



SMALL BUSINESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSISTANCE DIVISION, MC 106  
TEXAS NATURAL RESOURCE  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
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AUSTIN TX 78711-3087

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Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission

# Small Business The Advocate

For and about small businesses affected by environmental regulations

Healthy Environment. Strong Business. Good Sense.

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## Local Specialists Ready to Help You

You've got free help with compliance right in your back yard! The TNRCC has finished staffing 15 of its 16 regional offices with new compliance assistance specialists from its Small Business and

### Local Specialist Information

#### Region 1 (Amarillo)

**Doug White (806/353-9251)**

Armstrong, Briscoe, Carson, Castro, Childress, Collingsworth, Dallam, Deaf Smith, Donley, Gray, Hall, Hansford, Hartley, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, Moore, Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Sherman, Swisher, Wheeler

#### Region 2 (Lubbock)

**Celeste Hoehne (806/796-7092)**

Bailey, Cochran, Crosby, Dickens, Floyd, Garza, Hale, Hockley, King, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Motley, Terry, Yoakum

#### Region 3 (Abilene)

**David Hudson (915/698-9674)**

Archer, Baylor, Brown, Callahan, Clay, Coleman, Comanche, Cottle, Eastland, Fisher, Foard, Hardeman, Haskell, Jack, Jones, Kent, Knox, Mitchell, Montague, Nolan, Runnels, Scurry, Shackelford, Stephens, Stonewall, Taylor, Throckmorton, Wichita, Wilbarger, Young

#### Region 4 (Arlington)

**Keith Caldwell (817/469-6750, ext. 262)**

**Mike Smithson (817/469-6750, ext. 291)**

Collin, Cooke, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Erath, Fannin, Grayson, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Navarro, Palo Pinto, Parker, Rockwall, Somervell, Tarrant, Wise

#### Region 5 (Tyler)

**Keith Glanton (903/535-5133)**

Anderson, Bowie, Camp, Cass, Cherokee, Delta, Franklin, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Hopkins, Lamar, Marion, Morris, Panola, Rains, Red River, Rusk, Smith, Titus, Upshur, Van Zandt, Wood

#### Region 6 (El Paso)

**Pamela Whaley (915/783-6637)**

Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Presidio

#### Region 7 (Midland)

**Brad Newton (915/570-1359)**

Andrews, Borden, Crane, Dawson, Ector, Gaines, Glasscock, Howard, Loving, Martin, Midland, Pecos, Reeves, Terrell, Upton, Ward, Winkler

#### Region 8 (San Angelo)

**To be filled (915/655-9479)**

Coke, Concho, Crockett, Irion, Kimble, Mason, McCulloch, Menard, Reagan, Schleicher, Sterling, Sutton, Tom Green

Local Government Assistance section. The aim is to provide services at the point of need.

Many of these specialists are seasoned agency veterans, and all have undergone extensive training in water, air, and waste issues; pollution prevention; reporting requirements; recycling; and environmental outreach.

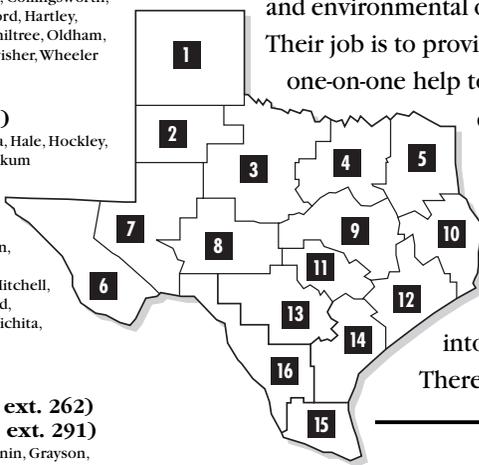
Their job is to provide hands-on, one-on-one help to answer

questions and resolve issues — before these issues turn into problems. There are two

ways you can get to know your compliance assistance specialist:

- First, call them and ask for help to make sure your business is complying with environmental regulations.
- Second, a TNRCC inspector may refer you to a compliance assistance specialist for help in correcting problems identified in an inspection. Our specialists have already received a number of referrals from inspectors who recognize that timely assistance may help a small business come into compliance — *and* avoid or reduce potential penalties.

Either way, the information you share with your compliance assistance specialist remains confidential from the TNRCC's Enforcement Division. ■



#### Region 9 (Waco)

**Elaine Alexander (254/761-3044)**

Bell, Bosque, Brazos, Burleson, Coryell, Falls, Freestone, Grimes, Hamilton, Hill, Limestone, Lampasas, Leon, Madison, McLennan, Milam, Mills, Robertson, San Saba, Washington

#### Region 10 (Beaumont)

**Paul Judice (409/898-3838)**

Angelina, Hardin, Houston, Jasper, Jefferson, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, Tyler

#### Region 11 (Austin)

**Ervin Thomas (512/339-2929)**

Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis, Williamson

#### Region 12 (Houston)

**Kit Owens (713/767-3549)**

Clarence Gray (713/767-3582)  
Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, Wharton

#### Region 13 (San Antonio)

**Sherman Krause (210/403-4039)**

**Christine Bergren (210/403-4028)**

Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Edwards, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Medina, Real, Uvalde, Wilson

#### Region 14 (Corpus Christi)

**Glenda Swierc (361/825-3421)**

Aransas, Bee, Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Gonzales, Jackson, Jim Wells, Kleberg, Lavaca, Live Oak, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio, Victoria

#### Region 15 (Harlingen)

**Jane Scheidler (956/389-7426)**

**Lorinda Gardner (956/389-7425)**

Brooks, Cameron, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Kenedy, Starr, Willacy

#### Region 16 (Laredo)

**Rolando Gallegos (956/721-8457)**

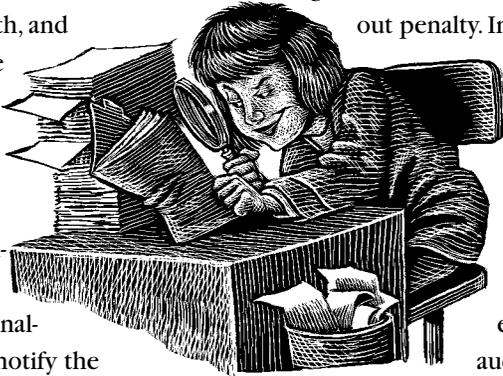
Dimmit, Duval, Kinney, La Salle, Maverick, McMullen, Val Verde, Webb, Zapata, Zavala

# Environmental Audits: The Risk-Free Way to Stay in Compliance

More and more small businesses are finding that environmental audits can help them get their operations in step with the rules without risking penalties or fines. Under a 1995 law — the Texas Environmental, Health, and Safety Audit Privilege Act — facilities that voluntarily identify and promptly resolve unintentional violations of environmental regulations are immune from penalties, so long as they notify the TNRCC about the audit and its findings.

The most important step in the audit process is notifying the TNRCC before your audit begins. Without this notification, your rights cannot be protected under law.

Environmental audits frequently bring to light problems that might not be noted during a regular TNRCC inspection. Under the law, an audit must entail a systematic evaluation, review, or assessment of compliance, typically involving extensive sampling, testing, and data analysis over an extended period of time.



In fiscal 1999, 24 small businesses from the sawmill industry notified the TNRCC that they were conducting environmental audits. Of these companies, eight disclosed violations — all without penalty. In all, last year the

TNRCC received 175 notices of audit and 67 disclosures of violations.

For more information about environmental audits, contact your

regional compliance assistance specialist or call the Small Business and Local Government Assistance hot line at 1-800-447-2827.

TNRCC publication RG-173 (*Texas Environmental, Health, and Safety Audit Privilege Act*) gives detailed information on how to notify the agency about audits and violations and answers frequently asked questions about the audit process. Download this publication by clicking on "Publications" on the TNRCC's Web site ([www.tnrcc.state.tx.us](http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us)), or order it from the Publications Unit at 512/239-0028. ■

# New Public Notice Rules Save Time, Money

The TNRCC has adopted new public notice rules for nearly all environmental permits. In some cases, these rules reduce the number and cost of notices required for small businesses. Specifically, these changes could save small businesses who need New Source Review air permits as much as \$5,000 on the cost of newspaper advertisements.

These rules affect you if you are proposing to install or modify a facility that must have an air, water, or waste permit from the TNRCC. If so, you must make a copy of your application available in a public place and advertise to the community where they can go to review your application.

Here is one way you can take advantage of these new rules:

- Find the right "public place." The rules say that this place must be in the same county as the facility you plan to install or modify. The location must also be reasonably accessible to the public — for example, a public library, municipal office, community center, or other publicly owned or operated building.
- Get permission to leave your application at this place. Of course, you need the permission and cooperation of whoever is in charge of the building or office you plan to use.
- Advertise that your application is available. Publish a notice that tells people what you have planned, where the facility will be located, where the application is available for review, and how long the application will be on file at that location. The TNRCC will provide instructions to help you select the appropriate newspaper for this publication.

For more information, call the SBLGA hot line at 1-800-447-2827. ■

## Regional CLEAN TEXAS Partnerships Forming at February Conference

Members of the TNRCC's CLEAN CITIES, CLEAN INDUSTRIES, and CLEAN TEXAS STAR programs are joining together with other Texans, both public and private, in Dallas February 27-29 to announce the next generation of CLEAN TEXAS 2000 and lay the groundwork for regional partnerships for a sustainable Texas.

The Partnerships for a Livable Texas Conference will focus on establishing in Texas a clean and healthy environment, a growing and prosperous economy, and equitable treatment of all citizens with respect to quality-of-life issues.

At this conference, CLEAN TEXAS 2000 members will show how they have successfully blended environmental protection with economic growth and reached tangible goals. Then, conference participants — businesses, industries, local governments, institutions, nonprofit organizations, and private citizens — will break into regional groups to define specific environmental issues affecting their communities and ways they can form partnerships to solve problems.

"We believe that this event will be remembered years from now as the launching pad for increased efforts to achieve clean air, water, and land, making Texas more livable for us all," said TNRCC Chairman Robert Huston.

For further information on or to register for this conference, contact Sue Phillips, TNRCC Event Coordination and Education, at 512-239-6327. ■

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

February 9 — Fort Worth, Small Business Advisory Committee

February 22 — Dallas, Small Business Advisory Committee

February 24 — Beaumont, Golden Triangle Small Business Advisory Committee

February 27-29 — Dallas, Partnerships for a Livable Texas Conference

March 2 — Houston, Small Business Advisory Committee

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The Small Business Advocate Editor  
Small Business and Environmental  
Assistance Division, MC 106  
Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

**Toll Free 1-800-447-2827**  
(All calls are confidential)

**Fax: 512-239-1065**

**Web Site: [http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/excc/small\\_business](http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/excc/small_business)**

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