

The Advocate

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

PD-006/06-01

Volume 11, Issue 1 / January - March 2006

2006 Due Dates to Remember

January

- 1 ● Waste Reduction Policy Act plan
- 25● Industrial and hazardous waste annual summary report (paper filers)
 - Used oil collection center report and re-registration
- 30● Drinking water investor owned utilities, districts, water supply corporations, and counties remit regulatory assessment fees
- 31● Stage II vapor recovery exemption confirmation form Recycled-Content Newsprint Survey

February

- 1 ● Dry cleaners quarterly registration fee payment

March

- 1 ● Water rights holders annual water use report
 - Scrap tire transporter annual activity report
 - Scrap tire and storage site combined annual activity report
 - Industrial & hazardous waste annual summary report (electronic filers)
 - Medical waste transporter and self transporter annual waste report
 - On-site treatment of medical waste on mobile vehicles report
- 31● Benchmark monitoring summary for storm water general permit holders
 - Air Emissions Inventory

April

- 1 ● Investor-owned utilities service and financial report

May

- 1 ● Dry cleaners quarterly registration fee payment

June

- 15● Liquid waste transporter annual summary
- 30● Semiannual report for categorical industrial users that discharge to a publicly owned treatment works lacking an approved pretreatment program

July

- 1 ● Toxics Release Inventory (TRI)
 - Water systems: Consumer Confidence Reports (CCR) to customers and Certificate of Delivery to TCEQ
 - Waste Reduction Policy Act annual progress report

August

- 1 ● Dry cleaners: quarterly registration fee payment
- 31● New source review permit applications for formerly grandfathered facilities

September

- 1 ● Liquid waste transporter fees
 - Petroleum storage fees assessed

December

- 31● Semiannual report for categorical industrial users that discharge to a publicly owned treatment works lacking an approved pretreatment program

Water District Reports

- Financial report is due within 45 days of the end of its fiscal year
- Audit report & audit filing affidavit is due within 135 days of the end of its fiscal year

Petroleum Delivery Certificate Renewal Schedule

If Owner # Ends In:	Certificate Expires:	Renewal Date:	Renewed Delivery Certificate Posted By:
1	January 31	January 2	February 1
2	Last Day of February	January 30	March 1
3	March 31	March 2	April 1
4	April 30	April 1	May 1
5	May 31	May 2	June 1
6	June 30	June 1	July 1
7	July 31	July 2	August 1
8	August 31	August 2	September 1
9	September 30	September 1	October 1
0	October 31	October 2	November 1

More Businesses to Submit Emissions Inventories

As part of national and state efforts to protect human health and the environment, both federal and state laws require companies to prepare and submit an annual emissions inventory. The emissions inventory helps the TCEQ identify the types of emission sources in an area, and the amount of each pollutant emitted. The data is used for calculating targets for emissions reduction, developing control strategies, assessing fees, and for meeting federal requirements.

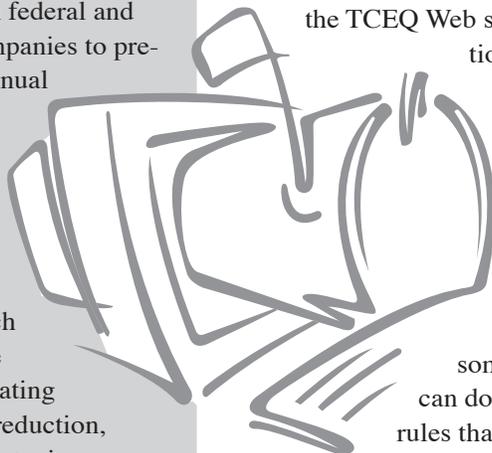
In the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) area, Ellis, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, and Rockwall counties now have been designated as non-attainment areas, meaning the quality of their air does not meet federal standards. As a result, more sites in these counties will be required to submit an emissions inventory. Sites in counties that are in nonattainment for ozone are required to submit an annual emissions inventory if:

- they emit 10 tons per year (tpy) of volatile organic compounds (VOCs);
- they emit 25 tpy of nitrogen oxides (NOx);
- they have the potential to emit at least 10 tpy of any single hazardous air pollutant (HAP) or 25 tpy of all HAPs combined; or
- they have the potential to emit 100 tpy of any contaminant.

To help companies new to the emissions-inventory process, the TCEQ will hold a workshop in the DFW area on February 7, 2006. The workshop will be held at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Irving, Texas from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. ■

Want to Stay Up to Date on TCEQ Rule Changes?

TCEQ has a new way to communicate rule changes. You can join a “list serve” (group e-mail list) and get an e-mail letting you know when new information about rules posts on the TCEQ Web site. In addition,



the TCEQ updates a special Web page that reviews rules in the development stage. In

some cases, you can download draft rules that are open for the public to comment.

To sign up for the list serve, go to “What’s New in TCEQ Rules” at

www.tceq.state.tx.us/rules/listserv.html.

Rules on the following topics are in the works:

- mercury-containing equipment
- outdoor burning
- municipal solid waste
- penalties for environmental violations
- boilers
- animal carcass incinerators
- Certificates of Convenience and Necessity for water systems
- concrete batch plants

If you join the list serve, you will get timely updates on these rules, including notices on opportunities to comment.

Join now! ■

NEW! Mercury Switch Collection Program for Auto Salvage Facilities

Until they were phased out in model-year 2003 vehicles, switches that included mercury were used in many American automobiles. These mercury-containing switches were most often used for the convenience lights found in the vehicle’s trunk and under the hood.

Through a voluntary program created by the Texas Legislature under HB 2793, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers are hoping to assist auto salvage facilities in removing these mercury convenience switches from vehicles before they are shredded for recycling. If these mercury-containing switches are not removed from scrap vehicles, the mercury they contain can be emitted into the atmosphere when the vehicle is smelted.

By participating in this program, auto salvage facilities will not have to pay any of the costs associated with storing, shipping, and processing the mercury convenience switches they remove from vehicles they process. As a part of this program, the Alliance is providing collection buckets to participating auto-salvage facilities along with instructions on locating and removing the switches from the automobiles they process. The Alliance will pay postage for filled buckets to be mailed to an approved processing facility where the mercury will be recycled. Because this is a voluntary program, facilities participating in this important program can qualify for regulatory incentives authorized through HB 2793.

The Alliance will provide updated information and resources regarding mercury convenience-switch collection on its Web site at www.48secondsolution.org over the next several months. In the meantime, any auto-salvage or scrap metal recycling facility that would like to participate in this voluntary program can contact the Small Business and Environmental Assistance Division at 512/239-3100 or 1-800-447-2827 to request a bucket or additional information. ■

Are You Concerned about Energy Costs?

Texas Industries of the Future (IOF) has developed a step-by-step assessment manual that helps small and medium-sized manufacturers identify and screen potential energy efficiency projects. The manual comes with a calculator that allows you to estimate energy, cost, and emissions reductions of potential projects at your plant, based on data you input.

A team from The University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M reviewed 16 projects and included them in the manual. The projects include compressed air, combustion and steam, motors, lighting, and chiller activities. The manual also describes other resources available to manufacturers looking for ways to reduce energy costs. You can download the manual and calculator at no cost from the Texas IOF Web site at <http://TexasIOF.ces.utexas.edu>.

Manufacturers typically find cost savings of 10 to 20 percent on their energy bills by implementing projects with a less-than-two-year payback. Funding for the manual and calculator was provided by the TCEQ and the U.S. Department of Energy. ■

Free Training for Water Operators

The Texas Small Public Water System Training Program provides free training to operators of small community or nontransient noncommunity public water systems. If your water system serves 3,300 or fewer persons your operators are eligible to participate in this program.

Benefits of this program include:

- training for up to six operators per system;
- each operator may take up to three approved courses for each operator **every year**; and
- paid licensing fees for new licenses, renewals of current licenses, or upgrades to the next level.

For more information, call the Texas Small Public Water System Training Program at 888-822-5349 or visit the Web site at www.txsmallwater.org.

The Texas Small Public Water System Training Program also has a question and answer forum on its Web site. Operators and owners may use this forum to ask each other questions on how to handle day-to-day operations or critical issues that arise. Log on to www.txsmallwater.org and register for this free service. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

Small Business Advisory Committee (SBAC) Meetings

Dallas SBAC - February 7, 2006 - Trish Shaw 817/588-5836

Fort Worth SBAC - February 8, 2006 - Tasha Burns, 817/588-5868

Golden Triangle SBAC - February 9, 2006 - Charlie Adams, 409/898-3838

SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS, AND CONFERENCES

Emissions Inventory Seminar

February 7, 2006, DFW - Sue Phillips

Environmental Trade Fair and Conference

May 9-11, 2006, Austin

Texas Environmental Excellence Awards

May 10, 2006, Austin - Dana Macomb

Call 512/239-3150 or e-mail events@tceq.state.tx.us
for more information on these events.

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Region 15 - Harlingen

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Ronnie Garza 956/389-7425

Region 16 - Laredo

Carmen Ramirez 956/721-8457

The Advocate

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You are currently on our subscription list to receive the quarterly rules update, The Advocate. Instead of receiving the paper copy in the mail, you now have the option of receiving e-mails from us when we post the latest issue in PDF format on our Web site at www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/pd/pd-006.html.

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YOU CAN CALL ON US

Get free, confidential help with questions on air, water, waste, or pollution prevention issues from this special section of the TCEQ.

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.



The TCEQ is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. The agency does not allow discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation or veteran status. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this document may be requested in alternate formats by contacting the TCEQ at 512/239-0028, Fax 512/239-4488 or 1-800-RELAY-TX (TDD), or by writing P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087.

In This Issue

2006 Dates to Remember

Want to Stay Up to Date on TCEQ Rule Changes?

More Businesses to Submit Emissions Inventories

Free Training for Water Operators

Are You Concerned about Energy Costs?

NEW! Mercury Switch Collection Program for Auto Salvage Facilities

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