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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

October 3, 2011

TO: Potential Wastewater System Design Criteria Stakeholders

FROM: Jaya Zyman-Ponebshek, P.E., Assistant Director
Water Quality Division
Office of Water

 10/3/11

SUBJECT: Design Criteria Stakeholders Group (DCSG) - Chapter 217 Rule Revision

On July 11 2011, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) received a petition from Southern Trenchless Solutions, LLC to amend 30 TAC §217.55 (Manholes and Related Structures) and §217.60 (Lift Station, Wet Well, and Dry Well Designs) to include design criteria to rehabilitate existing manholes, lift stations, and other wastewater treatment plant structures.

TCEQ recognizes that there is a need to add design criteria to rehabilitate existing manholes and lift stations to minimize premature failure of such infrastructure due to corrosion, and that the current rules do not prohibit adding these requirements. Under the existing rules (Chapter 217), the owner of a new collection system must ensure that the structural life cycles of such infrastructure last at least 50 years. Without such requirements, some infrastructure may last closer to 15 years or even less, depending on the configuration of the systems and the concentration of pollutants in the waste streams. Infrastructure associated with the discharge from long force mains is especially vulnerable to corrosion due to low pH. In addition, TCEQ has identified other areas of this rule that may need to be amended.

On August 31, 2011, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (Commission) considered the petition for rulemaking filed by Southern Trenchless Solutions, LLC and directed staff to initiate rulemaking to revise Chapter 217 to address the issue brought up by the petitioner, along with other necessary revisions identified by staff thorough a comprehensive stakeholder process.

The TCEQ is currently forming a stakeholder group to address rule changes to Chapter 217 in which you and/or your company may be interested in participating. The meeting details are below.

Design Criteria Stakeholders Group Meeting:

Tuesday, November 1, 2011

1:30 p.m.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

12100 Park 35 Circle

Building E, Room 201S

Austin, Texas 78753

Tentative items scheduled for discussion include:

- Stakeholder input on petition for revising rule regarding manholes and lift stations rehabilitation
- Other items in the rule TCEQ is proposing to revise:
 - Liner language on amended in-situ soils
 - Cloth media filters
 - Manhole testing requirements
 - Sludge digesters
 - Review integration facultative lagoon language
 - Clarify “grandfather clause”
 - Review separation distances requirements for service laterals and water lines
 - Emergency/Back-up power requirements
- Other items in the rule stakeholders suggest are in need of revision

This meeting will be available by webcast at www.texasadmin.com.

Should you have any additional agenda topics or questions you wish to address during the November 1, 2011 meeting, please submit an e-mail to: Outreach@tceq.texas.gov by **October 17, 2011**. Your input is very important to TCEQ.

To receive future information about this stakeholder group through e-mail, please provide your request and e-mail address to: Outreach@tceq.texas.gov.