

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF A PROPOSED RENEWAL WITH AMENDMENT OF A GENERAL PERMIT AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSAL OF WASTEWATER

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ or commission) is proposing to renew and amend the Evaporation Pond General Permit No. WQG100000, which authorizes wastewater generated by industrial or water treatment facilities to be disposed of by evaporation from surface impoundments adjacent to water in the state. The proposed general permit would not authorize discharge of wastewater into water in the state. The proposed general permit would apply to the entire state of Texas. General permits are authorized by Texas Water Code, §26.040.

PROPOSED GENERAL PERMIT. The executive director has prepared a proposed general permit that includes amendments to the existing general permit. The proposed general permit identifies wastewater characteristics and other criteria that would prevent a facility from obtaining authorization under the draft permit. The executive director proposes to require regulated facilities to submit a Notice of Intent to obtain authorization for disposal. Facilities that are currently authorized under the existing general permit would not be required to submit a Notice of Intent to continue their authorization.

The TCEQ executive director has reviewed this action for consistency with the Texas Coastal Management Program (CMP) goals and policies in accordance with the regulations of the General Land Office, and has determined that the action is consistent with the applicable CMP goals and policies.

A copy of the proposed general permit and fact sheet are available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk located at the TCEQ's Austin office, at 12100 Park 35 Circle, Building F. These documents are also available at the TCEQ's 16 regional offices and on the TCEQ Web site at <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/general/index.html>.

PUBLIC COMMENT/PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting about this proposed general permit. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit written or oral comment or to ask questions about the proposed general permit. Generally, the TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the executive director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the proposed general permit or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

Written public comments must be received by the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, TCEQ, PO Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087 or electronically at www.tceq.texas.gov/about/comments.html within 30 days from the date this notice is published in the *Texas Register*.

APPROVAL PROCESS. After the comment period, the executive director will consider all the public comments and prepare a written response. The response will be filed with the TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at least ten days before the scheduled commission meeting when the commission will consider approval of the general permit. The commission will consider all public comment in making its decision and will either adopt the executive director's response or prepare its own response. The commission will issue its written response on the general permit at the same time the commission issues or denies the general permit. A copy of any issued general permit and response to comments will be made available to the public for inspection at the agency's Austin and regional offices. A notice of the commissioners' action on the proposed general permit and a copy of its response to comments will be mailed to each person who made a comment. Also, a notice of the commission's action on the proposed general permit and the text of its response to comments will be published in the *Texas Register*.

MAILING LISTS. In addition to submitting public comments, you may ask to be placed on a mailing list to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. You may request to be added to: 1) the mailing list for this specific general permit; 2) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or 3) the permanent mailing list for a specific county. Clearly specify the mailing lists to which you wish to be added and send your request to the TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address previously mentioned. Unless you otherwise specify, you will be included only on the mailing list for this specific general permit.

INFORMATION. If you need more information about this general permit or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040. General information about the TCEQ can be found at our Web site at: <http://www.tceq.texas.gov>.

Further information may also be obtained by calling Laurie Fleet of the TCEQ Water Quality Division at (512) 239-5445.

Si desea información en Español, puede llamar 1-800-687-4040.