

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (commission or agency) adopts the amendment to §328.66 *without changes* as published in the February 11, 2011, issue of the *Texas Register* (36 TexReg 719), and will not be republished.

Background and Summary of the Factual Basis for the Adopted Rule

At the Commissioner's Agenda held on September 15, 2010, the commissioners directed the executive director to initiate a rulemaking to remove the requirement for applicants for Land Reclamation Projects Using Tires (LRPUT) to publish public notice in adjacent counties. The amended rule will require public notice to be published only in the county in which the facility is to be located.

Section Discussion

§328.66, Land Reclamation Projects Using Tires (LRPUT)

The amendment to §328.66(a)(11) would remove the requirement for applicants of a LRPUT to publish public notice in all adjacent counties of the proposed facility location. LRPUT applicants would only need to publish public notice in the county in which the proposed facility is to be located.

Final Regulatory Impact Analysis Determination

The commission reviewed the rulemaking in light of the regulatory analysis requirements of Texas Government Code, §2001.0225, and determined the rule does not

meet the definition of a "major environmental rule." Under Texas Government Code, §2001.0225, "major environmental rule" means a rule the specific intent of which is to protect the environment or reduce risks to human health from environmental exposure, and that may adversely affect in a material way the economy, a sector of the economy, productivity, competition, jobs, the environment, or the public health and safety of the state or a sector of the state. The rulemaking is intended to reduce the burden on LRPOT applicants regarding public notice and to bring the notice requirements in line with other programs notice requirements. This rule reduces the cost of preparing an application for a LRPOT because notice is required in only one county as opposed to all adjoining counties.

Furthermore, the amendment does not meet any of the four applicability requirements listed in Texas Government Code, §2001.0225(a). Texas Government Code, §2001.0225 only applies to a major environmental rule which: 1) exceeds a standard set by federal law, unless the rule is specifically required by state law; 2) exceeds an express requirement of state law, unless the rule is specifically required by federal law; 3) exceeds a requirement of a delegation agreement or contract between the state and an agency or representative of the federal government to implement a state and federal program; or 4) adopts a rule solely under the general powers of the agency instead of under a specific state law.

In this case, the rule does not meet any of these applicability requirements. First, there are no standards set for authorizing these types of facilities by federal law and the proposal is not required by state law. Second, the amendment does not exceed an express requirement of state law. There are no specific statutory requirements for authorizing these types of facilities. Third, the rule does not exceed an express requirement of a delegation agreement or contract between the state and an agency or representative of the federal government to implement a state and federal program. Fourth, the commission does not propose the rule solely under the general powers of the agency, but rather under the authority of: Texas Health and Safety Code (THSC), §361.011, which establishes the commission's jurisdiction over all aspects of the management of municipal solid waste; THSC, §361.024, which provides the commission with rulemaking authority; THSC, §361.061, which authorizes the commission to require and issue permits governing the construction, operation, and maintenance of solid waste facilities used to store, process, or dispose of solid waste; and, THSC, §361.112, which governs the storage, transportation, and disposal of used or scrap tires. Therefore, the commission does not propose the adoption of the rule solely under the commission's general powers.

The commission invited public comment regarding the draft regulatory impact analysis determination during the public comment period. No comments were received.

Takings Impact Assessment

The commission evaluated the rulemaking and performed an assessment of whether the rulemaking constitutes a taking under Texas Government Code, Chapter 2007. The specific intent of the amendment is to reduce the burden on LRPUT applicants regarding public notice and to bring the notice requirements in line with other programs notice requirements.

The amendment does not impose a burden on a recognized real property interest and therefore does not constitute a taking. The promulgation of the rulemaking is neither a statutory nor a constitutional taking of private real property by the commission. Specifically, the rulemaking does not affect a landowner's rights in a recognized private real property interest because this rulemaking neither: burdens (constitutionally), restricts, or limits the owner's right to the property that would otherwise exist in the absence of this rulemaking; nor would it reduce its value by 25% or more beyond that value which would exist in the absence of the rule. Therefore, the rulemaking will not constitute a taking under Texas Government Code, Chapter 2007.

Consistency with the Coastal Management Program

The commission reviewed the rule and found that it is neither identified in Coastal Coordination Act Implementation Rules, 31 TAC §505.11(b)(2) or (4), nor would it affect any action/authorization identified in Coastal Coordination Act Implementation Rules,

31 TAC §505.11(a)(6). Therefore, the rule is not subject to the Texas Coastal Management Program.

The commission invited public comment regarding the consistency with the coastal management program during the public comment period. No comments were received.

Public Comment

The commission held a public hearing on March 1, 2011. The comment period closed on March 11, 2011. The commission did not receive any comments on the rule.

SUBCHAPTER F: MANAGEMENT OF USED OR SCRAP TIRES

§328.66

Statutory Authority

The amendment is adopted under the authority of: Texas Health and Safety Code (THSC), §361.011, Commission's Jurisdiction: Municipal Solid Waste, which establishes the commission's jurisdiction over all aspects of the management of municipal solid waste; THSC, §361.024, Rules and Standards, which provides the commission with rulemaking authority; THSC, §361.061, Permits; Solid Waste Facility, which authorizes the commission to require and issue permits governing the construction, operation, and maintenance of solid waste facilities used to store, process, or dispose of solid waste; and, THSC, §361.112, Storage, Transportation, and Disposal of Used or Scrap Tires, which governs the storage, transportation, and disposal of used or scrap tires.

The amendment implements THSC, §361.061 and §361.112.

§328.66. Land Reclamation Projects Using Tires (LRPUT).

(a) Any person or entity intending to initiate a Land Reclamation Projects Using Tires (LRPUT) shall notify the executive director in writing of the intent to fill land by means of a LRPUT. The application shall be submitted in triplicate either in writing or

through an electronic reporting system as allowed by the executive director.

Owners/operators of LRPUTs are required to provide information to the executive director as part of the notification document as described in this subsection. Approval in writing by the executive director (authorization to proceed) is required before the reclamation project may be initiated. The executive director may withhold authorization to proceed if the information submitted is not deemed to be complete. The executive director shall have 60 days to review the notification documents for completeness. The executive director may request additional information if the executive director determines that the notification submittal does not address all applicable requirements of this subchapter or any potential risks to public health or the environment. The following information shall be submitted in the notification document or attachments thereto.

(1) The owner/operator of the LRPUT shall disclose in the notification the location of the project on a state highway map, United States Geological Survey map or similar, and provide a legal description of the property. The general location on the site where fill activities will take place shall be shown on one or more of these maps;

(2) A property owner's affidavit shall be submitted at the time of notification of intent to initiate a LRPUT and shall include the following:

(A) legal description of the property on which the LRPUT will occur; and

(B) acknowledgment that the owner has a responsibility to file with the county deed records an affidavit to the public advising that a reclamation project utilizing tire pieces exists on the site, and providing details about the location of the filled area within the property boundaries, areal extent of the fill project, coordinates or survey data, and the approximate volume or weight of tires which were used as fill, at such time as the fill project has been completed;

(3) The approximate volume of tire pieces proposed to be placed below ground, or the equivalent number of whole tires, and the approximate size and depth of the depression or borrow area to be filled shall be disclosed in the notification document;

(4) The approximate period of time during which the project will be conducted shall be disclosed, with estimated start and finish dates;

(5) The method of placement and commingling of the tire shreds to achieve a mix of tire pieces with the inert fill material in a proportion no greater than 50% of tire material by volume.

(6) A demonstration of the seasonal high groundwater level in the area.

The executive director may require that an additional demonstration be provided for the seasonal high groundwater level at the proposed site based on the demonstration provided for the area. If the executive director requires an additional demonstration of the seasonal high groundwater level at the proposed site, the applicant shall provide the requested information within the time frame specified by the executive director.

(7) A statement signed and sealed by a professional engineer licensed to practice in Texas shall be submitted in the notification to the executive director to certify that the LRPUR is designed in a manner that will comply with the following standards.

(A) The LRPUR shall not cause a discharge of solid waste or pollutants adjacent to or into the waters of the state, including ground water, that is in violation of the requirements of the Texas Water Code, §26.121;

(B) The LRPUR shall not adversely affect human health, public safety or the environment, either during fill operations or after the reclamation project is complete; and

(C) Tire or tire pieces shall not be placed below ground in a manner that constitutes disposal as defined in Texas Health and Safety Code §361.003(7);

(8) An affidavit signed by the property owner shall be submitted certifying that:

(A) the borrow area, hole or disturbed land area existed before the project; was excavated for another purpose; and was not excavated for the burial of tire pieces;

(B) the LRPUT will be completed in a manner that will comply with all regulations set forth in this subchapter and any other rules of the commission or any other local, state or federal agency which apply; and

(C) the local fire marshal has been notified of the tire placement or fill activity.

(9) An affidavit signed by the operator shall be submitted certifying that he or she is familiar with the application and all supporting data; is aware of all commitments represented in the notification; is familiar with all pertinent requirements in these regulations; and agrees to develop and operate the project in accordance with

the application, applicable local and state regulations, and any special provisions that may be imposed by the executive director.

(10) The owner or operator shall mail a copy of the notification documents and attachments to the appropriate mayor and county judge if the proposed project is to be located within the corporate limits or extraterritorial jurisdiction of a city; or the appropriate county judge if the proposed project is to be located within an unincorporated area of a county; to the appropriate groundwater district; and to the appropriate regional council of government. Proof of mailing shall be provided in the form of return receipts for registered mail. Prior to authorizing a LRPUR, the executive director shall consider any timely written notice by a local government with jurisdiction over a proposed facility that is provided to the executive director that the proposed facility does not comply with local requirements related to managing scrap tires and protecting public health and the environment. Local governments' notice of noncompliance shall include adequate documentation of noncompliance at the proposed facility. The executive director shall determine whether any documentation of noncompliance submitted is adequate. The executive director shall disregard such notice if a court with jurisdiction over a local government's decision determines that an application complies with local requirements. Local governments shall be allowed 45 days after an applicant mails notice to mail its reply to the executive director.

(11) Upon the filing of the notification documents, the facility owner or operator shall provide notice to the general public by means of a notice by publication and a notice by mail. Each notice shall specify both the name, affiliation, address, and telephone number of the applicant and of the commission employee who may be reached to obtain more information about the LRPUT project. The notices shall specify that the notification documents have been provided to the county judge and that they are available for review by interested parties. The applicant shall publish notice in the county in which the facility is located. The notice shall be published once a week for three weeks. The applicant should attempt to obtain publication in a Sunday edition of a newspaper. The notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, shall be sent to all adjacent landowners and all owners of property within 500 feet of the boundary of the project; the health authorities of the city and county in which the project will be located, if applicable; and the appropriate state senator and representative for the area encompassing the project.

(b) Undisturbed land shall not be excavated for the purpose of filling the same land with a mixture of tires and debris or soil. Any borrow area, hole or other disturbed land area to be used for a LRPUT must have existed before the project, and it must have been excavated or soil removed for a purpose other than for the burial of tire pieces.

(c) The LRPUT shall not result in a public nuisance.

(d) An applicant for a LRPUT shall notify the local fire authority serving the area of the proposed tire placement or fill activity. If an owner or operator of a LRPUT does not intend to provide its own fire fighting personnel or system, the owner or operator shall make arrangements with public or private emergency response personnel that are capable of complying with applicable fire and building codes. Prior to authorizing a LRPUT, the executive director shall consider any timely written notification by a local fire authority with jurisdiction over a proposed facility that is provided to the executive director that the proposed facility does not comply with local requirements relating to fire protection. Such notice shall include adequate documentation of the noncompliance at the proposed facility. The executive director shall determine whether any documentation of noncompliance submitted is adequate. The executive director shall disregard such notice if a court with jurisdiction over a local fire authority's decision determines that an application complies with local requirements. Local fire authority officials shall be allowed 45 days after an applicant mails notice to mail its reply to the executive director. Applicants must provide proof that the mailed notice was received by the fire authority.

(e) All tires used to fill land shall be split, quartered, or shredded. Whole tires shall not be placed below ground.

(f) The owner and operator of the LRPOT shall comply with all applicable local ordinances, including any public safety, or zoning and land use laws.

(g) Shredded, split or quartered tires placed below ground shall be mixed in a proportion no greater than approximately 50% by volume with inert material acceptable for filling land. If greater than 50% of tire pieces by volume are placed below ground, the site is considered a tire monofill and is subject to §328.65 of this title (relating to Tire Monofill Permit Required).

(h) Tire pieces shall be placed no closer than 18 inches to the final grade or ground surface. A soil cover unadulterated with tire pieces shall make up at least the upper 18 inches of the reclamation project.

(i) The owner or operator of the LRPOT shall register as a scrap tire facility if a shredding operation is conducted on site for processing tires.

(j) The owner or operator of the LRPOT shall register as a scrap tire storage site under §328.60 of this title (relating to Scrap Tire Storage Site Registration) if:

(1) operations requiring storage of more than 500 used or scrap tires (or weight equivalent tire pieces or any combination thereof) on the ground or more than

2,000 used or scrap tires (or weight equivalent tire pieces or any combination thereof) in enclosed and lockable containers would qualify the site as a registered tire storage site under §328.60 of this title; and

(2) the construction of the LRPUT extends beyond 90 days from the date of delivery of tires or tire pieces to the site.

(k) The executive director shall issue an identifying number at the time the approval letter for the LRPUT is issued. This identifying number shall be referenced in any correspondence relating to a particular LRPUT for which such a number is issued.

(l) A person may provide the commission with written comments on any notification of a LRPUT project. The executive director shall review any written comments when they are received within 30 days of mailing the notice. The written information received will be utilized by the executive director in determining what action to take on the application for a LRPUT.

(m) Following completion of all fill activities for the LRPUT, the owner or operator shall submit to the executive director, for review and approval, a documented certification signed by a licensed professional engineer verifying that the project has

been completed in accordance with this subchapter, the notification documents, and all attachments. Once approved, this certification shall be placed in the file.

(n) The term "local government" as used in this section is defined in Texas Health and Safety Code, §361.003(17).