

The Advocate

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

January-March 2018 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 If you need help to find information you believe is contained in a link that is no longer active, please call 1-800-447-2827 and we will assist you.

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Stormwater Construction General Permit (TXR150000) Renewed

Mar. 2018 - The TCEQ commissioners renewed the general permit to authorize stormwater discharges from construction sites and it became effective Mar. 5, 2018.

Current holders of expired permit authorizations have 90 days from the effective date to submit a **renewal** Notice of Intent (NOI) or Low Rainfall Erosivity Waiver (LREW). Submit renewals online or with a paper form. **The 90-day grace period ends June 3, 2018.**

Changes to the general permit include:

- added and revised several definitions to clarify permitting requirements;
- added clarification regarding redacted signatures for small construction site notices and secondary operator site notices for large construction sites;
- revised the total suspended solids benchmark monitoring level for concrete batch-mixing plants;
- clarified the requirements of primary operators of large construction activities related to Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWP3) development and implementation; and
- added the requirement that *effective Sept. 1, 2018, all NOIs, Notices of Change (NOCs), Notices of Termination (NOTs), and LREWs will be required to be submitted to the TCEQ electronically via the STEERS/ePermits system.*

[Apply online through STEERS.](#) Before renewing make sure you are using the exact legal name and tax identification number as registered with the Texas Secretary of State and Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

If you have further questions, please call the Small Business and Local Government Assistance hotline at [\(800\) 447-2827](tel:8004472827).

Regional financial assistance workshop to be held in Big Spring on March 15

March 2018 - The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) will hold a financial assistance workshop in Big Spring, Texas, on Thursday, March 15, 2018.



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 Colorado River Municipal Water District, Perry Board Room, 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, TX, at 2:00 p.m.

The workshop will include:

- Disaster recovery response: amendments to the State Revolving Funds
- 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. Meeting 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 of TWDB disaster recovery financial assistance workshops and general financial assistance workshops.

Submit Permit by Rule and Standard Permit Registrations through STEERS e-Permits

Feb. 2018 - As of Feb. 1, 2018, the TCEQ Air Permits Division (APD) is requiring that you submit all registrations for permits by rule (PBR) and standard permits through the State of Texas Environmental Electronic Reporting System (STEERS) e-Permits.

The following application types are not yet available for you to submit through STEERS:

- Concrete Batch Plants
- Rock and Concrete Crushers
- Hot Mix Asphalt Plants
- Polyphosphate Blenders
- Portables

For more information on the background and purpose of STEERS e-Permits, please see the Aug. 8, 2017 approved memo titled [Permit-By-Rule and Standard Permit Registration Application Procedures](#). 

Need help? Please see the TCEQ webpage, [Guidance for STEERS](#), which includes videos and guidance documents about submitting applications via STEERS e-Permits.

Texas Water Development Board: Water loss audit and leak detection workshops statewide in 2018

Feb. 2018 - The Texas Water Development Board's (TWDB) Water Loss Audit and Leak Detection Workshops are available to retail public water suppliers across Texas.

The workshops provide water suppliers the opportunity to learn about:

- how water loss audits can help them implement effective water loss control programs,
- how to use the TWDB's online data collection system to submit audits, and
- how to successfully account for water use and loss.

Also included in the workshop is a hands-on session working on a water loss audit and an introduction to the TWDB's leak detection equipment loan program.

The workshops are approved for 4 hours of continuing education credits for licensed water operators through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Note: Workshop attendance also satisfies the legislative requirement under HB1573 requiring water loss auditor training prior to submittal of a water loss audit to the TWDB.

- Feb. 15, Katy, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (West Houston area)
- Feb. 26, Abilene, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Feb. 27, Big Spring, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- March 8, Corpus Christi, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- March 19, Wylie, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- March 20, Fort Worth, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- March 21, Lewisville, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- TBD - Nacogdoches/Lufkin area
- TBD - Waco
- TBD - Mount Pleasant/Sulphur Springs area
- TBD - Amarillo

For additional information and to view upcoming workshops, please visit the TWDB's [Water Loss Audit Resources](#) webpage or contact Daniel Rice at [\(512\) 463-0987](tel:5124630987).

Stage I Vapor Recovery Equipment and Annual Testing

Feb. 2018 - Owners and operators of some gasoline dispensing facilities in Texas must comply with state regulations for their Stage I vapor recovery system.

Facilities subject to Stage I rules must meet equipment installation, recordkeeping, annual testing, and inspection requirements. A facility's monthly throughput and residing county determine applicable requirements. All facilities subject to Stage I rules must test the operation of Stage I equipment annually.

Failure to annually test the operation of your Stage I equipment could result in violations and penalties.

Stage I rules pertain to facilities in the following counties as noted:

- Facilities in Brazoria, Chambers, Collin, Dallas, Denton, El Paso, Fort Bend, Galveston, Hardin, Harris, Jefferson, Liberty, Montgomery, Orange, Tarrant, and Waller counties are subject to Stage I rules regardless of monthly gasoline throughput.*
- **As of Jan. 1, 2017, facilities in Wise County are subject to Stage I rules regardless of monthly gasoline throughput.***
- Facilities in Ellis, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, and Rockwall counties are subject to Stage I rules if monthly gasoline throughput is 10,000 gallons or greater in any month after April 30, 2005.
- Facilities in Bastrop, Bexar, Caldwell, Comal, Guadalupe, Hays, Travis, Williamson, and Wilson counties are subject to Stage I rules if monthly gasoline throughput is 25,000 gallons or greater in any month after Dec. 31, 2004.
- All other [covered attainment counties](#) are subject to Stage I rules if throughput is greater than or equal to 100,000 gallons of gasoline in any month after Oct. 31, 2014.

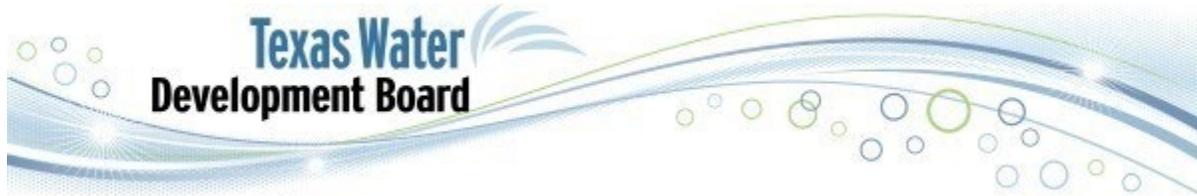
Please note, gasoline dispensing facilities exempt from Stage I requirements may still be subject to some control, inspection, and recordkeeping requirements.

For more information on Stage I Vapor Recovery requirements, please visit our [Stage I webpage](#) or call the Small Business and Local Government Assistance hotline, [\(800\) 447-2827](tel:8004472827).

* If your gasoline dispensing facility is located in the Beaumont-Port Arthur, Dallas-Fort Worth, El Paso, or Houston-Galveston-Brazoria areas, and has dispensed no more than 10,000 gallons of gasoline in any calendar month after Jan. 1, 1991, and for which construction began prior to Nov. 15, 1992, your facility is exempt from Stage I requirements.

Regional financial assistance workshop to be held in Denton on Feb. 6

Jan. 2018 - The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) will hold a financial assistance workshop in Denton, Texas, on Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2018.



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 Public Safety Training Facility, Conference Room C, 719 Hickory, Denton, TX, at 9:00 a.m.

The workshop will include:

- Disaster recovery response: amendments to the State Revolving Funds
- A brief but informative overview of the TWDB and the types of financing available
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- One-on-one meetings with TWDB staff to explore funding options for your projects
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