

The Advocate

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

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Industrial Storm Water Discharge Permit Reissued: Apply Today!

The Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) (TXR050000) for industrial storm water discharges has been reissued and became effective on August 14.

What should you know about renewing your permit?

Operators authorized under this general permit will be required to submit a new Notice of Intent (NOI) or No Exposure Certification (NEC). The old forms will not be accepted.

Deadlines to submit an NOI or NEC are November 13, 2006, for paper applications and December 12, 2006, for electronic applications.

Permit changes include:

- increasing the annual water quality fee to \$200;
- adding a fee of \$100 to file a No Exposure Certification form;
- removing the requirement that the owner of a facility sign the application for permit coverage;
- modifying the performance schedule of quarterly visual monitoring to take place in the daylight during normal hours of operation;
- revising the requirements to include reporting results of compliance with numeric effluent limits in Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs);

- revising the benchmark reporting requirements;
- adding a requirement to maintain a rain gauge for determination of representative storm events; and
- revising Sector J, relating to Mineral Mining and Processing

Facilities, requiring alternative permit coverage for certain quarries.

For a copy of the new permit or application forms, please visit the TCEQ web site at www.tceq.state.tx.us/nav/permits/sw_industrial.html. ■

Use the New Storm Water e-Authorization!

Beginning August 2006, operators seeking coverage under the Construction General Permit (CGP) (TXR150000) or the Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) (TXR050000) will be able to obtain coverage in 30 minutes using the new e-Authorization system.

By using the State of Texas Environmental Electronic Reporting System (STEERS), operators will be able to obtain the following storm water authorizations:

- CGP Authorizations
 - Notice of Intent (NOI)
 - Notice of Termination (NOT)
- MSGP Authorizations
 - Notice of Intent (NOI)
 - No Exposure Certification (NEC)
 - Notice of Termination (NOT)
 - Renewal NOIs & NECs

Operators seeking permit coverage or terminating permit coverage will receive an electronic acknowledgment confirming their transaction.

To learn more about e-Authorizations, sign up for STEERS, or to read about other e-Services offered by the TCEQ, visit www.tceq.state.tx.us/e-services/. ■



Rules Roundup: What Changed in Fiscal Year 2006?

SBLGA tracks rules and permits that are being developed, revised, or renewed. These are the highlights from this past fiscal year:

- **Compliance History:** Changes to the compliance history rule are being considered in response to the Enforcement Process Review.
- **Administrative Penalties:** Changes to penalty calculation procedures are being considered in response to the Enforcement Process Review.
- **Dry Cleaner Registration and Fee:** In response to legislation from the last session, the TCEQ revised the dry cleaner rules to establish new deadlines, alter fees, and clarify requirements for sites that are not participating in the program.
- **Uniform Hazardous Waste Manifest:** The EPA mandated that one national uniform manifest be used to track waste shipments. This rule was adopted at the August 9 commissioners' agenda meeting and the new manifest will be available for use on September 5, 2006.
- **Municipal Solid Waste (MSW):** Significant and wide-ranging

changes occurred to Chapter 330 of the Texas Administrative Code for the management of solid waste. These changes were adopted in March and are being implemented.

- **Outdoor Burning:** This rule, which allows property owners to burn trees, brush, limbs, and other vegetative matter under certain conditions, was adopted in June.
- **Petroleum Storage Tanks:** The TCEQ proposed amendments related to the definition of release to subsurface soils, removal of common carrier liability with respect to deliveries into underground storage tanks, extension of reimbursement fund deadlines, application for transfer to the Petroleum Storage Tank State Lead Program, and reimbursement of non-preapproved claims for corrective action expenses. These rule changes are pending adoption at the October 18 commissioners' agenda meeting.
- **Universal Waste Designation for Mercury-Containing Equipment:** This rule adds mercury-containing equipment

to the list of universal waste.

This rule was adopted in July.

For more information on any of these rules and a complete list of all rule packages being developed by the Commission please visit the TCEQ Rule Projects web page at www5.tceq.state.tx.us/rules/ or contact the SBLGA hotline at 1-800-447-2827. ■



Electronic Rule Comments are Only a Click Away

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has a new way for you to comment on proposed rulemaking. Now you can submit your comments electronically using eComments. After your comments are submitted, you will receive an e-mail confirmation of your remarks. Your comments will then be reviewed by TCEQ staff. Visit www.tceq.state.tx.us/rules/whatsnew.html for additional information.

Here are some tips to help you comment effectively:

- Identify who you are and why the regulation affects you;
- Explain why you agree or disagree with the proposed rulemaking; and
- Offer alternatives, solutions, and specific language for your suggested changes. ■



Do You Owe Penalties or Fees to the TCEQ?

If you do, you should know that any application you submit **will not** be processed. Effective September 1, 2006, the TCEQ will no longer issue, amend, or renew permits, registrations, certifications, or licenses to an entity or person who owes the TCEQ penalties or fees. For more information, visit the TCEQ web site at www.tceq.state.tx.us/agency/delin/index.html. ■

Message from SBEA Director: *Individual Responsibility Can Make a Difference*

We can all recognize that environmental stewardship is important to us, both as individuals and as business owners. As individuals, we can take steps in our daily lives that not only help improve the environment, but help our pocketbooks as well. For example, make sure vehicles are properly maintained, ensure the tires are properly inflated, and get rid of any unnecessary weight from the trunk, like that bag of golf clubs. All of these efforts combined can improve fuel efficiency by up to 20 percent.

This same philosophy holds true in our work practices. Evaluate your business operations and consider making some simple changes that will easily pay for themselves: install timers on your hot water heaters and air conditioners, so they turn off during closed business hours; purchase vehicles that achieve 40-plus miles per gallon when replacing older company vehicles; and also consider schedules that allow dependable staff to telecommute one day or more per week. These and many other work practices can complement a good business work plan, and while in the past these have been promoted as environmental programs, we have found that these practices will also help keep money where it's most needed—in your bank account.

I encourage each of you to contact your local TCEQ Small Business & Local Government representative who is always able to provide great cost-effective pollution prevention ideas. Through all of us participating, we can help ensure a clean environment in Texas for years to come. ■

*Matthew R. Baker, P.E.
Director of Small Business
and Environmental Assistance*

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

Small Business Advisory Committee (SBAC) Meeting

Beaumont • September 14, 2006

Charlie Adams, 409/899-8788

Water Quality/Storm Water Seminar

September 14-15, 2006 • Round Rock

Jeanne Cordell, 512/239-3150

Advanced Air Permitting Seminar: Authorization of Emissions from Maintenance, Startup, and Shutdown Activities

September 26-28, 2006 • Austin

Anna Rodriguez, 512/239-1307

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

Local Specialists are Ready to Help You!

You have free, confidential help
right in your back yard.

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

Tasha Burns, 817/588-5868

David Hudson, 817/588-5929

Christopher Meeks, 817/588-5836

Region 5 - Tyler

Kathy Bell, 903/535-5158

Region 6 - El Paso

Pamela Aguirre, 915/834-4974

Region 7 - Midland

Janet Prim, 432/620-6116

Region 8 - San Angelo

Chandra Eggemeyer, 325/481-8061

Region 9 - Waco

Polly Porter 254/761-3039

Region 10 - Beaumont

Charlie Adams, 409/899-8788

Region 11 - Austin

Will Wyman, 512/239-7015

Region 12 - Houston

Clarence Gray, 713/767-3582

Cynthia Williams, 713/767-3549

Region 13 - San Antonio

Carol Avery, 210/403-4076

Ann Marie Callery-Sims, 210/403-4092

George Ortiz, 210/403-4039

Region 14 - Corpus Christi

Glenda Swierc, 361/825-3421

Region 15 - Harlingen

Imelda Pena, 956/389-7426

Jonathan Diaz, 956/389-7428

Region 16 - Laredo

Carmen Ramirez, 956/721-8457

The Advocate

The Advocate is published quarterly by the Small Business and Local Government Assistance (SBLGA) Program of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

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.

If you would prefer the e-mail instead of the printed copy, please e-mail us at sbap@tceq.state.tx.us. Be sure to let us know the name your subscription is under and the e-mail address you would prefer us to send to, if different from the one you use to contact us.

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

Industrial Storm Water Discharge Permit Reissued: Apply Today!

Use the New Storm Water e-Authorization!

Rules Roundup: What Changed in Fiscal Year 2006?

Do You Owe Penalties or Fees to the TCEQ?

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Message from SBEA Director

**Toll Free and Confidential
1-800-447-2827**

On the Web at:
www.sblga.info

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