

**SUBCHAPTER L: PUBLIC NOTICE OF INJECTION WELL AND OTHER
SPECIFIC APPLICATIONS
§§39.651, 39.653, 39.655
Effective May 19, 2016**

§39.651. Application for Injection Well Permit.

(a) Applicability. This subchapter applies to applications for injection well permits that are declared administratively complete on or after September 1, 1999.

(b) Preapplication local review committee process. If an applicant decides to participate in a local review committee process under Texas Health and Safety Code, §361.063, the applicant shall submit a notice of intent to file an application to the executive director, setting forth the proposed location and type of facility. The applicant shall mail notice to the county judge of the county in which the facility is to be located. In addition, if the proposed facility is to be located in a municipality or the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality, a copy of the notice must be mailed to the mayor of the municipality.

(c) Notice of Receipt of Application and Intent to Obtain Permit.

(1) On the executive director's receipt of an application, or notice of intent to file an application, the chief clerk shall mail notice to the state senator and representative who represent the area in which the facility is or will be located.

(2) After the executive director determines that the application is administratively complete, notice must be given as required by §39.418 of this title (relating to Notice of Receipt of Application and Intent to Obtain Permit). This notice must contain the text as required by §39.411(b)(1) - (9) and (11) of this title (relating to Text of Public Notice). Notice under §39.418 of this title will satisfy the notice of receipt of application required by §281.17(d) of this title (relating to Notice of Receipt of Application and Declaration of Administrative Completeness).

(3) After the executive director determines that the application is administratively complete, in addition to the requirements of §39.418 of this title, notice must be given to the School Land Board, if the application will affect lands dedicated to the permanent school fund. The notice must be in the form required by Texas Water Code, §5.115(c).

(4) For Notice of Receipt of Application and Intent to Obtain a Permit concerning Class I or Class III underground injection wells, the chief clerk shall also mail notice to:

(A) persons who own the property on which the existing or proposed injection well facility is or will be located, if different from the applicant;

(B) landowners adjacent to the property on which the existing or proposed injection well facility is or will be located;

(C) persons who own mineral rights underlying the existing or proposed injection well facility;

(D) persons who own mineral rights underlying the tracts of land adjacent to the property on which the existing or proposed injection well facility is or will be located; and

(E) any groundwater conservation district established in the county in which the existing or proposed injection well facility is or will be located.

(5) The chief clerk or executive director shall also mail a copy of the application or a summary of its contents to the mayor and health authority of a municipality in whose territorial limits or extraterritorial jurisdiction the solid waste facility is located and to the county judge and the health authority of the county in which the facility is located.

(6) For Class I underground injection wells, the published notice must be at least 15 square inches (96.8 square centimeters) with a shortest dimension of at least three inches (7.6 centimeters) and the notice must appear in the section of the newspaper containing state or local news items.

(d) Notice of Application and Preliminary Decision. The notice required by §39.419 of this title (relating to Notice of Application and Preliminary Decision) must be published once under §39.405(f)(2) of this title (relating to General Notice Provisions) after the chief clerk has mailed the preliminary decision and the Notice of Application and Preliminary Decision to the applicant. This notice must contain the text as required by §39.411(c)(1) - (6) of this title. In addition to the requirements of §39.405(h) and §39.419 of this title, the following requirements apply.

(1) The applicant shall publish notice at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in each county that is adjacent or contiguous to each county in which the proposed facility is located. One notice may satisfy the requirements of §39.405(f)(2) of this title and of this subsection, if the newspaper meets the requirements of both rules.

(2) For Class I underground injection wells, the published notice must be at least 15 square inches (96.8 square centimeters) with a shortest dimension of

at least three inches (7.6 centimeters) and the notice must appear in the section of the newspaper containing state or local news items.

(3) The chief clerk shall mail notice to the persons listed in §39.413 of this title (relating to Mailed Notice) and to local governments located in the county of the facility. "Local governments" have the meaning as defined in Texas Water Code, Chapter 26.

(4) For Notice of Application and Preliminary Decision concerning Class I or Class III underground injection wells, the chief clerk shall also mail notice to:

(A) persons who own the property on which the existing or proposed injection well facility is or will be located, if different from the applicant;

(B) landowners adjacent to the property on which the existing or proposed injection well facility is or will be located;

(C) persons who own mineral rights underlying the existing or proposed injection well facility;

(D) persons who own mineral rights underlying the tracts of land adjacent to the property on which the existing or proposed injection well facility is or will be located; and

(E) any groundwater conservation district established in the county in which the existing or proposed injection well facility is or will be located.

(5) If the application concerns a hazardous waste facility, the applicant shall broadcast notice under §39.503(d)(2) of this title (relating to Application for Industrial or Hazardous Waste Facility Permit).

(6) The deadline for public comments on industrial solid waste, Class III, or Class V injection well permit applications will be not less than 30 days after newspaper publication, and for hazardous waste applications, not less than 45 days after newspaper publication.

(e) Notice of public meeting.

(1) If an application for a new hazardous waste facility is filed:

(A) before September 1, 2005, the agency shall hold a public meeting in the county in which the facility is proposed to be located to receive public comment concerning the application; or

(B) on or after September 1, 2005, the agency:

(i) may hold a public meeting under §55.154 of this title (relating to Public Meetings) in the county in which the facility is proposed to be located to receive public comment concerning the application; but

(ii) shall hold a public meeting under §55.154 of this title in the county in which the facility is proposed to be located to receive public comment concerning the application:

(I) on the request of a member of the legislature who represents the general area in which the facility is proposed to be located; or

(II) if the executive director determines that there is substantial public interest in the proposed facility.

(2) If an application for a major amendment to or a Class 3 modification of an existing hazardous waste facility permit is filed:

(A) before September 1, 2005, the agency shall hold a public meeting in the county in which the facility is located to receive public comment on the application if a person affected files with the chief clerk a request for a public meeting concerning the application before the deadline to file public comment or to file requests for reconsideration or hearing; or

(B) on or after September 1, 2005, the agency:

(i) may hold a public meeting under §55.154 of this title in the county in which the facility is located to receive public comment on the application; but

(ii) shall hold a public meeting under §55.154 of this title in the county in which the facility is located to receive public comment concerning the application:

(I) on the request of a member of the legislature who represents the general area in which the facility is located; or

(II) if the executive director determines that there is substantial public interest in the facility.

(3) For purposes of this subsection, "substantial public interest" is demonstrated if a request for a public meeting is filed by:

(A) a local governmental entity with jurisdiction over the location in which the facility is located or proposed to be located by formal resolution of the entity's governing body;

(B) a council of governments with jurisdiction over the location in which the facility is located or proposed to be located by formal request of either the council's solid waste advisory committee, executive committee, or governing board;

(C) a homeowners' or property owners' association formally organized or chartered and having at least ten members located in the general area in which the facility is located or proposed to be located; or

(D) a group of ten or more local residents, property owners, or businesses located in the general area in which the facility is located or proposed to be located.

(4) A public meeting is not a contested case proceeding under the Administrative Procedure Act. A public meeting held as part of a local review committee process under subsection (b) of this section meets the requirements of this subsection if public notice is provided in accordance with this subsection.

(5) The applicant shall publish notice of the public meeting once each week during the three weeks preceding a public meeting under §39.405(f)(2) of this title. The published notice must be at least 15 square inches (96.8 square centimeters) with a shortest dimension of at least three inches (7.6 centimeters).

(6) The chief clerk shall mail notice to the persons listed in §39.413 of this title.

(f) Notice of contested case hearing.

(1) Applicability. This subsection applies if an application is referred to the State Office of Administrative Hearings for a contested case hearing under Chapter 80 of this title (relating to Contested Case Hearings).

(2) Newspaper notice.

(A) If the application concerns a facility other than a hazardous waste facility, the applicant shall publish notice at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the facility is located and in each county and area that is adjacent or contiguous to each county in which the proposed facility is located.

(B) For Class I underground injection wells, the published notice must be at least 15 square inches (96.8 square centimeters) with a shortest dimension of at least three inches (7.6 centimeters) and the notice must appear in the section of the newspaper containing state or local news items.

(C) If the application concerns a hazardous waste facility, the hearing must include one session held in the county in which the facility is located. The applicant shall publish notice of the hearing once each week during the three weeks preceding the hearing under §39.405(f)(2) of this title. The published notice must be at least 15 square inches (96.8 square centimeters) with a shortest dimension of at least three inches (7.6 centimeters). The notice must appear in the section of the newspaper containing state or local news items. The text of the notice must include the statement that at least one session of the hearing will be held in the county in which the facility is located.

(3) Mailed notice.

(A) For all applications concerning underground injection wells, the chief clerk shall mail notice to persons listed in §39.413 of this title.

(B) For notice of hearings concerning Class I or Class III underground injection wells, the chief clerk shall also mail notice to:

(i) persons who own the property on which the existing or proposed injection well facility is or will be located, if different from the applicant;

(ii) landowners adjacent to the property on which the existing or proposed injection well facility is or will be located;

(iii) persons who own mineral rights underlying the existing or proposed injection well facility;

(iv) persons who own mineral rights underlying the tracts of land adjacent to the property on which the existing or proposed injection well facility is or will be located; and

(v) any groundwater conservation district established in the county in which the existing or proposed injection well facility is or will be located.

(C) If the applicant proposes a new solid waste management facility, the applicant shall mail notice to each residential or business address, not listed under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, located within 1/2 mile of the facility and to each owner of real property located within 1/2 mile of the facility

listed in the real property appraisal records of the appraisal district in which the facility is located. The notice must be mailed to the persons listed as owners in the real property appraisal records on the date the application is determined to be administratively complete. The notice must be mailed no more than 45 days and no less than 30 days before the contested case hearing. Within 30 days after the date of mailing, the applicant shall file with the chief clerk an affidavit certifying compliance with its obligations under this subsection. Filing an affidavit certifying facts that constitute compliance with notice requirements creates a rebuttable presumption of compliance with this subparagraph.

(4) Radio broadcast. If the application concerns a hazardous waste facility, the applicant shall broadcast notice under §39.503(d)(2) of this title.

(5) Deadline. Notice under paragraphs (2)(A), (3), and (4) of this subsection must be completed at least 30 days before the contested case hearing.

(g) Approval. All published notices required by this section must be in a form approved by the executive director prior to publication.

(h) Applications for individual Class V injection well permits for aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) projects. Notwithstanding the requirements of subsections (c) and (d) of this section, this subsection establishes the public notice requirements for an application for an individual Class V injection well permit for an ASR project. Issuance of the Notice of Receipt of Application and Intent to Obtain a Permit is not required for an application for an individual Class V injection well permit for an ASR project. The notice required by §39.419 of this title must be published by the applicant once in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the injection well will be located after the chief clerk has mailed the preliminary decision and the Notice of Application and Preliminary Decision to the applicant. The chief clerk shall provide notice by first class mail to any groundwater conservation district in which the wells associated with the ASR project will be located. The chief clerk shall also mail notice to the persons listed in §39.413(7) - (9) of this title. This notice must contain the text as required by §39.411(c)(1) - (6) of this title.

Adopted April 27, 2016

Effective May 19, 2016

§39.653. Application for Production Area Authorization.

(a) Applicability. This section applies to an application for a production area authorization under Chapter 331 of this title (relating to Underground Injection Control).

(b) Notice of Receipt of Application and Intent to Obtain Permit. After the executive director determines that the application is administratively complete, notice shall be given as required by §39.418 of this title (relating to Notice of Receipt of Application and Intent to Obtain Permit). This notice must contain the text as required by §39.411(b)(1) - (9) and (11) of this title (relating to Text of Public Notice). The chief clerk shall also mail notice to:

(1) persons who own the property on which the existing or proposed production area is or will be located, if different from the applicant;

(2) landowners adjacent to the property on which the existing or proposed production area is or will be located;

(3) persons who own mineral rights underlying the existing or proposed production area;

(4) persons who own mineral rights underlying the tracts of land adjacent to the property on which the existing or proposed production area is or will be located; and

(5) any groundwater conservation district established in the county in which the existing or proposed production area is or will be located.

(c) Notice of Application and Preliminary Decision. The notice required by §39.419 of this title (relating to Notice of Application and Preliminary Decision) shall be published once under §39.405(f)(2) of this title (relating to General Notice Provisions) after the chief clerk has mailed the preliminary decision and the Notice of Application and Preliminary Decision to the applicant. This notice must contain the text as required by §39.411(c)(1) - (6) of this title. The notice shall specify the deadline to file with the chief clerk public comment, which is 30 days after mailing. The chief clerk shall also mail notice to:

(1) persons who own the property on which the existing or proposed production area is or will be located, if different from the applicant;

(2) landowners adjacent to the property on which the existing or proposed production area is or will be located;

(3) persons who own mineral rights underlying the existing or proposed production area;

(4) persons who own mineral rights underlying the tracts of land adjacent to the property on which the existing or proposed production area is or will be located; and

(5) any groundwater conservation district established in the county in which the existing or proposed production area is or will be located.

(d) Notice of contested case hearing.

(1) This subsection applies if an application is referred to the State Office of Administrative Hearings for a contested case hearing under Chapter 80 of this title (relating to Contested Case Hearings).

(2) The applicant shall publish notice at least once under §39.405(f)(2) of this title.

(3) The chief clerk shall mail notice to the persons listed in §39.413 of this title (relating to Mailed Notice).

(4) Notice under paragraphs (2) and (3) this subsection shall be completed at least 30 days before the hearing.

Adopted June 2, 2010

Effective June 24, 2010

§39.655. Aquifer Exemption.

(a) Applicability. This section applies to the designation of an exempt aquifer under §331.13 of this title (relating to Exempted Aquifer).

(b) Notice of Aquifer Exemption. Notice of Aquifer Exemption shall be published once in a newspaper or newspapers in the same manner as required for the Notice of Application and Preliminary Decision for an injection well permit application associated with the proposed aquifer exemption under §39.651(d) of this title (relating to Application for Injection Well Permit). This notice must contain the text as required by §39.411(c)(1) - (6) of this title (relating to Text of Public Notice). The chief clerk shall mail this notice to the persons who would receive the Notice of Application and Preliminary Decision for an injection well permit application associated with the proposed aquifer exemption under §39.651(d) of this title. The deadline for submitting public comments or requesting a contested case hearing on an aquifer exemption is 30 days after newspaper publication.

(c) Notice of Public Meeting on Aquifer Exemption. Notice of a Public Meeting on Aquifer Exemption shall be published in a newspaper or newspapers in the same manner as required for the Notice of Public Meeting for an injection well permit application associated with the proposed aquifer exemption under §39.651(e) of this title. This notice must contain the text as required by §39.411(d) of this title. The chief clerk shall mail this notice to the persons required to receive the Notice of

Public Meeting for an injection well permit application associated with the proposed aquifer exemption under §39.651(e) of this title.

(d) Notice of Contested Case Hearing on Aquifer Exemption. This section applies if an application to designate an exempt aquifer is referred to the State Office of Administrative Hearings for a contested case hearing under Chapter 80 of this title (relating to Contested Case Hearings). Notice of contested case hearing on Aquifer Exemption shall be published in a newspaper or newspapers in the same manner as required for the notice of contested case hearing for an injection well permit application associated with the proposed aquifer exemption under §39.651(f) of this title. This notice must contain the text as required by §39.423 of this title (relating to Notice of Contested Case Hearing). The chief clerk shall mail this notice to the persons required to receive the Notice of Contested Case Hearing for an injection well permit application associated with the proposed aquifer exemption under §39.651(f) of this title.

(e) Combined notice. Notice required under this section may be combined to satisfy other applicable sections of this subchapter.

Adopted February 11, 2009

Effective March 12, 2009