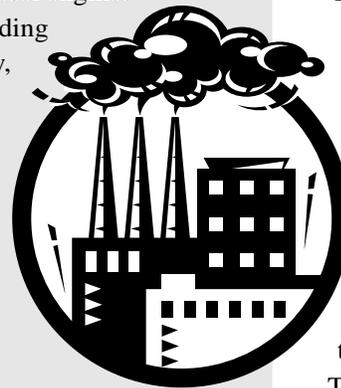
## Stricter Emission Limits Proposed for Stationary Diesel Engines in Houston Area

The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) is considering new rules that will help control air pollution from diesel engines in the Houston/Galveston ozone nonattainment area, including Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller counties.

Stationary diesel or dual-fuel engines in this area would have to comply with stricter emission specifications and new operating restrictions. The rules would affect such operations as rock crushers, sand and gravel plants, hot mix asphalt and concrete plants, and oil and gas drilling rigs.

Under the proposed rules:

- Stationary diesel or dual-fuel engines could not be started or operated for testing or maintenance between 6 am and 12 noon, effective April 1, 2002.
- New stationary diesel engines purchased after October 1, 2001, would have to meet Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) emission standards for non-road diesel engines in effect at the time of purchase.
- New engines operated more than 100 hours per year and located at a site where the capacity to emit nitrous oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) was 10 tons or more per year would have to obtain NO<sub>x</sub> allowances before they could start operations as part of the emissions cap and trade program. This



**Tighter emissions standards for heavy duty on-road diesel engines** also are being considered by the TNRCC. The agency is planning to propose that Texas follow California's lead in adopting new EPA standards that will take effect in 2007. California is expected to adopt the standards in early summer. The TNRCC then would incorporate those standards into a proposed rule that would be published for comment. ■

(Continued on page 2)

program allocates to existing facilities a limited amount of NO<sub>x</sub> that can be emitted in the area. Facilities can buy, sell, or trade emissions allowances among themselves. Allowances are estimated to cost between \$500 and \$5,000 per ton.

- Existing engines also would be subject to cap and trade requirements if they were modified, reconstructed or moved.
- Stationary diesel engines used less than 100 hours per year would have to record their operating times using elapsed run time meters. (Because such meters have long been standard

equipment on most engines, the TNRCC estimates that very few engines would need retrofiting.)

Existing stationary diesel engines used exclusively in emergency situations or for agricultural operations would be exempted from the emissions standards. Engines at minor NO<sub>x</sub> sources (with potential to emit less than 25 tons annually) that were rated at less than 50 horsepower also would be exempt.

In May, TNRCC commissioners approved publishing the proposed rule package for comment. Once all comments are considered, commissioners will be asked to adopt the rule, probably on September 12, 2001. ■

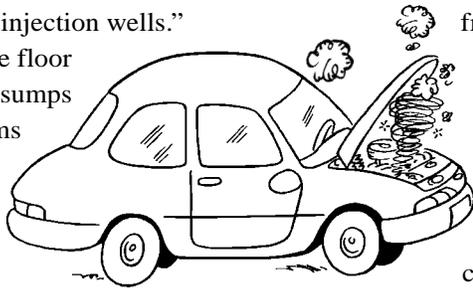
## New Class V Injection Well Rules Affect Subsurface Disposal of Motor Vehicle Waste

Motor vehicle service facilities where floor drains or wash basins lead to shallow wells or septic systems face a whole new set of rules. Because of new federal regulations, the TNRCC has had to amend its rules governing "Class V injection wells."

These commonly are floor drains connected to sumps and separator systems in motor vehicle maintenance or repair bays through which fluids like transmission engine oil, power steering or brake fluid, antifreeze, cleaning solvents, paints and degreasers are disposed of using shallow wells, septic systems, or leach fields.

If you have a Class V motor vehicle waste disposal well, you must either close it or apply for a permit. In order to close the well, you must first register with the TNRCC and then follow federal closure requirements. Permitting requirements are very stringent and include treating the discharge to drinking water standards. For further

information on closing or permitting Class V injection wells, contact the TNRCC's Underground Injection Control Permits Team at 512-239-6633 or call the EPA's Small Business Division at 1-800-368-5888 and ask for a



free copy of "How the New Motor Vehicle Waste Disposal Well Rule Affects Your Business." This reader-friendly compliance guide (EPA 816-R-00-018) also contains a closure pre-notification form, a compliance checklist, and tips on best management practices. ■

## Don't Tank Over Water Tank Maintenance

Elevated tanks that store drinking water for communities need regular maintenance, including blasting and repainting. Whether you represent the water supplier or the contractor doing the maintenance, you need to make sure that the maintenance activities comply with environmental rules. If not, you can be fined as well as face other penalties.

What are the rules? First and foremost, determine whether any lead is present before doing any blasting. If the coating contains lead concentrations of one percent or greater, you must notify the appropriate TNRCC regional office in writing at least 10 days before starting the blasting. You also must control emissions by using one of the following methods: vacuum blasting; shrouded wet abrasive blasting; shrouded hydroblasting; or an equivalent TNRCC-approved method. You also can use shrouded dry abrasive blasting if no residences or public areas are within 500 feet of the storage tank.

Any one of these methods for controlling emissions can be used if the coating contains less than one percent lead and private residences or public areas are located within 500 feet of the tank or 10 times the height of the tank (whichever is greater). If private residences or public areas are further away, no additional controls are required. However, you still must control emissions so as to avoid creating "nuisance" conditions. Questions? Give us a call, at 1-800-447-2827. ■

## SBLGA in a Nutshell

Small businesses and local governments throughout Texas speak their mind about SBLGA services! An eight-minute video of their experiences is now available for presentations to community groups, industry associations, civic organizations, and other groups. Find out how SBLGA can work for you. Call your regional compliance assistance specialist or 1-800-447-2827 to arrange for a presentation. ■

# Be A Voice for Small Business in Your Community

Want to have a role in shaping environmental policy in Texas? Interested in helping your community resolve its environmental problems? A Small Business Advisory Committee (SBAC) is just the place for you!

SBACs give small businesses in Texas a voice in the TNRCC's regulatory process and help promote environmental quality in tandem with economic growth. SBACs are coordinated by the TNRCC's Small Business and Environmental Assistance Division. We schedule quarterly meetings where SBAC members can comment on existing and proposed environmental policies and programs or raise other environmental issues. SBACs also serve as forums to educate local businesses on environmental rules and how to comply with them.

SBAC members include small business leaders, environmental consultants, and representatives of trade associations and government organizations. Committees currently operate in Beaumont-Port Arthur, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, and San Antonio. For more information on joining an SBAC, call 1-800-447-2827. ■

## You Can Call on Us

*Confused about environmental regulations?  
Concerned about inspections?  
Who can you turn to for help?*

Call the folks with  
**Small Business and Local Government Assistance**  
**1-800-447-2827**

You can get free, confidential help with questions on air, water, waste, or pollution prevention issues from this special section of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC).

Small Business and Local Government Assistance (SBLGA) works for you by:

- providing local environmental assistance when and where it's needed;
- giving small business and local government a voice in TNRCC rule and policy making; and
- communicating technical information in plain language.

***SBLGA is entirely separate  
from TNRCC's enforcement program.***

With SBLGA, you benefit from:

- a toll-free hotline and Web site with answers to technical questions on air, water, waste, and pollution prevention;
- industry-specific compliance guidebooks for metal finishers, printers, dry cleaners, auto body and auto repair shops, and facilities making wood and fiberglass products;
- the *Local Government Guide to the TNRCC* (GI-145), a reference book with plain language environmental information; and
- many more services.

## Local Specialists are Ready to Help You!

You've also got free, confidential help right in your back yard. Just check the list below for your local compliance assistance specialist:

### **Region 1 (Amarillo)**

Doug White 806/468-0505

### **Region 2 (Lubbock)**

Celeste Hoehne 806/788-5005

### **Region 3 (Abilene)**

Kara Dudash 915/698-6104

### **Region 4 (Arlington)**

Mike Smithson 817/588-5836

### **Region 5 (Tyler)**

Kevin Glanton 903/535-5133  
Cynthia Skief 903/535-5158

### **Region 6 (El Paso)**

Pamela Acuirre 915/834-4971

### **Region 7 (Midland)**

Kit Owens 915/620-6116

### **Region 8 (San Angelo)**

Bill Koger 915/481-8061

### **Region 9 (Waco)**

Elaine Alexander 254/761-3044  
Trey Buzbee 254/761-3039

### **Region 10 (Beaumont)**

Charlie Adams 409/899-8788

### **Region 11 (Austin)**

Scott Wiedeman 512/491-5504

### **Region 12 (Houston)**

Clarence Gray 713/767-3582  
Cynthia Williams 713/767-3549

### **Region 13 (San Antonio)**

Christine Bergren 210/403-4028  
Christi Carson 210/403-4039

### **Region 14 (Corpus Christi)**

Glenda Swierc 361/825-3421

### **Region 15 (Harlingen)**

Luis Campos 956/389-7425

### **Region 16 (Laredo)**

Rolando Gallegos 956/721-8457

# UPCOMING EVENTS:

## **Electronic Reporting Training** (512/239-6925)

Austin: July 6, August 3, September 7  
[www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/permitting/r\\_e/eval/we/steers.html](http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/permitting/r_e/eval/we/steers.html)

## **TPDES Storm Water Permitting Seminars** (512/239-6644)

Beaumont: July 24; Tyler: July 26; Austin: July 30  
[www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/permitting/waterperm/wwperm/tpdestorm.html](http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/permitting/waterperm/wwperm/tpdestorm.html)

## **Dallas Small Business Advisory Committee**

August 28, Emily Barrett 512/239-3546

## **Houston Small Business Advisory Committee**

September 6, Clarence Gray 713/767-3582

## **World Safety Organization's 15<sup>th</sup> International Environmental Health and Safety Conference and Expo** (Jerry Atlas 254/867-3438)

Waco: September 10-12

## **Golden Triangle Small Business Advisory Committee**

September 13, Charlie Adams 409/899-8788

## **Texas Renewable Energy Roundup** (512/345-5446)

Fredericksburg: September 28-30  
[www.RenewableEnergyRoundup.com](http://www.RenewableEnergyRoundup.com)

*The Advocate is published bimonthly by the Small Business and Local Government Assistance Program. Comments or suggestions for future articles should be sent to:*

The Advocate Editor  
Small Business and Environmental Assistance Division, MC 106  
Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

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**Toll Free**  
**1-800-447-2827**  
(All calls are confidential)  
**Fax: 512/239-1065**

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**Web Site:**  
[www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/exec/sbea/sblga.html](http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/exec/sbea/sblga.html)



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SMALL BUSINESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSISTANCE DIVISION, MC 106  
TEXAS NATURAL RESOURCE  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
PO BOX 13087  
AUSTIN TX 78711-3087



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