

## Meeting Summary

Joint Meeting of the Water Quality Advisory Work Group (WQAWG) and the Water Quality Standards Work Group (WQSWG) to Address Thermal Discharge Issues

July 27, 2017 4th Meeting

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**All information presented in this document is a compilation of TCEQ staff notes and is not a transcript of the meeting; inadvertent errors and/or unintentional omissions of information may exist in this document. Any information cited should be verified by the user.**

Location: Building F, Second Floor, Room 2210

Time: 1:30 am

*Handouts:* Draft Thermal Procedures (**redline is EPA Comments**); *Presentation:* History, Status, and Next Steps. Reference to Draft Screening Procedures\_Final Comments from EPA, and Texas Tech Temp DO Criteria Final Report, copies can be located at [https://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/standards/WQ\\_std](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/standards/WQ_std)

**TCEQ would like permittee input on the following:**

1. Developing IPs.
2. How to demonstrate compliance with 'rise over ambient'
3. How TCEQ should address overlapping plumes
4. Which types of discharges need to be screened
5. How to calculate final temperature limits

### **Q&A/ Comments**

Q: Does the WLA calculation take flow into account?

A: Not in this example, TCEQ is using default assumptions in this case. There will be different assumptions for different waterbodies.

Q: Can a facility use SWQM ambient data for the temperature assumption if there is a station nearby?

A: Yes, the TCEQ plans to use it, but how the TCEQ will use it is being worked out.

Q: Where should facilities measure temperature, at the surface or at depth?

A: TCEQ will use modeling to help us determine where to measure, but it will likely be at the surface.

Q: In the IP, is the TCEQ going to discuss the procedures on how to model each water body scenario in more detail?

A: TCEQ will probably not have an example of each situation, but there will be a general explanation. Too many factors come into play for each model/ facility location to determine a specific methodology for every scenario.

Q: Sizes of MZ can vary, will facilities need to apply for a 316(a) variation to get a different MZ size?

A: A 316(a) may not be necessary for a different MZ. The permittee should propose a variation and provide information to the TCEQ so that we can determine if we agree with the permittee's proposal.

Q: Why is the EPA focusing on ambient temperature changes in the summer?

A: EPA is not only concerned about rise over ambient in the summer; they are concerned over every month.

Q: Rise over ambient is greatest in the winter and biology depends on temperature cues for breeding. Will there be an evaluation for species sensitive to temperature?

A: TCEQ will consider this.

Q: Is the state going to review discharges that enter reservoirs with the compliance point in the reservoir?

A: Most of these reservoirs are exempt from criteria, but criteria may apply downstream of the outfall from the reservoir. We will add language to the website regarding cooling water reservoirs.

Q: Will a thermal variance be issued if we cannot meet temperature criteria?

A: Yes, there is a procedure laid out in 316(a) regulations.

Q: Refresher- how is ambient temperature determined at a site?

A: We will use 30.5 °C as the initial assumption for easy situations. The statistical process for more difficult situations has not been established.

**ACTION ITEMS: Completed Action Items can be found at**  
[https://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/standards/WQ\\_std](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/standards/WQ_std)

- Add EPA comments to website. - **Completed - date of document, August 15, 2016**
- Provide link to ambient temperature data on SWQM website. - **Completed**
- Add language on cooling water reservoirs definitions/ criteria (exemptions), etc. to the website. - **Completed**
- Add final report from Texas Tech on website. - **Completed**
- Make comments available for all stakeholders/ provide link to previously submitted comments. - **Completed - Note per previous meeting date stakeholders comments and questions can be found under the "Summary" column**
- Provide instructions on how permittees should submit comments. - **Completed**
- Multiple thermal discharger in close proximity; have permittees provide comments on this situation. - **Completed - Requested stakeholders to submit comments**
- Consider whether it is necessary to evaluate species that are sensitive to temperature/ temperature changes. - **Completed - Requested stakeholders to submit comments**
- Set date for October stakeholder meeting - **Pending looking at 10/13 or 10/17**
- Provide examples of calculations of WLA for different situations. - **Pending in progress**

- Develop language for stakeholders to review. *-This item and the next 5 items will be included in the language development for stakeholders to review by August 31, 2017. Will be posted on website by August 31, 2017.*
- Develop method to calculate actual permit limits from WLA.
- Provide more detailed definitions of what wastestreams/ facilities/ cooling ponds TCEQ will be looking at in the IP.
- Work out details on how TCEQ will use SWQM data in modeling, etc.
- Determine how MZ sizes will be determined; what the permittees need to submit to TCEQ if they would like to use a different MZ.
- Process to address if discharging to a 303(d) listed segment for temperature.