

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF HEARING
City of Houston
SOAH Docket No. 582-23-26769
TCEQ Docket No. 2023-0556-MWD
Permit No. WQ0010495030

APPLICATION.

The City of Houston, 10500 Bellaire Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77072, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a major amendment to Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0010495030 to authorize the removal of the existing Sublethal Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) limits and monitoring requirements from the permit pursuant to the Environmental Protection Agency's WET policies, the Clean Water Act, and the Code of Federal Regulations. The current permit authorizes the discharge of treated domestic wastewater at an annual average flow not to exceed 26,400,000 gallons per day.

The facility is located at 12901 Hermitage Lane, in the City of Houston, Harris County, Texas 77079. The treated effluent is discharged directly to Buffalo Bayou Above Tidal in Segment No. 1014 of the San Jacinto River Basin. The designated uses for Segment No. 1014 are primary contact recreation and limited aquatic life use. In accordance with 30 Texas Administrative Code Section 307.5 and the TCEQ's *Procedures to Implement the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards* (June 2010), an antidegradation review of the receiving waters was performed. A Tier 1 antidegradation review has preliminarily determined that existing water quality uses will not be impaired by this permit action. Numerical and narrative criteria to protect existing uses will be maintained. A Tier 2 review is not required since no exceptional, high, or intermediate aquatic life use water bodies have been identified in the discharge route. Existing uses will be maintained and protected. The preliminary determination can be reexamined and may be modified if new information is received. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and is not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application.

<https://tceq.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=db5bac44afbc468bbddd36of816825of&marker=-95.561944%2C29.762222&level=12>

The TCEQ Executive Director has completed the technical review of the application and prepared a draft permit. The draft permit, if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The Executive Director has made a preliminary decision that this permit, if issued, meets all statutory and regulatory requirements. The permit application, Executive Director's preliminary decision, and draft permit are available for viewing and copying at City of Houston, Houston Public Works, Wastewater Operations Building Library, 10500 Bellaire Boulevard, Houston, Texas.

CONTESTED CASE HEARING.

The State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) will conduct a preliminary hearing via Zoom videoconference. A Zoom meeting is a secure, free meeting held over the internet that allows video, audio, or audio/video conferencing.

10:00 a.m. – November 9, 2023

To join the Zoom meeting via computer:

<https://soah-texas.zoomgov.com/>

Meeting ID: 161 595 1153

Password: TCEQ69

or

To join the Zoom meeting via telephone:

(669) 254-5252 or (646) 828-7666

Meeting ID: 161 595 1153

Password: 028199

**Visit the SOAH website for registration at: <http://www.soah.texas.gov/>
or call SOAH at 512-475-4993.**

The purpose of a preliminary hearing is to establish jurisdiction, name the parties, establish a procedural schedule for the remainder of the proceeding, and to address other matters as determined by the judge. The evidentiary hearing phase of the proceeding, which will occur at a later date, will be similar to a civil trial in state district court. The hearing will address the disputed issues of fact identified in the TCEQ order concerning this application issued on August 7, 2023. In addition to these issues, the judge may consider additional issues if certain factors are met.

The hearing will be conducted in accordance with Chapter 2001, Texas Government Code; Chapter 26, Texas Water Code; and the procedural rules of the TCEQ and SOAH, including 30 TAC Chapter 80 and 1 TAC Chapter 155. The hearing will be held unless all timely hearing requests have been withdrawn or denied.

To request to be a party, you must attend the hearing and show you would be adversely affected by the application in a way not common to members of the general public. Any person may attend the hearing and request to be a party. Only persons named as parties may participate at the hearing.

In accordance with 1 Tex. Admin. Code § 155.401(a), Notice of Hearing, “Parties that are not represented by an attorney may obtain information regarding contested case hearings on the public website of the State Office of Administrative Hearings at www.soah.texas.gov, or in printed format upon request to SOAH.”

INFORMATION.

If you need more information about the hearing process for this application, please call the Public Education Program, toll free, at (800) 687-4040. General information about the TCEQ can be found at our web site at www.tceq.texas.gov.

Further information may also be obtained from the City of Houston at the address stated above or by calling Ms. Carol LaBreche, P.E., at (832) 395-5813.

Persons with disabilities who need special accommodations at the hearing should call the SOAH Docketing Department at (512) 475-4993, at least one week prior to the hearing.

Issued: September 25, 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laurie Gharis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laurie Gharis, Chief Clerk
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality