

# The Advocate

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

PD-006/03-02

Volume 8, Issue 2 / April - June 2003

## TCEQ Stakeholder Groups Offer Opportunity To Participate

Have a question or concern about environmental rules that impact your business? Not sure where or how to give your input about these? Are you interested in meeting others in your industry to discuss the latest technology in environmental controls? Whether

your interest is narrow or broad, there is a stakeholder group for you.

The TCEQ Web site currently lists more than 40 advisory and stakeholder groups that help the TCEQ implement legislation, develop rules, and form policies.

To find the groups that best fit your interest or impact your company, check out [www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/advisorygroups.html](http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/advisorygroups.html).

TCEQ stakeholder groups come in nine categories:

- Air Quality and Air Permitting
- Surface Water and Groundwater Quality
- Drinking Water and Utilities
- Water Use
- Solid Waste
- Pollution Prevention Initiatives
- Rulemaking
- Small Business and Local Governments
- Other

Some stakeholder groups pay special attention to small businesses and local governments:

- *Rule Review Committee for Small Businesses (not for specific rulemaking).*
- *Small Business Advisory Committees (SBACs).*
- *Local Government Advisory Committee.*

For information on the above stakeholder groups, contact: TCEQ Small Business and Local Government Assistance Program, 1-800-447-2827, [sbap@tceq.state.tx.us](mailto:sbap@tceq.state.tx.us). ■

## Discharge of Petroleum-Contaminated Water Requires New TPDES General Permit

A TPDES general permit from the TCEQ is now required for facilities that discharge petroleum-contaminated water. These discharges may originate from a number of activities, but are commonly related to the cleanup of historical spills or leaks. This permit authorizes discharges from:

- groundwater pump tests;
- remediation activities;
- cleanup activities associated with transportation spills;
- removal of water from petroleum storage tank systems;
- removal of accumulated groundwater from excavation sites; and
- removal of accumulated water from utility vaults.

To register for this permit, you can complete a Notice of Intent (NOI) form online or you may download and print the form from the TCEQ's Web site. The form number is TCEQ-10488.

For more information regarding the requirements of this permit, you may go to the Web site at [www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/permitting/waterperm/wwperm/gen\\_ust.html](http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/permitting/waterperm/wwperm/gen_ust.html) or contact the TCEQ Wastewater Permitting Section at 512/239-4671. ■



## Recent Federal SPCC Changes Ease Regulatory Burden

The EPA recently adopted changes to the Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) rule that significantly reduced the number of facilities regulated by the rule. The SPCC rule applies to owners and/or operators of facilities that store, use, transfer, distribute or consume oil and oil-related products. These changes took effect in August 2002.

In order to prevent oil spills from reaching our nation's waters, the EPA requires that certain facilities develop and implement oil spill prevention, control, and countermeasure (SPCC) plans.

Some of the changes to the rule include the following:

- Completely buried tanks subject to the requirements of the EPA's Underground Storage Tank rules are now exempt;
- Containers that hold less than 55 gallons are exempt;
- Facilities used exclusively for wastewater treatment are exempt;
- The 660 gallon single container criterion has been eliminated, creating a greater than 1,320 gallon threshold.

EPA regional administrators may require preparation of an SPCC plan for otherwise exempt facilities on a case-by-case basis.

For more information on changes to the SPCC rule, go to the Web site [www.epa.gov/oilspill/spcc.htm](http://www.epa.gov/oilspill/spcc.htm) or contact the EPA Region 6 Office at 214/665-6444. ■

## Site Visit Can Lead To Exemption from Scheduled Inspections

Improve your facility's compliance performance through SBLGA's Site Visit program. A free and confidential on-site evaluation of your facility will be conducted by an independent contractor to identify compliance problems and provide recommendations to resolve any issues. Site visit information is kept confidential from TCEQ's enforcement authority. The assessment does NOT trigger an inspection nor will the agency issue any citations or penalties as a result of the site visit. It is, however, recommended that you correct any compliance deficiencies after receiving your evaluation.

If a follow-up visit from the consultant finds your facility in full compliance, you'll be eligible for a Compliance Commitment Partnership Certificate of Recognition. This certificate exempts your facility from TCEQ scheduled inspection for one full year.

Call us at 1-800-447-2827 for more information or to schedule your site visit. ■

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## EMS Update

An environmental management system (EMS) is a collection of activities and practices that helps ensure an organization meets its environmental goals. An EMS is based upon an acknowledgment that environmental issues are important enough to be accounted for, organized, and actively managed with every-day business processes. There are many benefits that are inherent to an EMS, including reduced risk and liability, increased environmental efficiency, and ensured compliance with state rules and regulations.

Now rules are in place (30 TAC Chapter 90) that allow TCEQ to give regulatory incentives to businesses and local governments with a qualifying Texas EMS. There are two tiers of incentives. The first tier is awarded to those who develop an EMS that meets the basic requirements of the Chapter 90 rule. The second tier is awarded to those who develop an EMS that exceeds the minimum requirements, and meets the higher standards of the Clean Texas Leader Program or EPA's National Environmental Performance Track standard. For more information on these incentives go to [www.abouttexasems.org](http://www.abouttexasems.org).

SBLGA is developing two EMS models—one for small businesses and one for local governments. They provide guidance and examples for those who want to develop their own EMS. These documents will be available in early 2003.

The Small Business and Environmental Assistance Division offers EMS training for small businesses and local governments (see Upcoming Events). Direct any questions to the SBLGA hotline at 1-800-447-2827. ■

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## Have You Registered For The Environmental Trade Fair?

It's not too late to register for the Environmental Trade Fair and Conference. Attend environmental seminars, receive continuing education credits and view the latest products and services at Texas' premier environmental educational forum. This annual event is May 5 through May 7, 2003 at the Austin Convention Center.

To get on the mailing list for this event, contact the Event Coordination and Education Section at 512/239-3150, or e-mail your name, address and interest (exhibitor and/or attendee) to [etfc@tnrcc.state.tx.us](mailto:etfc@tnrcc.state.tx.us). ■



## Correction

The lead article, "2003 Dates to Remember," in the January-March 2003 issue of *The Advocate* indicated under Industrial & Hazardous Waste Annual Waste Summary Report that the Used Oil Processors and Re-Refiners Biennial Report and Used Oil Filter Handlers Biennial Report and Re-Registration are due January 27, 2003. However, these reports are due every two years, so they are not required until January 27, 2004. ■

## 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**

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

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

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 TCEQ rule and policy making; and
- communicating technical information in plain language.

***SBLGA is entirely separate  
from TCEQ'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)**

Mandy Ellifritz 915/698-6104

### **Region 4 (Dallas/Ft. Worth)**

Mike Smithson 817/588-5836

Melinda Houlihan 817/588-5868

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

Kevin Glanton 903/535-5133

Cynthia Skief 903/535-5158

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

Pamela Aguirre 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

Polly Porter 254/761-3039

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

Charlie Adams 409/899-8788

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

Scott Wiedeman 512/239-7015

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

Clarence Gray 713/767-3582

Cynthia Williams 713/767-3549

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

Christine Bergren 210/403-4028

Lynn Lindsay 210/403-4039

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

Glenda Swierc 361/825-3421

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

Kevin Ayarzagoitia 956/389-7425

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

Carmen Ramirez 956/721-8457

**U P C O M I N G E V E N T S**

**Fleet Maintenance Workshop**

Corpus Christi, April 8, 2003;  
Glenda Swierc, 361/825-3421

Waco, April 23, 2003;  
Elaine Alexander, 254/761-3044

**Environmental Management Systems Implementation for Local Governments**

Brownsville, April 9-11, 2003;  
David James, 512/239-3184

**Environmental Management Systems Implementation for Small and Medium Businesses**

Brownsville, April 9-11, 2003;  
David James, 512/239-3184

Fort Worth, April 16-18, 2003; David James, 512/239-3184

**RCRA Workshop**

Laredo, April 25, 2003;  
Carmen Ramirez, 956/721-8457

Abilene, May 13, 2003;  
Mandy Ellifritz, 915/698-6104

Waco, May 21, 2003; Polly Porter, 254/761-3039

San Antonio, May 22, 2003;  
Christine Bergren, 210/403-4028

Austin, June 17, 2003;  
Scott Wiedeman, 512/239-7015

**TCEQ Environmental Trade Fair**

Austin, May 5-7, 2003;  
Dana Maccomb, 512/239-4745

**Small Business Environmental Assistance Workshop**

Victoria, April 23, 2003;  
Glenda Swierc, 361/825-3421

**Golden Triangle Small Business Advisory Committee (SBAC)**

Beaumont, May 22, 2003;  
Charlie Adams, 409/899-8788

**Dallas Small Business Advisory Committee (SBAC)**

Dallas, May 27, 2003;  
Melinda Houlihan, 817/588-5868

**Forth Worth Small Business Advisory Committee (SBAC)**

Fort Worth, June 4, 2003;  
Mike Smithson, 817/588-5868

**Compliance Advisory Panel (CAP)**

Austin, June 6, 2003;  
Christi Townsend 512/239-2213

**Houston Small Business Advisory Committee (SBAC)**

Houston, June 12, 2003;  
Cynthia Williams, 713/767-3549

*The Advocate is published quarterly 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 Commission on Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

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

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 COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**  
PO BOX 13087  
AUSTIN TX 78711-3087



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