

# The Advocate

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

PD-006/03-04

Volume 8, Issue 4 / October - December 2003

## Helping Improve Environmental Compliance Across Texas

Each year, the Small Business and Local Government Assistance program (SBLGA) answers technical questions, launches special initiatives, disseminates updates to rules, and helps communities address local environmental problems.

### Site Visit

One of our most popular and successful projects in fiscal year 2003 was the site visit program. For sites that qualify for the Compliance Commitment (C2) partnership, **scheduled inspections are waived for one year** by the TCEQ, the EPA, and local enforcement programs in Houston, Galveston, Dallas, and Fort Worth. To qualify as a C2 partner, a site first receives a confidential evaluation of its environmental compliance. After correcting any problems found during this initial visit, the site is reevaluated. If the site demonstrates complete compliance, it is certified as a C2 partner. In FY 2003

- more than 250 small business or local government site visits were conducted by SBLGA
- 27 sites demonstrated complete compliance on their follow-up visit and qualified as C2 partners.

### EnviroMentor

Another SBLGA program, EnviroMentor, matches participating sites with dedicated environmental

professionals who volunteer their time and expertise to help the sites achieve environmental compliance. In FY 2003, this group

- tallied over 340 volunteer hours
- helped 27 small businesses and local governments
- provided assistance valued at approximately \$31,000

### Outreach

In addition to providing one-on-one assistance, SBLGA launches special initiatives each year to help specific groups meet their environmental responsibilities. In FY 2003, we reached out to groups as diverse as public water systems, grease and grit handlers/trans-

porters, fleet operators, metal finishers, dry cleaners, and petroleum storage tank (PST) owners. Successful FY 2003 initiatives included:

- assisting Houston-area dry cleaners with EPA registration of perc machines, proper notification to local POTWs, and waste record keeping
- assisting local governments and school districts in the Harlingen area with PST rules including release detection and delivery certificate requirements

Each of these initiatives helped those entities participating achieve 100 percent compliance with the issues addressed.

### Workshops

Helping small businesses and local governments learn about and comply with new TCEQ rules is another service of SBLGA. When the TCEQ issued new storm water permit requirements, SBLGA's storm water team began spreading the word through 15 storm water presentations drawing 800 total participants. (Also see the Rules Roundup article in this issue.)

### Cleanups

Finally, SBLGA coordinates activities to address specific local environmental problems. In the El Paso area, for example, we helped plan and conduct 15 community cleanups. Attracting more than 400 participants, these cleanups resulted in the removal of:

- over 658 tons of waste
- more than 2300 illegally dumped tires

In total, SBLGA responded to over 6,700 small business and local government requests for environmental assistance in FY 2003. Our help encompassed such diverse areas as storm water permit requirements, air permit rules, wastewater treatment issues, and waste disposal regulations. What will be our top issues in FY 2004? That depends on you. Give us a call or, for more information on SBLGA projects and tools that can help you improve compliance, visit our Web site at [www.tceq.state.tx.us/exec/sbea/sblga.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/exec/sbea/sblga.html). ■



# Dry Cleaning Rules To Require Registration, Fees and New Standards

New legislation now requires dry cleaners to register with the TCEQ and pay new fees starting October 2003. The fees will establish a remediation fund to help pay for environmental cleanup of eligible contaminated dry cleaner sites.

## Registration Fees -

The first due date for registration fees is November 30, 2003. Annual registration fees are as follows:

- \$2,500 for a dry cleaning facility with gross annual receipts of more than \$100,000
- \$1,000 for dry cleaning drop stations owned by a dry cleaning facility
- \$250 for dry cleaning drop stations not owned by the owner of a dry cleaning facility
- \$250 for a dry cleaning facility with gross annual receipts of \$100,000 or less
- \$250 for eligible dry cleaning facilities that choose not to participate in the fund

Facilities using carbon dioxide do not have to pay a registration fee, but they must register. All dry cleaners in Texas must register.

## Opting Out -

Existing facilities that have never used perchloroethylene (PERC) may choose to opt out of the fund. They must:

- file an option to not participate by January 1, 2004, and
- declare (subject to penalty) that they have never used the solvent PERC at any facility in Texas, and won't use it in the future.

New dry cleaning facilities that decide to opt out—that begin operating on or between September 1, 2003, and December 31, 2003—will additionally have to provide the TCEQ a \$500,000

bond or other financial assurance to guarantee costs of any possible, future corrective action that may be required at the facility.

The decision to opt out is final and will not be offered after January 1, 2004.

## Fees on Solvents -

In addition to the registration fee, there are fees on dry-cleaning solvents. Dry cleaners are required to pay a \$15 per gallon fee for PERC and \$5 per gallon fee for other solvents to the solvent distributor, who will in turn pay the fee to the TCEQ. There is no fee for carbon dioxide.

Contact your local Compliance Assistance Specialist for more information, or call 1-800-447-2827. An Internet site is also available at [www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/permitting/remd/vcp/dryclean.html](http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/permitting/remd/vcp/dryclean.html). ■



## Rules Roundup

SBLGA tracks new rules that could potentially affect small businesses and local governments. Here are brief summaries of some of the new rules that could affect your business.

- Construction Storm Water Permit - authorizes discharges of storm water associated with construction activities. Some construction sites may be eligible for a waiver depending on where the site is located and the size of the site.
- Standard Air Permit for Hot Mix Asphalt Plants - replaces the permit-by-rule for hot mix asphalt plants. The standard permit applies to both temporary and permanent hot mix asphalt plants that have a production rate of 400 tons per hour or less. Included in the standard permit are distance limitations for property lines, opacity and visible emission limitations, and requirements to minimize dust emissions.
- Pet Cemetery and Animal Crematory Rule - includes burial requirements for pet cemeteries and exempts pet cemeteries from obtaining authorizations under the Municipal Solid Waste rules. The rule also allows for a Municipal Solid Waste permit-by-rule for some small crematories.
- Public Water Supply Minimum Capacity Rule - explains the conditions under which the TCEQ can establish capacity operating levels higher than the minimum requirements expressed in the rule, including repeated customer complaints regarding inadequate pressure or requests from customers for a capacity evaluation. The rule also specifies minimum requirements for water system capacity for wholesale water suppliers that also supply retail connections, responsibilities for meeting production requirements for public water systems and wholesalers, and the process for a public water system to request an alternative capacity requirement.
- Concrete Crushing Facilities - prohibits these facilities from locating or operating within 440 yards of any building used as a single or multi-family residence, school, or place of worship.

For more information on these or any TCEQ rules, please contact the Small Business and Local Government Assistance Program at 1-800-447-2827. ■

# TCEQ Publications Available

To learn more about how to cost-effectively manage waste, the following publications are available.

- Tool Kit of Resources on Managing Municipal Solid Waste (GI-294) - helps local governments properly manage and dispose of municipal solid waste.
- Industrial and Hazardous Waste: Rules and Regulations for Small Quantity Generators (RG-234) - explains environmental regulations for businesses that generate, handle, store, treat or dispose of hazardous waste.
- Environmental Guide for Texas Printers (RG-392) - suggests ways printers can reduce waste and ensure compliance with environmental regulations.
- Environmental Guide for Surface Coaters (RG-404) - offers ways to save money through waste reduction, and contains appendixes with useful examples.
- Let's Tackle the Grease in this Kitchen poster (GI-290) - illustrates the do's and don'ts of handling grease and how to prevent grease from blocking sewer lines for food service facilities. ■



## 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)

Ross Muir 806/468-0505

### Region 2 (Lubbock)

Celeste Hoehne 806/788-5005

### Region 3 (Abilene)

Mandy Ellifritz 325/698-6104

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

Mike Smithson 817/588-5836  
Melinda Houlihan 817/588-5868

### Region 5 (Tyler)

Kathy Bell 903/535-5158

### Region 6 (El Paso)

Pamela Aguirre 915/834-4971

### Region 7 (Midland)

Kit Owens 432/620-6116

### Region 8 (San Angelo)

George Ortiz 325/481-8061

### 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  
Neftali Buenrostro 956/389-7426

### Region 16 (Laredo)

Carmen Ramirez 956/721-8457

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 18-20, Austin, **Environmental Management System Workshop**, Larissa Peter, 512/239-3766

Dec. 7-8, Austin, **UST Management & Compliance Assistance Seminar**, Diane Stallings, 512/239-6333

Dec. 16-17, Austin, **Air Permitting Seminar**, Sue Phillips, 512/239-6327

## SBAC Meetings

Nov. 14, Austin, Small Business Compliance Advisory Panel, Christi Townsend, 512/239-2213

Nov. 16, Beaumont, Golden Triangle Small Business Advisory Committee, Charlie Adams, 409/899-8788

Dec. 3, Fort Worth, Small Business Advisory Committee, Mike Smithson, 817/588-5836

Dec. 9, Dallas, Small Business Advisory Committee, Melinda Houlihan, 817/588-5868

Dec. 11, Houston, Small Business Advisory Committee, Cynthia Williams, 713/767-3549

## Compost Workshops

Registration contact - Dana Macomb, 512/239-4745

Dec. 4, Corpus Christi • Dec. 9, Sherman • Dec. 11, Mesquite

## Construction Storm Water Workshop

Nov. 18, Harlingen, Neftali Buenrostro, 956/389-7426

Nov. 20, Bryan/College Station, Elaine Alexander, 254/761-3044

Dec. 11, San Antonio, Lynn Lindsay, 210/403-4039

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

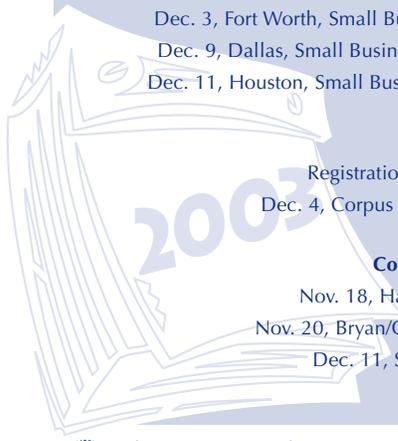
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**Toll Free**  
**1-800-447-2827**  
(All calls are confidential)  
**Fax: 512/239-1065**

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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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