

SUBCHAPTER A: LAKES TRAVIS AND AUSTIN WATER QUALITY
§§311.1 - 311.6
Effective December 7, 2000

§311.1. Definitions.

The following words and terms, when used in these sections, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

(1) **"Lake Austin Water Quality Area"** - Those portions of the Lake Austin Watershed within ten stream miles of the pool level of Lake Austin (492.8 feet, mean sea level).

(2) **"Lake Austin Watershed"** - Lake Austin and its tributaries located between Tom Miller Dam and Mansfield Dam.

(3) **"Lake Travis Water Quality Area"** - Those portions of the Lake Travis Watershed within ten stream miles of the pool elevation of Lake Travis (681 feet, mean sea level).

(4) **"Lake Travis Watershed"** - Lake Travis and its tributaries located between Mansfield Dam and Max Starcke Dam, but only that part of the Pedernales River and its tributaries within fifteen stream miles of the pool elevation of Lake Travis.

§311.2. No Discharge of Pollutants.

There shall be no discharge of pollutants into the Lake Austin Water Quality Area or the Lake Travis Water Quality Area, except as provided in these sections.

§311.3. Wastewater Disposal.

Any proposed sewage treatment facility in the Lake Austin or Lake Travis Water Quality Area will be required to provide secondary treatment in accordance with one of the following options:

(1) the treatment facility will provide treatment as specified in Effluent Sets 2 and A in §309.4 of this title (relating to Table 1, Effluent Standards for Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plants) prior to discharge into on-channel ponds. Such ponds will be designed, constructed, and operated to meet standards established on a case-by-case basis that will assure that any overflows of treated effluent occur only when the volume of effluent to stormwater in the pond is less than or equal to 1:10. For the purposes of this paragraph and calculation, effluent does not include any amounts of stormwater runoff, but only the amount of wastewater discharge from the plant. Standards will include, but are not limited to, a minimum pond size requirement based on hydrological studies of the drainage area of the pond and allowable irrigation rates as determined in accordance with §317.10(c) of this title (relating to Appendix B -- Land Disposal of Sewage Effluent); or

(2) the treatment facility will provide secondary treatment as specified in §§309.1-309.4 of this title (relating to Introduction and Purpose; Rationale for Effluent Sets; Application of Effluent Sets, and Table 1, Effluent Standards for Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plants) prior to discharge into storage ponds for land disposal. Storage ponds and land disposal practices will be designed, constructed and operated in accordance with §317.10(c) of this title (relating to Appendix B - Land Disposal of Sewage Effluent).

§311.4. Existing Facilities in Water Quality Areas.

(a) Any currently permitted treatment facility in the Lake Austin or Lake Travis Water Quality Areas may continue operation in accordance with the terms and conditions of the existing permit for the facility and can apply for renewal of the permit unless the facility becomes substantially noncompliant or an expansion of the treatment facility is included in the application for renewal.

(b) Any modification of a facility described in subsections (a) of this section that requires a permit amendment and which results in additional treatment capacity will also require treatment as described in §311.3 of this title (relating to Wastewater Disposal) for the total wastewater flow from the permitted facility.

(c) Any permitted facility not meeting its permit limitations because of overloading of sewage will be subject to amendment as described in §305.62 of this title (relating to Amendment) in order to impose permit limitations consistent with §311.3 of this title (relating to Wastewater Disposal).

§311.5. Lake Austin and Lake Travis Watershed Management.

Any proposed new or expanded treatment facility in the Lake Austin or Lake Travis Watersheds but outside the Lake Austin and Lake Travis Water Quality Areas may be permitted only if it provides for disposal without discharge in accordance with §311.3 of this title (relating to Wastewater Disposal) or if the applicant establishes that any alternative proposed wastewater treatment and disposal will consistently protect and maintain the existing water quality of Lake Austin and Lake Travis.

§311.6. Allowable Storm Water Runoff and Certain Non-Storm Water Discharges.

(a) The following discharges of storm water runoff may be authorized by a Texas pollutant discharge elimination system (TPDES) permit or a national pollutant discharge elimination system (NPDES) permit:

- (1) storm water runoff from industrial facilities;
- (2) storm water runoff from municipal separate storm sewer systems; and
- (3) storm water runoff from construction activities.

(b) The following non-storm water discharges may be authorized by a TPDES permit or a NPDES permit:

- (1) discharges from fire fighting activities;
- (2) discharges from fire hydrant flushings;
- (3) discharges from potable water sources, including drinking fountain water and water line flushings;
- (4) discharges from uncontaminated air conditioning or compressor condensate;
- (5) discharges from lawn watering and similar irrigation drainage;
- (6) discharges from pavement wash down without the use of detergents or other chemicals and where spills or leaks of toxic or hazardous materials have not occurred (unless all spilled material has been removed);
- (7) discharges from a routine external building wash down that do not use detergents or other compounds;
- (8) discharges from uncontaminated groundwater or spring water;
- (9) discharges from foundation or footing drains where flows are not contaminated with process materials such as solvents;
- (10) discharges from the spray down of lumber and wood product storage yards where no chemical additives are used in the spray down waters and no chemicals are applied to the wood during storage; and
- (11) discharges of storm water or groundwater seepage from mine dewatering activities at construction sand and gravel, industrial sand, or crushed stone mining facilities.

(c) Nothing in this subchapter is intended to restrict the powers of the commission or any other governmental entity to prevent, correct, or curtail activities that result or may result in pollution in the water quality area. In addition to the rules of the commission, a TPDES permit applicant may also be required to comply with local pollution control ordinances and regulations.

Adopted November 15, 2000

Effective December 7, 2000