

The Advocate

Take Care of Texas For and about small businesses and local governments affected by environmental regulations

April-June 2017 Archive - Please note that archived articles are provided for your reference and the links they contain may no longer be active. If you need help to find information you believe is contained in a link that is no longer active, please call 1-800-447-2827 and we will assist you.

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Free Workshops on the Revised Total Coliform Rule

June 2017 - The TCEQ is offering FREE workshops designed to assist Public Water Systems and Water Operators understand and comply with the Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR).

The TCEQ adopted rules amending 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) 290 - Public Drinking Water to provide consistency with the federal RTCR. The RTCR establishes a maximum contaminant level (MCL) for *E. coli* and uses *E. coli* and total coliforms to initiate a "find and fix" approach to prevent fecal contamination from entering the distribution system of a public water supply.

Topics covered during the workshop include an overview of the RTCR, Site Sampling Plan preparation, monitoring and reporting, field assessment, and corrective actions. **Licensed water operators can receive up to 4 hours of CEUs for attending.**

Workshops are being held in:

San Angelo - July 6, 2017 - 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm
Texas Dept. of Transportation - San Angelo District Office
502 Knickerbocker Rd.
San Angelo, TX 76904

Laredo - July 20, 2017 - 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
City of Laredo - Public Works Dept. Service Center
5512 Thomas Ave.
Laredo, TX 78041

Corpus Christi - July 21, 2017 - 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm
TCEQ - Corpus Christi Regional Office
Carlos Truan Natural Resources Center, Ste. 1003
6300 Ocean Dr.
Corpus Christi, TX 78412

Wichita Falls - Aug. 3, 2017, 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm
Texas Dept. of Transportation - Wichita Falls District Office
1601 Southwest Pkwy.
Wichita Falls, TX 76302

Amarillo - Aug. 17, 2017 - 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm
Texas Dept. of Transportation - Amarillo District Office Conference Center
5715 Canyon Dr.
Amarillo, TX 79110

To register to attend a workshop, go to www.TexasEnviroHelp.org and click on the RTCR Workshop link or contact the Small Business & Local Government Assistance Hotline at 800-447-2827.

For more information on RTCR, [visit the TCEQ website.](#)

Texas Water Development Board: Financial Assistance Workshop

June 2017 - Regional financial assistance workshop to be held in Abilene on July 11



The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) will hold a financial assistance workshop in Abilene, Texas, on Tuesday, July 11, 2017. The workshop will provide valuable information and one-on-one opportunities to discuss your project needs. The TWDB regional project team for your area, along with TWDB program coordinators, will be at the workshop to discuss specific projects and answer any questions you may have.

The workshop will take place at the Abilene Civic Center, Room 3, 1100 North 6th Street, Abilene, TX, at 1:00 p.m.

The workshop will include:

- A brief but informative overview of the TWDB and the types of financing available
- A handout with financial program updates
- A one-hour general presentation, followed by one-on-one meetings with TWDB staff to explore funding options for your projects

Registration information

Please email your name, title, entity, email, telephone number, and the workshop location you are planning to attend to srfworkshops@twdb.texas.gov. General questions may be directed to your [regional project team manager](#).

Please register as soon as possible, as venues are subject to capacity limitations.

Please visit the [TWDB website](#) to view future dates and locations for TWDB financial assistance workshops.

Sustainable and affordable water for Texas.

Texas Water Development Board | 512-463-7847 | www.twdb.texas.gov

Dam Safety Workshop Scheduled for July 12, 2017, in Tyler

June 2017—The workshop will educate dam owners and operators about state dam safety laws and regulations, dam failure modes and case histories, owner responsibilities and liabilities, security issues, dam operations, maintenance and inspections, developing and implementing emergency action plans.

Location:

[Ornelas Activity Center](#)

The University of Texas at Tyler

3402 Old Omen Rd

Tyler TX 75707

Workshop hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. For additional information and to register, visit the [Dam Safety Workshop webpage](#).

Lunch and refreshments are included in the registration fee. Participants will also receive a copy of the Workshop Participant Manual and have the opportunity to speak one on one with TCEQ dam safety personnel.

For more information regarding the workshops, contact Joe Briseno at events@tceq.texas.gov or 512-239-3143.

Draft Rule Excerpt Available for Upcoming Petroleum Storage Tank Rules Stakeholder Meeting

May 2017 - TCEQ provides an opportunity for the public to review part of the drafted PST rules prior to the stakeholder meeting.

The TCEQ has posted portions of the drafted rules, 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) [334.48](#) and [334.50](#), for review as part of the adoption of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 2015 Underground Storage Tank (UST) Regulations. The upcoming [stakeholder meeting](#) will provide an opportunity for informal input on the incorporation of these regulations into 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 334.

Stakeholder Meeting on Rulemaking Regarding Petroleum Storage Tanks

May 2017 - The TCEQ will conduct a stakeholder meeting on May 23, 2017, to solicit informal input on the adoption of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 2015 Underground Storage Tank (UST) Regulations.

This required rulemaking will update Title 30, Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 334 to incorporate [federal rules](#) that include:

- periodic operation and maintenance requirements for UST systems to conduct walkthrough inspections and test UST system components,
- new requirements to annually test specific release-detection equipment, and
- changes to comply with existing EPA release-detection requirements to monitor at least every 30 days, instead of every 35 days.

Additionally, this rulemaking will address minor rule revisions relating to the Fee on Delivery of Petroleum Products to reflect changes that were statutorily implemented in the Texas Water Code in 2015.

UST Stakeholder meeting information:

Date: May 23, 2017, 1:30 p.m.

Location: TCEQ Complex, Building E, Conference Room 201S (Agenda Room)
12100 Park 35 Circle, Austin, Texas.

TCEQ staff is specifically interested in comments on the management of potentially contaminated water resulting from the cleanout of sumps and required hydrostatic testing (for example, the reuse, recycling, accumulation and disposal of water). All informal comments received will be reviewed, but the TCEQ will not provide a response.

In addition to submitting comments at the meeting on May 23, informal stakeholder comments may be submitted:

- by fax to 512-239-4808
- by mail to:

Office of Legal Services, MC 205
Attn: Sherry Davis
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

- or online at

<http://www1.tceq.texas.gov/rules/ecomments/>. File size restrictions may apply to comments being submitted via the eComments system.

All informal comments should reference Rule Project Number 2016-019-334-CE. Comments are due by June 2, 2017. A formal public rule hearing is tentatively planned for November 2017, following rule proposal by the commission.

For additional information, please contact Casey Grunnet, Program Support Section, at 512-239-7025.

EPA's Office of Water Seeking Feedback on Reducing Regulatory Burden

May 2017 - The following message is being forwarded on behalf of EPA.

Dear Stakeholder,

Consistent with Executive Order 13777, EPA is seeking public input on existing regulations that could be repealed, replaced or modified to make them less burdensome.

As a part of this effort, we will be accepting written public comments through **May 15, 2017**, at docket EPA-HQ-OA-2017-0190. In addition, EPA's Office of Water (OW) will host a public listening session to obtain additional feedback on water regulatory actions on **Tuesday, May 2, 2017, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. CST. Please visit: www.epa.gov/aboutepa/office-water-feedback-reducing-regulatory-burden** or see below for details.

Background

On February 24, 2017, President Donald Trump issued [Executive Order \(EO\) 13777](#) on Enforcing the Regulatory Reform Agenda. The EO establishes the, "policy of the United States to alleviate unnecessary regulatory burdens placed on the American people". Among other things, it requires each agency to create a Regulatory Reform Task Force to evaluate existing regulations and to identify regulations that could be repealed, replaced or modified to make them less burdensome.

As part of implementing the EO, OW will be hosting a public listening session to solicit proposals for OW regulations that could be repealed, replaced, or modified to make them less burdensome. The focus of this listening session will be on water actions only.

Public Listening Session by Telephone and Web Conference

Date: Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. CST

The session will start with brief remarks from EPA and the remainder of the session will be dedicated to listening to public comments. There are several ways to join the session:

- **To join the teleconference:** 150 telephone lines are set aside for people who want to speak for one to two minutes. These 150 telephone lines will be distributed randomly among those who pre-register. We expect our three hour conference will allow for about 70 to 80 persons to speak. You must pre-register in advance to be randomly selected for one of these telephone lines at: https://reducing_regulatory_burden_epa_officeofwater.eventbrite.com. Registration closes April 28, 2017 @ 11:00 pm CST. If selected, registrants from this list will receive information about how to participate, along with a call in number. The audio of the session will be transcribed and will be submitted to the docket.
- **To join the web conference:** <http://epawebconferencing.acms.com/owregulatoryforums/>. You may sign in 15 minutes before the web conference starts. The online meeting room can accommodate 1,000 participants. Slots will be allotted on a first come first serve basis. Participants in the web session will be able to listen to a broadcast of speakers from the teleconference line through their computers, and will be able to submit written comments. Transcripts of all written comments will be submitted to the docket. For questions about this process, please contact: owregulatoryreform@epa.gov

- If you miss the meeting, or do not have the opportunity to speak on the call, please submit your input to the EPA-wide docket ([docket number: EPA-HQ-OA-2017-0190](#)). OW will give equal consideration to input provided through any of the methods above.
- For more information on upcoming public engagement opportunities offered by other EPA offices please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/laws-regulations/regulatory-reform>.

Submitting Comments and/or Proposals to the Docket

The docket will be open for submitting recommendations until **May 15, 2017**. For those wishing to submit recommendations online, visit Docket ID No. [EPA-HQ-OA-2017-0190 at Regulations.gov](#). Follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Once submitted, comments cannot be edited or removed from Regulations.gov.

To allow us to more effectively evaluate your suggestions, the Agency is requesting comments include:

- Supporting data or other information such as cost information
- Provide a Federal Register (FR) or Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) citation when referencing a specific regulation
- Provide specific suggestions regarding repeal, replacement, or modification.

The EPA may publish any comment received to its public docket. Do not submit electronically any information you consider to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Multimedia submissions (e.g., audio, video, etc.) must be accompanied by a written comment. The written comment is considered the official comment and should include discussion of all the points you wish to make. The EPA will generally not consider comments or comment contents located outside of the primary submission (e.g., on the web, cloud, or other file sharing system).

For additional submission methods, the full EPA public comment policy, information about CBI or multimedia submissions, and general guidance on making effective comments, please visit the [Commenting on EPA Dockets](#) web page for more information.

Texas Water Development Board: Financial Assistance Workshop

April 2017 - Regional financial assistance workshop to be held in Fort Worth on May 9



The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) will hold a financial assistance workshop in Fort Worth, Texas, on Tuesday, May 9, 2017. The workshop will provide valuable information and one-on-one opportunities to discuss your project needs. The TWDB regional project team for your area, along with TWDB program coordinators, will be at the workshop to discuss specific projects and answer any questions you may have.

The workshop will take place at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, 3220 Botanic Garden Blvd., Fort Worth, TX at 9:00 a.m.

The workshop will include:

- A brief but informative overview of the TWDB and the types of financing available
- A handout with financial program updates
- One-on-one meetings with TWDB staff to explore funding options for your projects
- A one-hour presentation. Meetings with TWDB staff will follow the presentation.

Registration information

Please email your name, title, entity, email, telephone number, and the workshop location you are planning to attend to srfworkshops@twdb.texas.gov. General questions may be directed to your [regional project team manager](#).

Please register as soon as possible, as venues are subject to capacity limitations.

Please visit the [TWDB website](#) to view future dates and locations for TWDB financial assistance workshops.

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EPA Hosts Stakeholder Meeting Seeking Input on Federal Regulations

April 2017 - EPA's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU), in implementing Executive Order (EO) 13777: Enforcing the Regulatory Agenda, is hosting a meeting to consult with external stakeholders, to hear which rules and regulations our stakeholders believe should be repealed, replaced, or modified, consistent with applicable law.

The [EO, signed February 24, 2017](#) , establishes the "policy of the United States to alleviate unnecessary regulatory burdens placed on the American people." Among other things, it requires each agency to create a Regulatory Reform Task Force to evaluate existing regulations and to identify regulations that should be repealed, replaced or modified. The meeting will afford the EPA an opportunity to listen and learn directly from those impacted by EPA regulations.

The meeting will be held on **Thursday, April 20, 2017, from 12:30pm to 3:30pm Eastern DST** via webinar. *Those who wish to participate must contact Joan B. Rogers* (202-564-6568 or rogers.joanb@epa.gov), not later than **Friday, April 14, 2017**. Requests made beyond the webinar capacity and/or after April 17, 2017 might not be able to be accommodated.

If you would like to provide a four minute "oral presentation" on a particular regulation, please let Joan Rogers know by Friday, April 14 so she can schedule your slot. EPA requests that commenters be as specific as possible, and include any supporting data or other information.

To participate, or for more information, contact:

Joan B. Rogers, Deputy Director
EPA Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization
EPA Asbestos and Small Business Ombudsman
P: 202-564-6568; F: 202-566-0266