

# The Advocate



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

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## Domestic Wastewater Permits: Bacteriological Testing

**Do you have a municipal wastewater permit?** Effluent limitations for bacteria are now included in all new Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) municipal wastewater permits as well as major amendments and renewals. *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*), Enterococci, and fecal coliform are used as indicator organisms to test the effectiveness of effluent disinfection in a wastewater treatment plant. These domestic TPDES permits replace the fecal coliform limit with *E. coli* limits for freshwater discharges and Enterococci for saltwater discharges.

**Sampling and hold-time limits:** Bacterial samples have a maximum

hold time of six hours for transporting to the laboratory, and samples should be processed within two hours of receipt at the laboratory. Some remote facilities may not be able to meet the hold-time limit because laboratories accredited by the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program are too far away. Check with your laboratory to make sure they are accredited to perform *E. coli* or Enterococci analyses for wastewater samples, and that your samples are being received and processed to meet the required hold-time limit. Exceeding hold-time limits could result in a Notice of Violation to the facility.

If you have any questions or need assistance with meeting bacterial hold-time limits, speak with one of our environmental compliance assistance specialists at 1-800-447-2827.

**Calculating and reporting bacterial test results:** A common mistake when reporting bacterial test results comes from calculating the arithmetic average rather than the required geometric mean. An interactive calculator to compute the geometric mean is now available to help you complete your discharge monitoring reports at [www.tceq.texas.gov/assistance/water/wastewater/ww-geomeans-calc.html](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assistance/water/wastewater/ww-geomeans-calc.html). ■

## Drought and Water Conservation Gets Top Priority

Large sections of the state are experiencing exceptional or extreme drought. These prolonged, dry conditions put strain on water supplies for all uses. If you are a public water supplier, you have likely heard from the TCEQ encouraging you to begin enforcing the water restrictions outlined in your drought contingency plan and to report your drought status.

We encourage you to update your drought-contingency plan status, including water restrictions, water outages, and other drought-related issues by filling out our new online form at [www.DroughtReport.org](http://www.DroughtReport.org).

In addition, we have several tools to help systems educate their customers on ways to conserve water. Free

resources are available on our Water Resources Web page at [www.tceq.texas.gov/assistance/water/resources.html](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assistance/water/resources.html).

If you have any drought-related questions, please call the drought hotline at 1-800-447-2827. ■

## 2012 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	Jun 1
6	Jun 30	Jun 1	Jul 1
7	Jul 31	Jul 2	Aug 1
8	Aug 31	Aug 2	Sep 1
9	Sep 30	Sep 1	Oct 1
10	Oct 31	Oct 2	Nov 1

# 2012 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
- 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 and renew registration in odd numbered years
  - 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) for industrial storm water discharges
  - Benchmark monitoring summary
  - 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
  - Stage 2 Disinfection By-Products Monitoring for Systems serving 100,000 or more in population
  - 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: DMR if applicable
- 30** • Dry cleaners: 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 pretreatment 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
- 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 DMR if applicable
- 30** • Dry cleaners: quarterly registration fee

## **AUGUST**

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

## **SEPTEMBER**

- 1** • Liquid waste transporter fee
  - MSGP and Phase II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4): annual water-quality fees assessed
- 30** • Wastewater irrigation: annual soil analyses and irrigation effluent analyses (or as otherwise established in the authorization)

## **OCTOBER**

- 1** • Stage 2 Disinfection By-Products Monitoring for systems with population 50,000–99,999
- 10** • Groundwater or purchased water systems: DLQOR
- 20** • Wastewater Discharge: DMR
- 30** • Dry cleaners: 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 pretreatment program: semiannual report
  - MSGP and Phase II MS4s: annual water quality fees ■

# First Central Texas Environmental Summit Slated: "Collaboration Along the Corridor"

Texans living and working along the I-35 corridor are invited to attend the TCEQ's first Central Texas Environmental Summit. Under the theme and title of "Collaboration Along the Corridor," the mission of the summit is for stakeholders to work together on seeking solutions to environmental challenges in the community. TCEQ Commissioners will participate in presentations on environmental topics that affect Central Texas, such as water availability and air quality. In addition, attendees will have an

opportunity to discuss environmental concerns with their local leaders at town hall meetings and to visit state agency exhibits.

**Nov. 3, 2011, 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.**  
**Schertz Civic Center**  
**1400 Schertz Parkway**  
**Schertz 78154**

This is a free event open to the public and requires registration. To register, or for more information, please visit: <[TexasEnviroHelp.org](http://TexasEnviroHelp.org)>.

In 2000, the TCEQ hosted the first environmental summit in El Paso, sparking interest in events like it in other locations. The summits bring together the general public, political leaders, neighborhood associations, nonprofits, businesses, and students to discuss and resolve environmental challenges in their local areas. This year the TCEQ will sponsor another summit in El Paso, along with summits in the Rio Grande Valley, Laredo, and Central Texas, featured in the box below. ■

## TCEQ's Industrial Stormwater Permit Renewed!

The Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP), TXR050000, for stormwater discharges associated with industrial activity, was reissued on Aug. 14, 2011.

If your facility is regulated under the MSGP, then you must submit a new Notice of Intent (NOI) or a No Exposure Certification (NEC) form before Nov. 14, 2011. For those obtaining coverage under the renewed permit, a new Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWP3) is also required. Make sure you review the portions of

the general permit that are specific to your sector of industry as some of the benchmark limits and requirements have changed and must be reflected in your new SWP3. Similarly, if your facility qualifies for a Hazardous Metals Monitoring Waiver, you must take steps to recertify for the waiver option in the new permit period.

For complete information on the MSGP, visit: <[www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/stormwater/TXR05whattodo.html](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/stormwater/TXR05whattodo.html)>. ■

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Small Business Advisory Committee (SBAC)

Dec. 13, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.  
Golden Triangle SBAC (Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission)  
3870 Eastex Freeway, Beaumont 77703  
Contact: Lori Palmer, 409-899-8789

Dec. 14, 10 a.m.–noon  
Houston SBAC (Houston Galveston Area Council)  
3555 Timmons Lane, Conference Room C, Houston 77027  
Contact: Danielle Doss, 713-767-3693

### Advanced Air Permitting Seminar and Oil and Gas Facilities Workshop

Oct. 26–27, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Austin Marriott North  
2600 La Frontera Blvd., Round Rock 78681  
For additional information, contact Mary Kelley, 512-239-3100

## Upcoming Environmental Summits

**El Paso Environmental Summit**  
Oct. 7, 8:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m.  
Camino Real Hotel  
101 South El Paso Street,  
El Paso 79901  
**Contact: Pamela Aguirre,**  
**915-834-4974**

**Laredo Environmental Summit**  
Oct. 20, 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.  
Texas A&M International University  
5201 University Blvd, Laredo 78041  
**Contact: Carmen Ramirez,**  
**956-721-8457**  
<[www.laredoenvironmentalsummit.com](http://www.laredoenvironmentalsummit.com)>

**Rio Grande Valley–McAllen Environmental Summit**  
Oct. 28, 8:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.  
McAllen Convention Center  
700 Convention Center Boulevard,  
McAllen 78501  
**Contact: Imelda Peña,**  
**956-389-7427**  
<[www.valleyes.org](http://www.valleyes.org)>