

WQAWG Stakeholder Meeting July 21, 2020
Q & A Report

Questions & Answers – Addressed in Chat Window			
Source	Type	Name	Content
Attendee	Question # 1	Anonymous (Unverified)	Hello, verifying this is the Teams Meeting for WQAWG today.
Moderator	Response to Question # 1	Nancy Vignali	Yes, starting now(Hello, verifying this is the Teams Meeting for WQAWG today.)
Attendee	Response to Question # 1	Anonymous (Unverified)	Thank you!(Hello, verifying this is the Teams Meeting for WQAWG today.)
Attendee	Comment # 2	Anonymous (Unverified)	Not a questions: you may wish to speak with Drinking Water Advisory Workgroup. This groups was able to interact with those on today's call. (POC: Michelle Risko) - just a thought
Moderator	Response to Comment # 2	Nancy Vignali	Thank you - I will get in touch with her. This is new for everyone. Thanks very much for the feedback. Have a great meeting.(Not a questions: you may wish to speak with Drinking Water Advisory Workgroup. This groups was able to interact with those on today's call. (POC: Michelle Risko) - just a thought)
Attendee	Question # 3	Anonymous (Unverified)	Should we be able to see David?
Moderator	Response to Question # 3	Nancy Vignali	Yes - let me check(should we be able to see David?)
Moderator	Response to Question # 3	Nancy Vignali	Sorry his camera is not working. I just sent out an announcement to all. Thanks for the input.(should we be able to see David?)
Attendee	Question # 4	Anonymous (Unverified)	Mark: Can David Turn his camera on?
Moderator	Response to Question # 4	Nancy Vignali	No, it is not working. I just sent out an announcement - hoe that helps(Mark: Can David Turn his camera on?)
Moderator	Announcement	Nancy Vignali	Unfortunately, David's camera is not working so please stay with us. You should be able to see all the other presenters. Sorry for the inconvenience.
Attendee	Comment # 5	Anonymous (Unverified)	Mark: I can see your chat comments on the external page that the stakeholders can see.
Attendee	Question # 6	Anonymous (Unverified)	Could we get David's email address?

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Moderator	Response to Question # 6	Nancy Vignali	David.Galindo@tceq.texas.gov (Could we get David's email address?)
Attendee	Response to Question # 6	Anna Polanco-Ramos (Unverified)	Thank you.
Moderator	Response to Question # 6	Nancy Vignali	You're most welcome.(Anna Polanco-Ramos (Unverified) asked "Thank you.")
Moderator	Announcement	Nancy Vignali	Reminder - please submit questions during the program. All questions submitted will be addressed after all presenters have finished. Thank you for your participation and support.
Attendee	Question # 7	Anna Polanco-Ramos (Unverified)	Please send the email address Peter just mentioned again.
Moderator	Response to Question # 7	Gregg Easley	ipcommnt@tceq.texas.gov (Anna Polanco-Ramos (Unverified) asked "please send the email address Peter just mentioned again.")

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Questions & Answers – Addressed On-Air During Live Meeting Q&A Session			
Source	Type	Name	Content
Attendee	Question # 1	Anonymous (Unverified)	For individual permits in the system now, are they held up until decisions are made on plastics?
Moderator	Question # 1	Gregg Easley	This question was read out loud during the virtual meeting Question & Answer section.
Presenter	Response to Question # 1	David Galindo	No, TCEQ is moving forward with issuing the individual permits, and we'll include a reopener clause language in there. Once we have language developed, we can do a Staff Initiated Amendment to open those permits back up to include more stringent requirements in those permits.
Attendee	Question # 2	Anonymous (Unverified)	Also, have technologies been identified for zero discharge of no visible plastics similar to BACT?
Moderator	Question # 2	Gregg Easley	This question was read out loud during the virtual meeting Question & Answer section.
Presenter	Response to Question #2	David Galindo	No, we are not proposing technology-based limits. We are proposing a change to the Water Quality Standards. It would be a Water Quality based limit which would also allow a compliance period potentially. So no, we have not evaluated any technologies that would be suitable for achieving zero discharges of plastics.
Attendee	Question # 3	Ellen Gilinsky (Unverified)	Will the new water treatment plant GP exclude treatment of produced water from the GP?
Moderator	Question # 3	Gregg Easley	This question was read out loud during the virtual meeting Question & Answer section.
Presenter	Response to Question # 3	Laurie Fleet	The Water Treatment Plant General Permit is specific to conventional water treatment plants, it only authorizes wastewater related to the conventional treatment of water treatment plant wastewater. It's going to include wastewater from facilities that use the normal conventional treatment process; again, this is water treatment, not wastewater treatment facilities. So, this is your drinking water plants so to my knowledge no water treatment plants are using produced water to generate public drinking water. So, the answer is no, the general permit the water treatment plant general permit will not allow produced water discharges through that general permit.
Attendee	Question # 4	Anonymous (Unverified)	Would it also be possible to send draft permits out by email?
Attendee	Question # 4 continued	Anonymous (Unverified)	Draft water quality permits
Moderator	Response to Question # 4	Gregg Easley	Not sure I understand the question. Do you mean sending out draft permits by email to the public?(draft water quality permits)

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Moderator	Question # 4	Gregg Easley	This question was read out loud during the virtual meeting Question & Answer section.
Presenter	Response to Question # 4 continued	Laurie Fleet	What I think the question is getting at is if the applicants need to submit their applications to the agency, can those be emailed instead of mailed US postal mail. I believe the answer is yes, we can accept them via email, although you have to be careful because our email system has a maximum size that it allows as an attachment in the event that you do email it to us. It would still need to be followed up with a hard copy anyways.
Attendee	Question # 4 clarified	Anonymous (Unverified)	I would like to know if draft water quality permits can be sent to the permittee for comment instead of sending by mail.
Moderator	Response to Question # 4 clarified	Gregg Easley	Got it. Thank you for the clarification. Will respond soon.(I would like to know if draft water quality permits can be sent to the permittee for comment instead of sending by mail.)
Moderator	Question # 4 continued	Gregg Easley	This clarification was read out loud during the virtual meeting Question & Answer section.
Presenter	Response to Question # 4 continued	Laurie Fleet	Yes, we started using email to send the draft permits out to applicants for review I believe last year, the fall of last year. The applicants I believe have been emailing their comments back to us, so that's significantly shortened the amount of time needed for draft review and acceptance; we were doing that prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.
Attendee	Comment to Question # 4	Anonymous (Unverified)	Permit writers email draft permits already, at least the municipal team does this
Attendee	Question # 5	Anonymous (Unverified)	Where was APO program transferred to again?
Moderator	Question # 5	Gregg Easley	This question was read out loud during the virtual meeting Question & Answer section.
Presenter	Response to Question # 5	Shelby Williams	The APO program was transferred over to the Permitting and Registration Support Division in the Office of Waste.
Attendee	Question # 6	Julie Winchell, City of Cleburne (Unverified)	Would the WTP general permit go into effect if approved 10/07/20?
Moderator	Question # 6	Gregg Easley	This question was read out loud during the virtual meeting Question & Answer section.
Presenter	Response to Question # 6	Laurie Fleet	If the permit gets issued on October 7 th , it would go into effect on that same day; well it would go into effect on the date that it's signed. So, when we go to Commissioner's Agenda, they will adopt it, but then there's an actual signature that goes on the document; it can take up to a week for the Commissioner's to actually sign the document. It goes into effect upon its signature so it may not be exactly the October 7 th , but it'll be probably within a week of October 7 th .

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Attendee	Question # 7	Anonymous (Unverified)	What if we have not received these waivers for our permittees?
Attendee	Question # 8	Tammy West - Austin Water (Unverified)	What if we have not received our waivers yet?
Moderator	Question # 7 and # 8	Gregg Easley	These questions (# 7 and # 8) were read out loud together during the virtual meeting Question & Answer section.
Presenter	Response # 7 and # 8	Laurie Fleet	We sent those out on June 11 th so you should have received your waiver in the mail. Again, those waivers were sent out to permittees who had their permits issued after February 1, 2016. So, if your permit was issued prior to February 1, 2016 it does not require the electronic reporting, those requirements were never added to your permit, so you would not have gotten one. If you didn't, we have received a number of those back in the mail as undeliverable, we either don't have an accurate address for you, or something of that nature as the US postal service has returned a number of them to us. My recommendation to you, if you think you should have got a waiver and you did not get a waiver, send me an email and I can verify if you were supposed to have one or not. If you were supposed to have one and it got returned to us, we can get an accurate address for you and get that sent back out. My email address is laurie.fleet@tceq.texas.gov .
Attendee	Question # 9	Rick (Unverified)	Just to confirm, electronic reporting for pretreatment is waived until Dec 2023.
Moderator	Question # 9	Gregg Easley	This question was read out loud during the virtual meeting Question & Answer section.
Presenter	Response to Question # 9	Laurie Fleet	Yes, for the pretreatment annual report, the waiver is good through December of 2023. The Biosolids waiver is good through December of this year, so December 2020.
Attendee	Question # 10	Ellen Gilinsky (Unverified)	Is copy of the MOU with RR commission available online
Moderator	Question # 10	Gregg Easley	This question was read out loud during the virtual meeting Question & Answer section.
Presenter	Response to Question # 10	Laurie Fleet	Yes, it is because those rule markings are available under our rules so if you go to the TCEQ home page, the MOU is actually 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 7.117, so that's 30 TAC 7.117. That's where you'll find the TCEQ Railroad Commission Memorandum of Agreement.
Attendee	Question # 11	Ellen Gilinsky (Unverified)	Will there be opportunity for public review of the NPDES application before it goes to EPA
Moderator	Question # 11	Laurie Fleet	This question was read out loud during the virtual meeting Question & Answer section.
Presenter	Response to Question # 11	Laurie Fleet	There will not be an opportunity for public review prior to submittal to EPA; however, as part of EPA's process for reviewing and either approving or denying our application, EPA is

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			required to seek public comment. So the Federal rules lay out the process, as you know the Governor submits our application to EPA, and then from there EPA has 30 days to review it for completeness to make sure that it contains all the necessary components. If they determine that it is complete, then they will review it and determine whether to approve or deny it. During that process they will be publishing the notice in the Federal Register and soliciting public review and comment on their decision to approve or deny. To reiterate, no public review prior to submitting to EPA but after it's submitted to EPA, EPA will be going through a public review comment process if our application is deemed complete.
Attendee	Question # 12	Bill Gase - City of Garland (Unverified)	Will there be any additional stakeholder meetings covering the Appendix E MALs?
Moderator	Question # 12	Gregg Easley	This question was read out loud during the virtual meeting Question & Answer section.
Presenter	Response to Question # 12	Sarah Johnson	We don't have any planned additional stakeholder meetings. We are awaiting to see what kind of public comments we receive regarding the revisions to Appendix C that we just sent out to Stakeholders, so depending on the feedback that we get, we'll reevaluate if another stakeholder meeting is warranted. At this time, we don't have anything planned.
Attendee	Question # 13	Anonymous (Unverified)	Are you going to talk about COVID Accommodations?
Attendee	Question # 13 continued	Anonymous (Unverified)	That was skipped
Attendee	Question # 14	Denise Ehrlich (Unverified)	Gregg, will you be providing your comment about the COVID Accommodations for Permit Applicants?
Moderator	Questions # 13 and # 14	Gregg Easley	These questions were read out loud during the virtual meeting Question & Answer section.
Moderator	Response to Questions # 13 and # 14	Gregg Easley	TCEQ offices are closed to the public right now so unfortunately we can't receive applications delivered by courier or hand-delivered to the agency; but we'll still accept them by regular mail. We do encourage electronic application copies of those to be sent as well, but bottom line is we still have to process the applications via physical hard copies. We do still take those by regular mail. Also, for instances where a permittee or applicant needs to post copies of their application and draft permits in a public location and that public location is closed to the public (due to COVID-19); we do allow for applicants to post those materials on a publicly accessible website and we'll work with each individual applicant case by case with their particular situation and lastly we're also holding if a public meeting for an application is requested and granted by the commission, we can hold that public meeting virtually or online as opposed to in person. So that's another way of helping

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			our application processing procedures or processes move forward in spite of some of these obstacles.
Attendee	Question # 15	Anonymous (Unverified))	I assume the plastic regulations apply to industrial permits / facilities.
Moderator	Question # 15	Gregg Easley	This question was read out loud during the virtual meeting Question & Answer section.
Presenter	Response to Question # 15	David Galindo	Yes, that is correct, it'll apply to facilities manufacturers of plastics and then it will also apply to facilities which handle plastics or that form of plastics using those plastic pellets. The facilities that are handling plastics and not actually generating them, they're mostly going to be covered under the multi-sector general permit and so for those facilities it would be a matter of updating their stormwater pollution prevention plans to include BMPs to control plastics. Yes, the answer to your question is that it's going to be industrial facilities.
Attendee	Question # 16	Anonymous (Unverified)	Will this presentation be available for viewing online at a later date?
Moderator	Question # 16	Gregg Easley	This question was read out loud during the virtual meeting Question & Answer section.
Moderator	Response to Question # 16	Gregg Easley	Yes, we will post a recording of this presentation to the TCEQ YouTube channel, which can be looked up easily if you're in the YouTube application. Or we've got an address for the channel down near the bottom of our meeting agenda.
Attendee	Question # 17	Anonymous (Unverified)	Can we stop sending hard copies of permit applications? that uses a LOT of paper.
Moderator	Question # 17	Gregg Easley	This question was read out loud during the virtual meeting Question & Answer section.
Presenter	Response to Question # 17	David Galindo	No, at this time our rules still require paper copies be submitted to the agency. We are aware of the amount of paper that it takes, or how much paper is included in an application; but currently we are required to receive hard copies of those applications. During this COVID-19 period, we are accepting electronic copies as well as the paper copies so an electronic copy is encouraged. If you would like to submit the electronic copy it may actually speed up the review since we could route that to different teams for review simultaneously, so that when the paper copy does come across the reviewer's desk, they would already be familiar with it. That may speed up the process. The answer to your question is currently we still have to receive hard copies.
Presenter	Response to Question # 17	Sarah Johnson	Just to add on that, if you do want to submit an application electronically, keep in mind Laurie's earlier point that emails are limited with file attachments. However, the TCEQ does have its own FTPS site where you can upload larger files and then email us a link and this is the only file transferring site that we're allowed to use. If you want to submit an electronic copy of your application and you have a lot of images or it's a really large file, go

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			to the TCEQ website and just search file transfer and it will direct you to our own FTPS site where you can upload those large files for us.
Attendee	Comment to Question # 17	Anonymous (Unverified)	I have been told to send by email AND hard copy
Attendee	Comment to Question # 17	Anonymous (Unverified)	I think CROMERR reqs say we can accept digital CDs and faxes
Attendee	Question # 18	Anonymous (Unverified)	Does TCEQ grant extensions to allow pretreatment programs to complete inspections due to COVID-19, if needed?
Moderator	Question # 18	Gregg Easley	This question was read out loud during the virtual meeting Question & Answer section.
Presenter	Response to Question # 18	David Galindo	Yes, we have had some permittees reach out to us because of the COVID-19 issue and not being able to perform their inspections of their indirect dischargers. So that is actually going to require a request for enforcement discretion and so the request would need to include the reasons, the specifics of why the control authority is unable to perform those functions. If you'd like more information on this, please reach out to me at 512-563-3909, and I'd be glad to direct you to where you can make that request for enforcement discretion.
Attendee	Question # 19	Anonymous (Unverified)	Peter said that reasonable potential can be used in lieu of sulfate and chloride screening. What if the permittee does not do biomonitoring?
Moderator	Question # 19	Gregg Easley	This question was read out loud during the virtual meeting Question & Answer section.
Presenter	Response to Question # 19	Peter Schaefer	Yes, there are two possibilities here, if this is a municipal facility and they don't do monitoring then they're going to be <1 mgd and not subject to the TDS screening requirements. However, if they're an industrial facility that does not have biomonitoring, then we will have to go ahead and screen for chloride and sulfate.
Attendee	Question # 20	Anonymous (Unverified)	Are the sludge reporting requirements in your domestic wastewater permit still reported through the netDMR system or are those waived for this year?
Moderator	Question # 20	Gregg Easley	This question was read out loud during the virtual meeting Question & Answer section.
Presenter	Response to Question # 20	Laurie Fleet	Yes, they are not waived, so if you put our sludge LFOs in the Net DMR system, you are required to continue using the Net DMR system for outfalls. If you fail to use the Net DMR system it will flag it as a DMR non-receipt which is a violation. We are not waiving the Sludge DMR outfalls, the only part that is waived for this year is the paper portion of your annual report. So, some of you go into the Net DMR to submit some information there, but you also follow that up with a paper document that has things like your analytical results and your certification statements. Those sort of things is the only thing that's waived, it's the paper portion of your annual report. Continue to use the Net DMR system for those sludge outfalls.

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Attendee	Question # 21	Anonymous (Unverified)	COVID question - If draft permits aren't available to public for viewing at Chief Clerk's office, and COVID restrictions are prohibitive for travelling to location (library/ public building) where applicant placed copy of draft permit - how can public get a copy of draft permit to review?
Moderator	Question # 21	Gregg Easley	This question was read out loud during the virtual meeting Question & Answer section.
Presenter	Response to Question # 21	David Galindo	This is related to the accommodation that Gregg mentioned earlier, if a location is closed the permittee can publish those documents (application, draft permit, and fact sheet) online to their own website and TCEQ can include their URL on our webpage. So anytime that a permittee is not able to place those types of documents in the public viewing location, they can work with the agency, publish the documents on the permittee's own webpage, and then notify TCEQ of the URL; and we in turn can post a link on our website that directs the public to the permittee's website.
Attendee	Question # 22	Anonymous (Unverified)	In regards to reasonable potential in lieu of chloride and sulfate screening, the permittee is a municipal that has a final permit limit greater than 1.0 but is currently operating at less than 1.0.
Moderator	Question # 22	Gregg Easley	This question was read out loud during the virtual meeting Question & Answer section.
Presenter	Response to Question # 22	Peter Schaefer	Yes, we would still screen that facility for any phases >1 mgd and if they haven't started biomonitoring yet then we have no reasonable potential information to go by, so we would not be able to bypass those chloride and sulfate screenings.
Attendee	Question # 23	Anonymous (Unverified)	Can you please repeat the email address where we can submit an individual permit application too?
Moderator	Question # 23	Gregg Easley	This question was read out loud during the virtual meeting Question & Answer section.
Presenter	Response to Question # 23	Sarah Johnson	I would suggest that they email our Applications Review and Processing (ARP) Team, and that email address is WQARPTeam@tceq.texas.gov .