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ARCHIVED PUBLICATION - The links to stories below work; however, other links on this page and on the story pages may no longer function.

Natural OUTLOOK

See Also:

[Past Issues](#)

Natural Outlook is the TNRCC's quarterly publication of environmental issues in Texas. Below is the Web version of the Winter 1999 issue for your viewing.

If you would like a free subscription of the hard copy edition, please e-mail us at ac@tnrcc.state.tx.us

Winter 1999 Issue

[Preserving Big Bend's Grandeur](#)

Visitors to Big Bend country can no longer count on the "see forever" views for which the region is renowned. Air pollution from other parts of Texas, the United States, and Mexico has degraded visibility. In fact, the decrease in visibility at Big Bend is among the most pronounced of any national park in the western U.S. The TNRCC is working with the EPA, the National Park Service, and Mexico to understand and address visibility impairment in the scenic area.



Texas Takes NPDES



After 25 years, Texas has finally won control of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). Last September, the TNRCC received authority from the EPA to administer what has been up to now a federal wastewater permit program. The state-run program applies to all permitting, inspections, effluent monitoring, public assistance, and enforcement associated with industrial and municipal wastewater treatment, stormwater runoff, and other activities.



A Better Life for Colonias

Colonias—poor, rural communities located in unincorporated areas—often lack basic services such as paved roads, sewer and water lines, and electricity. The TNRCC is collaborating with other state agencies and local government bodies to improve quality of life for colonia residents. The agency's tools are primarily environmental regulation,

technical assistance, and several community-based programs designed to help people help themselves.

TNRCC Gets Y2K Ready

The TNRCC has confronted the millennium monster. The agency will ultimately spend between \$3 million to \$4 million to accomplish Year 2000 conversion and compliance. Over the last two years, the TNRCC's Y2K Risk Management Project has converted most of the systems deemed most essential to the agency mission. The agency expects to beat the state's Aug. 31, 1999 (end of fiscal year) deadline for Y2K compliance.

**CONFRONTING THE
MILLENNIUM MONSTER**



[New Chair in Town](#)

Gov. George W. Bush appointed Robert J. Huston chair of the TNRCC on Jan. 7 for a term that will end Aug. 31, 2003. Huston, who is best known as co-founder of Espey, Huston & Associates Inc., an engineering and environmental consulting firm, is confident that he will work well with a diverse constituency, just as he did as a long-time member of

the Texas Water Conservation Association (TWCA), where he recently served as president and board chairman.

The above information is also published as TNRCC print publication PD-020/99-1.

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