

The Advocate

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OF Texas

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

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TCEQ Schedules Water Quality/Stormwater Annual Seminar

August 2015 - The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is currently accepting registrations for its Water Quality/Stormwater Annual Seminar, Sept. 22-23, DoubleTree Hotel, 6505 Interstate 35 North, Austin.

The seminar will include presentations covering a wide range of topics ranging from the technical aspects of municipal, industrial, stormwater, and sludge permits to the design criteria for domestic treatment facilities and collection systems. Other specialty topics will include water conservation, domestic water reuse, and water quality standards development and implementation procedures. Anyone involved in Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permitting, stormwater management, or wastewater treatment plant design and operation is strongly encouraged to participate.

Online registration is \$100. Late registration (after Sept. 8) is \$150.

To register, visit the [seminar Web page](#). If unable to register electronically, please call for assistance at 866-906-9190 or email events@uta.edu.

Sanitary Sewer Overflows - Stakeholder Meeting to be Held on Sept. 15

August 2015 - Wastewater treatment and collection facilities will have different requirements for reporting certain accidental discharges or spills under a new law passed by the Texas Legislature (SB 912). These requirements apply to facilities owned or operated by a local government.

The bill requires the TCEQ to develop rules and establish standard methods for calculating the volume of an accidental discharge or spill. The TCEQ must also establish procedures for submitting a summary to TCEQ to include the location, volume, and content of each accidental discharge or spill.

The TCEQ will hold a stakeholder meeting for anyone interested in participating in the development of these rules. The stakeholder meeting will be held Sept. 15, 2015, from 10 AM to noon at the TCEQ, 12100 Park 35 Circle, Bldg. E, Room 201S, Austin TX.

For additional information, contact Macy Beauchamp at 512-239-0437 or Small Business and Local Government Assistance at 800-447-2827.

Public Hearing Scheduled – Volunteer Operators at Drinking Water Systems

August 2015 - On August 5, 2015, the TCEQ proposed rules to implement the provisions of House Bill (HB) 1146, to amend Chapter 290, Public Drinking Water, to allow public water systems to use volunteer licensed operators and require the maintenance of certain records for each volunteer operator.

A public hearing is proposed at TCEQ Headquarters, building E, Room 201S, on September 14, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.

To obtain a copy of the proposed rule visit the TCEQ website at:

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/rules/prop.html>. The comment period is Aug. 21 through Sept. 21, 2015, and you can find information on submitting comments at:

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/rules/howtocomment.html>.

Pollution Prevention Waste Management Workshop

August 2015 - Register to attend the Pollution Prevention Waste Management Workshop on Sept. 30, 2015.



September 30, 2015

Austin, TX

TCEQ staff will provide training to businesses, government, and other entities to help prevent pollution from hazardous waste and toxic chemicals.

[Click Here to FIND OUT MORE!](#)

Attendees

Early Registration Fee: \$65

Registration Fee (after September 9th): \$125

Location

J.J. Pickle Center
10100 Burnet Road, Bldg 137
Austin, TX 78758

More information can be found on the [Event Website](#)

TCEQ Proposes Rules for Changes to Contested Case Hearing Process

August 2015 - On Aug. 5, 2015, the TCEQ proposed rules implementing Senate Bills 709 and 1267 (from the 84th Texas Legislative session) changing the process for contested case hearings and motions for rehearing.

The changes will apply to applications filed on or after Sept. 1, 2015 that later go to a contested case hearing. Some of the proposed rule changes include the following:

- The applicant must submit a copy of the permit application to the Chief Clerk's Office before the hearing.
- The administrative law judge must wait until the TCEQ executive director responds to public comments about the application before scheduling a preliminary hearing.
- An application will now automatically be considered to meet state and federal requirements until proven otherwise by the protesting parties.
- After the preliminary hearing, the administrative law judge has 180 days (or more, in certain situations) to submit a decision to the TCEQ.

The proposed rules also provide that persons submitting hearing requests must base their requests only on their own comments, instead of adopting comments made by others. Groups or associations must timely provide the name and physical address of their members who would be affected persons in their own right.

To obtain a copy of the proposed rule visit the TCEQ website at:

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/rules/prop.html>. The comment period is Aug. 7 through Sept. 21, 2015, and you can find information on submitting comments at:

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/rules/howtocomment.html>.

Request for Nominations - Municipal Solid Waste Management and Resource Recovery Advisory Council

August 2015 - The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is requesting nominations for nine individuals to serve on the Municipal Solid Waste Management and Resource Recovery Advisory Council to fill the following positions:

- A professional engineer from a private engineering firm with experience in the design and management of solid waste facilities (expires 8/2021);
- a registered waste tire processor (expires 8/2021);
- an elected official from a county with a population less than 150,000 (expires 8/2021);
- a representative from a planning region (expires 8/2021);
- a solid waste professional with experience managing or operating a commercial solid waste landfill (expires 8/2021);
- a representative from a private environmental conservation organization (expires 8/2021);
- an elected official from a municipality with a population fewer than 25,000 (expires 8/2017);
- an elected official from a municipality with a population of 750,000 or more (expires 8/2017);
- an elected official from a municipality with a population between 100,000 or more but less than 750,000 (expires 8/2019).

The advisory council was created by the 68th Legislature in 1983 and comprises 18 members who serve staggered six-year terms. The composition of the advisory council is prescribed in Section 363.041 of the Texas Health and Safety Code.

The advisory council reviews and evaluates the effect of state policies and programs on municipal solid waste management; makes recommendations on matters relating to MSW management; recommends legislation to encourage the efficient management of MSW; recommends policies for the use, allocation, or distribution of the planning fund; and recommends special studies and projects to further the effectiveness of MSW management and recovery for Texas. The advisory council members are required by law to hold at least one meeting every three months. The meetings usually last up to one day and are held in Austin.

To apply for or to nominate an individual for an advisory council position, please complete and submit the advisory council application and related materials. The application and additional information are available at: <<http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/msw/council>>.

Nominee evaluations will be made based upon the application, materials submitted, letters of reference and solid waste management experience. Appointments will be made by the TCEQ commissioners in fall 2015.

The application and materials must be postmarked by Monday, Aug. 17, 2015 and can be e-mailed to mswper@tceq.texas.gov or sent by mail. For regular mail please send to: Steve

Hutchinson, MC-126, TCEQ, Waste Permits Division, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087. If submitting by overnight mail, please send to: Steve Hutchinson, Building F, TCEQ, Waste Permits Division, 12100 Park 35 Circle, Austin, TX 78753. Questions regarding the advisory council can be directed to Mr. Steve Hutchinson at 512- 239-6716, or e-mail address: mswper@tceq.texas.gov.