

# The Advocate



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

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## TCEQ is Now the Greenhouse Gas Permitting Authority in Texas

On Nov. 10, 2014, the TCEQ became the permitting authority for emissions of greenhouse gases in Texas. Prior to Nov. 10, the U.S. EPA was the permitting authority for GHGs in Texas. Only sources that are required to obtain a prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) permit for emissions of non-GHG pollutants will be required to evaluate emissions of GHGs for permitting.

Visit [www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/ghg](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/ghg) for additional details. You can also call TCEQ employee Tasha Burns at 512-239-5868 with any questions about GHG permitting in Texas. ■

## Changes to Stage I Rules Now Effective for Owners and Operators of Gas Dispensing Facilities

As of Oct. 31, 2014, owners and operators of gas dispensing facilities must comply with new state regulations for their Stage I vapor recovery system. Depending on their monthly throughput and location, facilities are subject to new Stage I record keeping, testing, and inspection requirements.

Most counties located west of Interstate Highway 35 will remain subject to federal requirements in 40 CFR Part 63 Subpart CCCCCC. Facilities in East Texas counties, including counties along IH-35, must retain Stage I records for two years and conduct annual testing.

For *covered attainment counties*, the monthly throughput exemption is reduced to less than 100,000 gallons per month. For *non-attainment counties*, the monthly throughput exemption remains less than 10,000 gallons, and facilities that still have Stage II systems must continue their current testing procedures for Stages I and II. Facilities located in counties with *Early Action Compact Agreements* are now required to conduct annual testing procedures for Stage I, and their monthly throughput exemption remains less than 25,000 gallons.

For a map of affected counties and more information on the new requirements, please visit [www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/stageI](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/stageI) or call the Small Business and Local Government Assistance hotline at 800-447-2827 for assistance. ■

## TCEQ to Host Industrial Storm Water Stakeholder Meeting

On Thursday, Jan. 8, 2015, at 1:30 p.m., the TCEQ will host a public stakeholder meeting to discuss the renewal of the TPDES Multi-Sector General Permit - TXR050000 which regulates storm water discharges from industrial activities. The current MSGP expires on Aug. 14, 2016. The meeting will be held in the Commissioners' Agenda Room (#201S) of Building E at the

TCEQ's central office located at 12100 Park 35 Circle in Austin. Notifications will be sent to stakeholders prior to the scheduled meeting. To be included in the storm water stakeholders group, send an e-mail request with your complete contact information to [outreach@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:outreach@tceq.texas.gov).

Submit comments about the MSGP renewal by e-mail to the

Storm Water and Pretreatment Team at [swgp@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:swgp@tceq.texas.gov) with a subject line of "MSGP 2016 Renewal." This preliminary comment period ends on Friday, Jan. 23, 2015. A draft MSGP renewal is expected to be available for comment in January 2016 following the official public notice in the Texas Register. ■

# Air Permitting Changes Now Available in STEERS e-Permitting

You can now use STEERS e-Permitting to notify and register for air permits with the TCEQ. Permits by rule (PBR), some standard permits, NSPS OOOO notifications, and historical notifications, including Barnett Shale, are now available. You may also submit renewals for some standard permits, an Air Permits Certification of Emission Limits (APD-CERT) form, or change of ownership. To obtain an authorization in STEERS, simply log-in or create a new account, select the desired authorization, upload supporting documentation, and submit payment. Upon submission, you will receive a confirmation from the TCEQ indicating that your application has been received, or for PBRs not requiring registration, an immediate letter of authorization.

We strongly encourage you to use STEERS for notification, registration, and certification, as it streamlines the process for both you and TCEQ staff. The TCEQ's Air Permits Division estimates that using STEERS will shorten the permitting process by up to a week.

Confidential information normally submitted with the paper application and marked "confidential" may not be uploaded with a customer's permit documents. You must mail those documents separately, referencing the permit application number in a cover letter. You must still send

a paper copy of your application to the TCEQ regional office and local air pollution control program with jurisdiction.

For an additional fee, you can choose to expedite your applications for PBRs or standard permits that do not require public notice. These applications may be submitted in STEERS.

For assistance creating a STEERS e-Permitting account, call the STEERS help desk at 512-239-6925, or for questions regarding your permit application, call the confidential technical assistance hotline at 800-447-2827. ■

## 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:

**TexasEnviroHelp.org**

*SBLGA is entirely separate from TCEQ's enforcement program.*

## New Session for Texas Legislature

The 84<sup>th</sup> session of the Texas Legislature will convene on Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2015, at noon. During the legislative session, which runs from January through May of every odd-numbered year, elected officials will debate and pass legislation and determine the state budget for the next two years, or the "biennium."

To sign up to receive updates on legislation that can affect the TCEQ and your business or local government, as well as other TCEQ notices and subscriptions, including electronic delivery of *The Advocate*, go to <[www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/updates](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/updates)>. ■

## Renew Your Subscription to *The Advocate*

Renew your subscription to *The Advocate* today to make sure you don't miss an issue. In keeping with TCEQ's goal of reducing paper consumption, we encourage you to sign up for the electronic version of *The Advocate*. Sign up at <[www.tceq.texas.gov/assistance/resources/e-advocate.html](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assistance/resources/e-advocate.html)>.

You will receive an e-mail alert when each new issue is available to read online. If you have not contacted us in two years and wish to continue receiving the print edition, please e-mail your name and address to <[TexasEnviroHelp@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:TexasEnviroHelp@tceq.texas.gov)> or call us at 800-447-2827. ■

# Rule Updates

Find out the status of current TCEQ rule projects including public comment period, adoption dates, effective dates, and rule project managers and contact information from our website at <[www5.tceq.texas.gov/rules](http://www5.tceq.texas.gov/rules)>.

Current TCEQ rule projects include:

- Five Total Maximum Daily Loads for Indicator Bacteria in Four Austin Streams | *Project No:2014-015-TML-NR*
- Implementation Plan for Five Total Maximum Daily Loads for Indicator Bacteria in Four Austin Streams | *Project No:2014-014-TML-NR*
- SB 1532: Authorization of Certain Injection Wells into the Edwards Aquifer | *Project No: 2013-053-331-WS*
- HB 1600, §2.96, and SB 567, §§1, 4, 95, and 96; Federal Revisions; and Staff-Initiated Rule Efficiencies | *Project No:2013-046-290-OW*
- Maximum Disposal Rate - Amend §336.1310 | *Project No:2014-031-336-WS*
- Removal of Rule Language Requiring Small Source Reporting of Certain Air Emissions | *Project No: 2014-023-101-AI*
- Construction Stormwater Effluent Limitation Guideline Revisions | *Project No: 2014-020-305-OW* ■

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Emissions Inventory Workshop**

January 14-15, 2015  
The University of Texas  
J.J. Pickle Center, Commons Bldg.  
10100 Burnet Road | Austin, TX 78758  
Parking is included with registration.

Early registration is \$45 | Registration fee (after December 31) is \$55

Additional information, including CEU information is available at <[www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/events/industrialemissionsinventoryworkshop](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/events/industrialemissionsinventoryworkshop)>

### **Public Water Supply Asset Management Workshops**

February 17, 2015 Joseph A. Carroll Bldg. Texas A&M Extension Center 401 W. Hickory St.   Denton TX 76201	February 26, 2015 Club Room Fort Bend County Fairgrounds 4310 Texas 36   Rosenberg, TX 77471
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March 26, 2015  
Liberty Center  
1829 Sam Houston Street | Liberty, TX 77575

<[www.TexasEnviroHelp.org](http://www.TexasEnviroHelp.org)>

### **TCEQ Environmental Trade Fair & Conference**

May 5-6, 2015  
Austin Convention Center  
<[www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/events/ETFC](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/events/ETFC)>



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## Local Compliance Assistance Specialists are Ready to Help You!

You have free, confidential help right in your backyard.

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Patty Avery,  
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#### **Region 15 - Harlingen**

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#### **Region 16 - Laredo**

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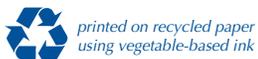
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**Disclaimer: This regulatory guidance publication does not take the place of the full, official TCEQ rules. It is intended only as a general explanation about selected parts of the rules. If you have questions about any information contained in this 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).*



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