

The Advocate



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

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Industrial Storm Water Discharge Permit Up for Renewal

The Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) (TXR050000) for industrial storm water discharges will expire on Aug. 14, 2011. The process of reissuing the MSGP includes initial review and approval by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) followed by a public comment period. The TCEQ expects to issue a final permit in July or August of 2011 to coincide with the expiration date.



Proposed changes to the permit include technical clarifi-

cations to Sector J – Mineral Mine and Dressing; Sector K – Hazardous Waste Storage; Sector L – Landfills; Sector O – Steam Electric Generating Facilities; and Sectors P, Q, and S – Transportation Facilities with regard to the vehicle and equipment maintenance areas. Several other changes are proposed to clarify the technical requirements of the permit. Also proposed are automatic authorizations for coverage of microbusinesses (small businesses, typically with fewer than 5 employees) that operate from a residence or shopping mall; publishing or design operations without printing processes; and general warehousing

and storage facilities without vehicle maintenance or equipment cleaning.

After the MSGP is renewed, operators authorized under this general permit will be required to submit a new Notice of Intent or No Exposure Certification along with an application fee. Changes regarding paper applications are also being considered. The fee for submitting a paper application may be increased and the number of days that provisional authorization begins for a paper application may be changed from two days to seven days.

To learn more about the MSGP renewal, please visit the TCEQ’s website at <www.tceq.state.tx.us>. ■

Regulations, Resources, and Guidance for Recycling Electronic Equipment Now Available

Are you involved in recycling electronics and would like additional information on what resources are available, and what rules and regulations apply? Regulations on electronics-recycling activities can vary depending on who generates the used electronics and how they are managed. The Small Business and Local Government Assistance section of the TCEQ developed a new Web page—“Regulations, Resources, and Guidance on Recycling Electronic Equipment”—to assist recyclers with making proper decisions on managing their materials. Information on the regulations, exemptions, and autho-

rizations required at recycling facilities are summarized on the page, and you also can find a new compliance checklist to use at your site. If you prefer a face-to-face visit, contact us to participate in our free and confidential one-time recycling facility site visit program. For more information, visit <www.TexasEnviroHelp.org>. Below the heading “Search by Industry,” click on “Electronics Recycling.” You can also call our hotline number, 800-447-2827, to speak to a compliance assistance specialist about meeting your TCEQ recycling requirements. ■

Check Out New Oil and Gas Assistance Tools

Do you have questions about oil and gas regulations? Our new oil and gas Web page could help you. It covers regulations on air, water, waste, and spills related to the oil and gas industry. The Web page also includes a link to Common Environmental Requirements for Regulated Oil and Gas Operations (RG-482), which discusses TCEQ regulations for upstream oil and gas sites. You can access these assistance tools by visiting <www.TexasEnviroHelp.org>. Below the heading “Search by Industry,” click on “Oil and Gas Facilities.” ■

How Can You Participate in the Rulemaking Process?

Have you thought about getting more involved in the development of TCEQ rules, but you weren't sure what the meetings were all about? You will hear the meetings called either a "stakeholder meeting" or a "public hearing." The type of meeting depends on the rule's stage in the process. The stakeholder meeting is informal and open to any interested person. The TCEQ rule team accepts comments during meetings and may make changes to the proposed rule based on stakeholder input. The TCEQ's staff will not formally respond to the comments collected during the stakeholder meeting.

A public hearing occurs after the stakeholder meeting and during the formal public comment period. The hearing consists of two parts: an informal discussion period and a formal comment period.

During the informal discussion period, the public is encouraged to ask questions of the TCEQ's staff. During the formal comment period of the meeting, members of the public may submit written comments or an oral statement about the proposed rule. These comments become a part of the official record. You also may submit written comments at any time

during the formal comment period at www5.tceq.state.tx.us/rules/ecomments/. The TCEQ will formally respond in writing to comments made during the formal comment period.

You can participate in rulemaking in several ways. Visit the TCEQ's "Participate in Rulemaking" Web page at www.tceq.state.tx.us/nav/rules/participate.html to get more information.

To find general information about the TCEQ's rules, you can visit the "Rules and Rulemaking" page at www.tceq.state.tx.us/nav/rules/rules_rulemaking.html. ■

TCEQ's Guidance, Please!

The Small Business and Local Government Assistance section offers free documents with straightforward and easy-to-understand information and guidance. The following are some of our recent updates or additions:

RG-480: Common Questions on Empty Waste Containers - Information for businesses that generate waste on how to manage, classify, and dispose of empty waste containers.

RG-485: Emergency and Temporary Use of Wells for Public Water Supplies - Rules and procedures for converting wells to temporary use to supply the public when other sources are unavailable.

Water Regulations Checklists (available on the TCEQ's website www.TexasEnviroHelp.org) by clicking on the "Compliance Commitment (C2) Site Visit Program" link) - Checklists to help public drinking water systems determine whether they are in compliance with the TCEQ's regulations.

Revised RG-440 a, b, c: The Houston-Galveston-Brazoria Area Minor Source Rule: An Air Quality Rule for Equipment at Your Business - A series of three guides to assist owners of minor sources of nitrogen oxides—including boilers, process heaters, stationary engines, and turbines—with understanding the requirements of 30 TAC Chapter 117.

Changes to Offset Lithographic Printing Rules (available on the TCEQ's website at www.TexasEnviroHelp.org), below the heading "Search by Industry," click on "Printers") - An informational flyer that explains the changes to 30 TAC 115 as it applies to offset lithographic printing sources. Compliance for major sources is required by March 12, 2011, and for minor sources by March 12, 2012. ■

New Tool for Painters Now Offered on the Web

You'll find air permitting options in plain language in the TCEQ's new publication titled *Surface Coating Facilities: A Guide for Obtaining Air Authorization in Texas (RG-404)*. In this guide, small surface coaters (aka painters) will learn how to comply with the regulations stated in the permit by rule in 30 Texas Administrative Code 106.433 Surface Coat Facility. The guide also includes a worksheet that can help businesses calculate their air emissions from painting activities. The guide is available at www.TexasEnviroHelp.org or by calling 800-447-2827. ■

Local Compliance Assistance Specialists are Ready to Help You!

Free, confidential help in your backyard.

Region 1 - Amarillo
Patty Avery,
806-468-0505

Region 2 - Lubbock
Celeste Hoehne,
806-796-7642

Region 3 - Abilene
Mandy Ellifritz,
325-698-6104

Region 4 - Dallas-Ft. Worth
Tasha Burns,
817-588-5868
Lynn Owens,
817-588-5927
John Aquilino,
817-588-5836

Region 5 - Tyler
Jack Holsombach,
903-535-5158

Region 6 - El Paso
Pamela Aguirre,
915-834-4974

Region 7 - Midland
Janet Prim,
432-620-6116

Region 8 - San Angelo
Mandy Ellifritz,
325-698-6104

Region 9 - Waco
Polly Porter,
254-761-3039

Region 10 - Beaumont
Charlie Adams,
409-899-8788

Lori Palmer,
409-899-8789

Region 11 - Austin
Colin Barth,
512-239-7015

Region 12 - Houston
Matthew Boger,
713-767-3693
Cynthia Williams,
713-767-3549

Region 13 - San Antonio
Trish Esquivel,
210-403-4028
Laressa Wong,
210-403-4039
Nathan Weiss,
210-403-4092

Region 14 - Corpus Christi
Glenda Swierc,
361-825-3421

Region 15 - Harlingen
Jonathan Diaz,
956-389-7428
Imelda Peña,
956-389-7427

Region 16 - Laredo
Carmen Ramirez,
956-721-8457

Underground Storage Tank Operator Training Rules Coming Soon

Federal legislation requires the TCEQ to implement a training program for underground storage tank (UST) facility operators. TCEQ operator training rules should be finalized in early 2011, giving operators until August 8, 2012, to become certified. Each facility is required to train people responsible for the on-site operation and maintenance of UST systems by the deadline. Also included in the rule package are a few technical changes clarifying existing rules.

Operator Training includes three types of licenses:

- Class A operators oversee proper

operations of USTs, and manage resources and personnel to achieve compliance with all UST regulations.

- Class B operators ensure day-to-day implementation of all applicable requirements of the UST regulations.
- Class C operators typically control the dispensing of fuel and respond to alarms, releases, spills, overfills, or threats to the public or the environment.

Training Requirements:

- Class A and B operator training includes, but is not limited to, registration, system components, product compatibility, technical standards, recordkeeping, temporary and permanent

closure, and financial responsibility.

- Class C operator training must include emergency response procedures.

Training Providers:

- Class A and B operator training must be obtained through a TCEQ-approved training course.
- Class C operators may be trained by Class B operators.
- Due dates: Initial training by Aug. 8, 2012, and then within every three years from last training date.

To view the complete rule package, visit the “What’s New in TCEQ Rules” Web page at: <www.tceq.state.tx.us/rules/whatsnew.html>. ■

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

Small Business Advisory Committee (SBAC)

Feb. 24, *Time TBD*, Fort Worth SBAC, *Location TBD*

Contact: Lynn Owens, 817-588-5927

**Please note that the Dallas and Fort Worth SBAC meetings are held on the same date and time at the same location.*

Feb. 24, *Time TBD*, Dallas SBAC, *Location TBD*

Contact: John Aquilino, 817-588-5836

**Please note that the Dallas and Fort Worth SBAC meetings are held on the same date and time at the same location.*

Mar. 9, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m., Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission
2210 Eastex Freeway, Beaumont

Contact: Lori Palmer, 409-899-8789

Mar. 16, 10 a.m.–noon, Houston Galveston Area Council
3555 Timmons Lane, Conference Room C, Houston

Contact: Matt Boger, 713-767-3693

Emissions Inventory Workshop

Jan. 27, J.J. Pickle Center, Commons Building
10100 Burnet Road, Austin

Contact: Sherry Wagner, 512-239-3143

Environmental Trade Fair and Conference

May 3–4, Austin Convention Center
500 East Chavez Street, Austin

Contact: Sherry Wagner, 512-239-3143

Drinking Water Advisory Work Group

Jan. 25, 9 a.m.–noon, TCEQ Campus,
12100 Park 35 Circle, Bldg E, Room 201S

Contact: James Beauchamp, 512-239-6174

Water Quality Advisory Work Group

Jan. 25, 1:15 p.m.–3:30 p.m., TCEQ Campus,
12100 Park 35 Circle, Bldg E, Room 201S

Contact: Harvey Browning, 512-239-4688

Clean Texas: Partnerships for Our Future

Join other organizations that are committed to a cleaner future by becoming a part of the TCEQ’s Clean Texas Program. Clean Texas recognizes businesses that make environmental improvements such as reducing air emissions, improving water quality, preventing pollution, and improving compliance.

Regulated facilities of any size may join, including industries, local governments, and small businesses. Since 2003, Clean Texas members saved \$119 million and reduced 975,000 tons of waste, emissions, or discharges, through their voluntary efforts and commitments.

There is a participation level for everyone, each with different benefits and commitments. Participants committing to higher program levels receive more benefits. Organizations join for three years at one of four membership levels—Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum—depending on their site’s level of environmental performance. Member benefits include partnership opportunities; technical, program, and outreach assistance; and regulatory incentives for the top membership levels.

For more information, please contact Clean Texas staff at 512-239-3143 or visit <www.cleantexas.org>. ■