

The Advocate



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

PD-006/09-04

Volume 14, Issue 4 / October - December 2009

Annual Fees and Caps Increase for Water and Wastewater Authorizations

Does your facility receive a bill from the TCEQ related to water rights, public water supply, or wastewater discharge? If so, you may see increases in the following three water-related fees in your annual billing:

- **Consolidated Water Quality Fee**

(Account number format 230xxxxx)

Applicable to holders of current **individual** wastewater permits.

Billing cycle:
October 2009

- **Public Health Service Fee**

(Account number format 9xxxxxxx) Applicable to public water systems of any type. Billing cycle:
November 2009

- **Water Use Assessment Fee** (Account number format 06xxxxxR) Applicable to holders of water rights except as exempted by 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) 21.3(c). Billing cycle:
January 2010

On July 8, 2009, the commission adopted changes to these water-related fees, which became effective on July 30, 2009. Although these fees generate a significant percentage of revenue for the TCEQ's water-program activities, many of them have not increased in several years.

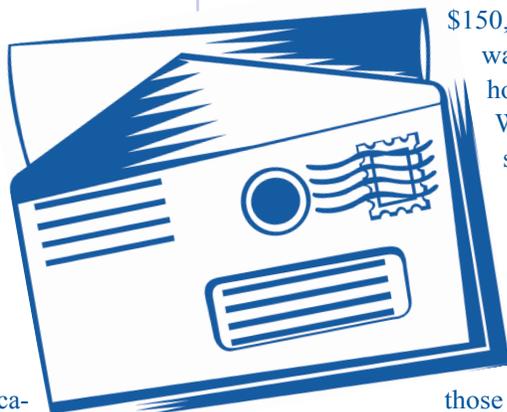
In addition, the 81st Legislature increased the statutory cap for the Water Use Assessment Fee and the Consolidated Water Quality Fee from \$75,000 to \$100,000, with a provision for an annual adjustment based on the U.S. Consumer Price Index up to a

\$150,000 cap. For water rights holders, the Water Use Assessment Fee Exemption provided in the Water Code still will be in effect for those who pay a

Consolidated Water Quality Fee for a wastewater permit.

For detailed information about the increase of water fees and how it affects your annual billing, visit the TCEQ's Web site at <www.tceq.state.tx.us/agency/waterfees.html>. For assistance with the following fees, please call or e-mail the appropriate program area listed below:

- **Consolidated Water Quality Fee**, 512-239-4671 or e-mail <wqap@tceq.state.tx.us>
- **Water Use Assessment Fee**, 512-239-6682 or e-mail <wateruse@tceq.state.tx.us>



- **Public Health Services Fee**, 512-239-4691 or e-mail <pdws@tceq.state.tx.us> ■

Stay Tuned Petroleum Storage Tank (PST) Workshops Coming Soon!

Coming in 2010, the Small Business and Local Government Assistance (SBLGA) section of the TCEQ will host free workshops throughout Texas to explain how owners and operators can use the TCEQ's newest guidance document, PST Super Guide: A Comprehensive Guide to Compliance in Texas (RG-475). The workshop and the new publication will help owners and operators comply with state and federal petroleum storage tank (PST) requirements. You can download the publication via the agency's Web site at <www.tceq.state.tx.us>. Click on "Publications," then in the "Publication Number" field, enter "475."

We will update readers with the workshop locations and dates in the next issue of *The Advocate*. For additional PST compliance information, visit our Web site at <www.sblga.info>. ■

2010 Dates to Remember

The TCEQ requires a number of reports, plans, and fees at different times throughout the year. To give small businesses and local governments a handy guide, the following list gives due dates for common TCEQ reports and fees. Please remember that this list may not be all inclusive; also, these items will not be applicable to all entities.

JANUARY

- 1** • Waste Reduction Policy Act: Executive Summary of Five-Year Pollution Prevention Plan, every fifth year
 - Community public water systems serving at least 100,000 people: Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE) Report
- 10** • Groundwater or purchased water systems: Disinfectant Level Quarterly Operating Report (DLQOR)
- 20** • Wastewater Discharge: Biomonitoring Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) if applicable
- 22** • Texas Emission Reduction Plan (TERP) usage reports from grant recipients
- 25** • Industrial and hazardous waste: annual summary report (paper filers)
 - Used-oil collection center: report every year
 - Used-oil filter handlers: renew registration and report in even-numbered years
- 30** • Water and wastewater investor-owned utilities, districts, water supply corporations, and affected counties: regulatory assessment fees
 - Dry cleaners: quarterly registration fee

FEBRUARY

- 15** • Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO): annual report

MARCH

- 1** • Water rights holder: annual water-use report
 - Scrap-tire transporter: annual activity report
 - Combined scrap tire and storage site: annual activity report
 - Industrial and hazardous waste: annual summary report (electronic filers)

- Medical waste transporter and self transporter: annual waste report
- Medical waste: annual registration and summary
- Tier II reports
- 31** • Multi-sector general permit (MSGP)
 - ◆ Benchmark monitoring summary
 - ◆ Discharge monitoring reports (DMRs) on numeric effluent limit (annual hazardous metals)
 - ◆ DMRs on sector-specific, numeric effluent limits
- Air Emissions Inventory
- Annual report on air emissions events

APRIL

- 1** • Investor-owned or privately owned water and wastewater: annual report
- Community public water systems serving between 50,000 to 99,999 people: Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE) sampling (if required to do IDSE sampling)
- Any system providing water to a community water system shall deliver the applicable Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) to receiving systems
- 10** • Groundwater or purchased water systems: DLQOR
- 20** • Wastewater Discharge: Biomonitoring Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) if applicable
- 30** • Dry cleaner: quarterly registration fee

JUNE

- 15** • Liquid waste transporter: annual summary
 - Sludge Transporter: renewal of registration, every two years; annual summary report
- 30** • Categorical industrial users that discharge to a publicly owned treatment works without an approved pre-treatment program: semiannual report

JULY

- 1** • Toxics Release Inventory
 - Water systems: CCR to customers and Certificate of Delivery to TCEQ
 - Waste Reduction Policy Act: annual progress report
 - Community public water systems serving between 50,000 to 99,999 people: IDSE report

- All community water systems: CCR report due to customers
- 10** • Groundwater or purchased water systems: DLQOR
- 18** • TERP usage reports for grant recipients
- 20** • Wastewater Discharge: Biomonitoring Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) if applicable
- 30** • Dry cleaner: quarterly registration fee

AUGUST

- 1** • Dry cleaner: annual renewal registration form

SEPTEMBER

- 1** • Liquid waste transporter fee
 - Storm water general permit: annual water-quality fees assessed for MSGP & Phase II municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s)
- 30** • Wastewater irrigation: annual soil analyses and irrigation effluent analyses (or as otherwise established in the authorization)

OCTOBER

- 1** • Community public water systems serving between 10,000 to 49,999 people: IDSE sampling (if required to do IDSE sampling)
- 10** • Groundwater or purchased water systems: DLQOR
- 20** • Wastewater Discharge: Biomonitoring Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR)
- 30** • Dry cleaner: quarterly registration fee

NOVEMBER

- 11** • Phase II MS4: annual report
- 15** • Municipal solid waste facilities: annual report

DECEMBER

- 30** • All public drinking-water systems: public health service fee
- 31** • Categorical industrial users that discharge to a publicly owned treatment works without an approved pre-treatment program: semiannual report
 - MSGP and Phase II MS4s: annual water quality fees ■

2010 Underground Storage Tank Delivery Certificate Renewal Schedule

If the owner # ends in:	Certificate Expires:	Renewal Date:	Renewed Delivery Certificate Posted By:
1	Jan. 31	Jan. 2	Feb. 1
2	Feb. 28	Jan. 30	Mar. 1
3	Mar. 31	Mar. 2	Apr. 1
4	Apr. 30	Apr. 1	May 1
5	May 31	May 2	June 1
6	June 30	June 1	July 1
7	July 31	July 2	Aug. 1
8	Aug. 31	Aug. 2	Sept. 1
9	Sept. 30	Sept. 1	Oct. 1
10	Oct. 31	Oct. 2	Nov. 1

Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) – Electronic Reporting System Cuts Cost and Saves Time

NetDMR, the TCEQ's modernized online electronic reporting system, is up and running for facilities that submit Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) under a Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit. For efficiency and flexibility, NetDMR offers an upgrade over both paper filing and State of Texas Environmental Electronic Reporting System (STEERS), which is quick, secure, and without unnecessary paper or delivery costs. Users receive confirmation upon electronic filing, retain access to the DMRs for five years, and can edit them after filing. The system automatically checks for errors and validates completeness before you submit reports using the convenient, electronic signature feature. NetDMR provides the ability to import monitoring data for multiple outfalls at the same time and displays reporting parameters in the correct fields for each outfall after

the first form submittal. Please note that you no longer can submit DMRs via STEERS; however, you still may access previously submitted reports.

To learn more about how NetDMR can ease discharge reporting for your facility, visit the TCEQ Web site at www.tceq.state.tx.us/compliance/netdmr/netdmr.html. Have questions or need assistance setting up your NetDMR account? Call 512-239-eDMR (3367) or e-mail netdmr@tceq.state.tx.us. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS:
Please see the SBLGA Web site for Small Business Advisory Committee information:
www.sblga.info

Do You Operate Under a TPDES Domestic Wastewater Permit?

Under an agreement between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the TCEQ, Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) permit holders should expect to see changes to domestic wastewater permitting requirements. Among the changes, operators will begin conducting mandatory sampling for bacteria and effluent to meet limits that comply with proposed rule changes. This rule-making applies to new, amended, and renewed domestic wastewater permits, and requires compliance at the permit's issuance. If approved by TCEQ commissioners, the rules will become effective no later than **Dec. 31, 2009**.

Already, the TCEQ has begun to include bacteria limits in certain TPDES permits for discharging to bacteria-impaired water bodies. The TCEQ's Water Quality Division recommends that facilities evaluate their treatment systems now to avoid permit excursions when their permits are updated with bacteria limits. Areas of potential concern include:

- undersized, or short-circuiting, chlorine-contact chambers,
- natural or pond system's **actual** capacity due to sludge buildup and sedimentation resulting in less than 21-day retention time,
- inappropriate sample locations, and
- short sample-hold-times for approved, bacteria analytical methods.

For more information on the Bacteria Effluent Limitations rulemaking, visit <http://www5.tceq.state.tx.us/rules/> or contact the Water Quality Division at 512-239-4671. ■



SMALL BUSINESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSISTANCE DIVISION, MC 106
TEXAS COMMISSION ON
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
PO BOX 13087
AUSTIN TX 78711-3087

PRSRRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
AUSTIN, TX
PERMIT NO. 1967

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CALL ON US

Toll Free & Confidential: **1-800-447-2827**

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;
- communicating technical information in plain language; and
- giving small business and local government a voice in TCEQ rule and policy making.

On the Web at: www.sblga.info

SBLGA is entirely separate from TCEQ's enforcement program.

*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 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 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.

Disclaimer: This regulatory guidance publication does not take the place of the full, official TCEQ rules. It is intended only as a general explanation about selected parts of the rules. If you have questions about any information contained in this periodical, contact us at 800-447-2827.

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



The TCEQ is an equal opportunity 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.