

TCEQ Stakeholders Meeting 2
Held on November 2, 2022

1 **Laurie Gharis:** Good evening, we're going to get started in just a few minutes. Our speakers are
2 going to be coming up to sit here. Um, unfortunately, we have a smaller screen. So, if y'all want.
3 If you want to move over this way so that you can see the screen, um, please do. We are in a
4 local school, and we had to use what they, they had available. I wish we had a much bigger
5 screen um, but there will be speakers and, and so if you. If you can see where you are feel free
6 to stay where you are umm. But if you need to be a little bit closer, feel free to move over here.
7 And we also have interpreters tonight, so if um we can ask, I can ask Flore Demassi to come.

8 **Flore Demassi:** Thank you so much, Laurie. Good evening everybody, my name is Flore
9 Demassi. I am the CEO of GlobalSpeak Translations and tonight we are offering simultaneous
10 interpretation into Spanish. Should you need the services, please come see us on this side of the
11 room. (Speaks Spanish; *Buenas Tardes a todos, Soy Flore Demassi gerente general de*
12 *GlobalSpeaker traducciones y estamos a esta noche ofreciendo servicios de interpretación*
13 *simultánea si ustedes gustan este servicio por favor vengan a vernos aquí a lado de el salón a sus*
14 *órdenes, Gracias.*) Thank you, Laurie.

15 **Laurie Gharis:** Thank you. So, we'll just give it a minute or two, for everyone to come on in and
16 then we will go ahead and get started.

17 *Long Pause*

18 Okay, it looks like we're ready to go. Um. As I said um my, well I don't know if I said this, but if
19 I haven't my name is Laurie Gharis. Today is November second. It's, oh you okay? It is a little
20 after 6:30 pm and I am with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the office of
21 the Chief Clerk. Joining me tonight as our speakers are: Amy Browning, Holly Landuyt, Doug
22 Boyer, Anita Keese and Jason Ybarra. I want to thank you for joining us for tonight's meeting.
23 Um. I saw some of you last night. We're glad to see you tonight too. I hope that you were able to
24 speak to some of our experts and uh see our equipment outside and uh um and are ready to
25 learn more about how uh how you can participate with TCEQ tonight. Before we begin though
26 I'd like to offer a few or go over a few logistics. Um, as we noted this meeting is being
27 interpreted so, please speak at a uh um good pace and very clearly so that your information can
28 be interpreted. If you need uh restroom or a water fountain you can go right out these doors to
29 the right and you will see those. The purpose of this stake holder meeting is to provide you
30 information on how TCEQ works as well as how you can participate with our processes. This
31 evening we will discuss Public Participation in TCEQ Permitting Processes, How to Access and
32 Interpret it, Interpret, Ambient Air Quality Data, The TCEQ Complaint Process, and Information
33 Related to Emergency Response Activities. The format for tonight's meeting is to begin with
34 TCEQ's staff presentations. After presentations we will have time for questions and answers.
35 During the question and answer period the public is encouraged to ask questions and to um
36 engage in open discussion with TCEQ staff. Although we will be listening to and taking notes on
37 these questions and comments and concerns, there will be no formal comment period in this
38 stakeholder meeting. Um before we begin the staff presentations, I will let, you know, it's, it's
39 wonderful that we're at this local school. We were hoping that that would inviting to everyone
40 um, but we do have to be outta of here by 8:30. So, uh all questions and answers will be
41 finished by 8:15 to give us that time to go ahead and get out of um the building and to treat
42 our, our um school with respect. And also if you want to ask your questions and questions,
43 you're ask your questions in Spanish, I encouraged that. Our interpreters will make sure that it
44 is interpreted and that uh we can respond appropriately. So with that, I think the, the floor is
45 Amy's.

46 **Amy Browning:** Um good evening, its. Can y'all hear me? (chuckle) Uh, good evening and thank
47 everyone very much for coming out this evening. We really appreciate you taking the time uh to
48 come to our meeting. As Laurie said, my name is Amy Browning. I am a staff attorney in the
49 Office of Legal Services, Environmental Law Division, representing the Executive Director. And
50 today I'm going to talk a little bit about Public Participation in the TCEQ uh Permitting Process.
51 Um that is a very broad topic um I can spend the whole hour talking about each and every one

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52 of these so, of course, these are going to be a very high-level discussion tonight. Okay, general
53 types of permits issued by the TCEQ. Ah we, we separate these broadly by media; uh Water
54 Quality and Availability, Waste, and Air Quality. So, Water, Waste, and Air, those are the three
55 broad separations for types of permits. And within each of those media, we have lots of
56 different types of permits. Um. Here's a listing of some of the water availability, water quality
57 and water availability permits. Um some of these that you might be familiar with within your
58 community for example, would be ah stormwater permits uh for uh facilities that might have
59 uh stormwater um issues. Ah water and water rights and, and, and others, so again several
60 different types and within each of these types of permniactions you have different types of
61 permits. Uh. Same thing for waste, here you can see the listing of many of the different types of
62 waste permits. Uh. Some of these that you might be familiar with would be uh municipal solid
63 waste, the waste that uh deals with your household waste that goes from your house to the
64 landfill, uh and, and uh things like that. You can see there is a number of other different types
65 uh Underground Injection Control programs, Radioactive Materials, Industrial and Hazardous
66 waste. Uh so, broad category of all different types of waste and how they're dealt with. We're
67 going to answer questions at the end. Thank you. And then Air Quality, uh Air Quality's divided
68 up into two major groups with uh divisions within each. You have minor permits uh which are
69 divided into Permit by Rule (PBRs), Standard Permits, and Minor New Source Review or Minor
70 NSR Permits. These are permits for generally small sources um PBRs for example might be very
71 small sources and standard permits um maybe something like uh a local autobody shop or
72 something that has or a local print shop or a dry cleaner uh would be things that fall into these
73 categories. Uh some of your minor NSR would be your uh your very small uh operations that
74 that might have that might make certain kinds of very small chemicals or something like that.
75 Major permits, permits for operations that are larger that have more types of and larger
76 amounts of air emissions. Ah you have preventions of sig significant deterioration we
77 abbreviate that PSD um and that's generally what the way you'll hear it referred to ah
78 nonattainment permits and Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs). Nonattainment permits are
79 permits for uhm, criteria pollutants in an area that has been designated nonattainment for that
80 particular criteria pollutant. Um for example, and uh the air quality people will talk a little bit
81 more about what criteria pollutants are here in a little bit. But just for example, uh Houston is
82 designated as nonattainment, the Houston area as nonattainment for Ozone. Uh Ozone being a
83 pollutant uh that is, that results from reactions in the atmosphere of the two precursor
84 pollutants that would be volatile organic compounds. The broad category of pollutants includes
85 a lot of different things and nitrogen oxides and so the criteria pollutants would be the
86 pollutants that would fall under the nonattainment permits uh if they meet the major source
87 thresholds uh in a nonattainment area such as Houston. Uh HAPs, Hazardous Air Pollutants,
88 there is a listing of the cleaner act, and they also fall under uhm more stringent requirements.
89 Uh you'll see that too both for PSD nonattainment HAPs you have more stringent requirements
90 than you do because you have larger amounts of pollution and in a nonattainment area you
91 have you already have an identified air quality issue and so you more stringent requirements on
92 uh sources of those emissions. Public participation, just here's a kind of a general list that uh
93 lays out how and why you have public participation opportunities in Texas on permitting
94 actions. Uh the legislature, the Texas legislature, uh established those requirements and they
95 are codified in 30 Texas Administrative Code chapters 39, 55, and 80 and that's where you'll
96 find the requirements for public participation for, for most of our permitting uh requirements.
97 So notice kay, what is a notice? Notice for permit applications. A notice is something that tells
98 the public that there is a proposed activity coming out, what that activity is, and where it's at. It
99 also informs the public about their opportunities to participate in that permitting process. Uh
100 what types of no, there's different types of notices required. I'm going to go over the two major
101 ones here in a minute. Notices are sent out to the public when an application is uh originally
102 received by the agency and determined to be administratively compete so that it can begin the
103 permit review process. And then when the executive director staff has made a preliminary
104 decision on a permit and, and you have a draft permit. Uh and the information in the notice

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105 what's going to be happening at that particular plant in in broad, broad strokes. Where you can
106 find more information and how you can participate in the process. The Notice of Receipt of
107 Application and Intent to Obtain permit, that's a mouthful, that's why we just call it the NORI
108 or the First Public Notice. Uh you'll you'll hear those things basically used interchangeably ah
109 and it provides the opportunity for the public to know that a permitting action is occurring, it
110 provides a comment period. You can begin commenting on an application once a NORI is a
111 published and so the NORI is published generally in the paper. It is also mailed to the mailing
112 list for a permit. How do you get on the mailing list? You tell the Chief Clerks Office you want
113 to be on the mailing list for either for a particular permit number or for a county. If you, for
114 example were to the Chief Clerks Office you wanted to be on the mailing list for Harris County.
115 You would get a lot of notices, cuz Harris County is very large and there's a lot permitting
116 actions that occur there. Uh one important thing to note for minor NS Air, NSR Air Quality
117 Permits and can con concrete batch plants um which are a type of standard permit uh that has
118 a consolidated notice. I'll talk about that in just a minute. A contested case hearing request, I
119 will also talk more in detail about that. Um request, contested case hearing requests must be
120 received during the comment period following the NORI by someone in order for that
121 opportunity to continue to exist throughout the rest of the comment period. Second notice,
122 notice of application and preliminary determination. Again that's a mouthful so we just call this
123 the NAPD or the second public notice. This is the notice that the executive director has reached
124 a preliminary decision on a permit application. That draft permit is out there, it's available, the
125 public can look at it and make comments on it. Again, request a contested case hearing, make
126 comments on the permit, or you can request a contested case hearing as well. Some types of
127 notice for some types of applications might have a consolidated NORI and NAPD, where the two
128 notices are together. That will be clear in the notice that's provided. It will, it will, it will say that
129 and there will be information in that notice that says when the comment period ends, dated
130 from the date that the notice is published in the newspaper, and uh provide the public
131 information about how to participate in that permitting process. Public meetings, sometimes
132 the agency holds public meetings on permit applications. Speaking very generally, the agency
133 holds public meetings when there is significant public interest on a permitting application or
134 when such a meeting is requested by a member of the local legislators. A loc, a local legislator
135 request a meeting, sorry. Umm. How do you request a meeting? You send a letter or uh e-mail
136 to the Chief Clerk's office and request a meeting. Uh significant public interest, that's a case-by-
137 case determination usually, but uh it depends on how much interest happens in a particular
138 application. A public meeting is an opportunity for the public to ask questions of the applicant
139 and of the executive director staff, both permitting staff and legal staff that work on that
140 particular permit application, and to have this informal question and answer session for those
141 comments and then to submit formal comments on thee uh on the uh particular permit
142 application. Formal Comments, either formal comments that are received in writing or formal
143 comments that are received orally during a public meeting, are responded to formally in a
144 document called a response to comments and notice of that response to comments would be
145 mailed to the mailing list when its posted, when its filed and posted on the Chief Clerks data
146 base, the commissioners integrated database. Public comments. How to submit public
147 comments? You can submit them online you can submit them by fax, you can submit them by
148 mail, you can submit them orally at a public meeting. You submit comments because you have
149 concerns about a particular permit application or because you have questions that you want
150 answered in that formal RTC response to comments that I just mentioned. Uh you also submit
151 comments if you want to be part of a contested case hearing, if you want to be an affected
152 party. It is a requirement that you submit timely comments if you want to be considered an
153 affected party by the commissioners for referral for a contested case hearing. You're therefore
154 your information shh, should contain in your, your comment should contain information about
155 how you are affected differently than the general public. It should tell the Commission where
156 you live. If you live close to a particular proposed permit that's an important piece of
157 information. It should tell the Commission how you believe that the particular permit

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158 application uh may affect you or your family. A contested case hearing is a hearing that's held
159 at the state office of administrative hearings and heard by an administrative law judge. There is
160 evidence and testimony presented and there is a judge, an administrative law judge, but there is
161 no jury. At the conclusion of the hearing an administrative law judge makes what's called a
162 proposal for a decision and that proposal for decision then goes back to the Commission to
163 make a final decision on a permit. Uh in order to be an affected party you must have submitted
164 timely comments and a timely hearing request. The request must be in writing and they must
165 explain why the requester is affected in a way that is different from the general public. Request
166 for considered generally by the commissioners at an open meeting that we call an agenda and
167 the Commission makes a decision whether or not to refer a case to uh SOAH for contested case
168 hearing or sometimes an applicant uh may direct refer a case to SOAH. They, they may decide
169 that that's in their best interest and send the case directly to SOAH, bypassing the agenda
170 process. And then again contested case hearings are held at SOAH, the State Office of
171 Administrative Hearings, um when an affected person requests one and there they are they are
172 referred by the commissioners or when an applicant direct refers an application. You have the
173 hearing at SOAH. The judge will make a preliminary, excuse me, a proposal for decision will go
174 back to the commissioners who will make the final decision on a permit. One more thing that
175 can kind of happen in this process is sometimes the Protestives, the affected parties that are at
176 the at the hearing at SOAH, and the applicants uh may go through a process called alternative
177 dispute resolution and a case may also settle uh before going back to SOAH, that also may
178 occur. And that concludes my presentation on brief general overview of the permitting process.
179 If you have any questions you can always reach me at amy.browning@tceq.texas.gov. Thank
180 you.

181 **Holly Landuyt:** Hello everyone my name is Holly Landuyt, I'm the Senior Network Specialist in
182 the monitoring division. I want to ah let, you know, that I appreciate your time this evening. It
183 was beneficial to get to ah speak with many of you earlier. I am going to walk you through the
184 steps to access Ambient Air Monitoring Data on the TCEQ web page. So, Ambient Air
185 Monitoring in Texas actually began in the 1960s with roughly thirty Air monitoring sites and
186 today Texas has one of the largest ambient air monitoring networks in the country. Consisting
187 of roughly 230 Air Monitoring sites with over 500 individual pollutant samplers. The TCEQ
188 owns over half of the Texas Air Monitoring Network. Additional Air Monitoring is conducted by
189 partner organizations such as local governments, universities, nonprofit organizations, and
190 industry to expand the Air Monitoring within Texas. The Texas Air Monitoring data are available
191 to our data customers and the general public through the TCEQ's Air Monitoring database. So,
192 the federal Clean Air Act established Air monitoring standards for six criteria pollutants, the
193 TCEQ monitors ambient air concentration of these and other pollutants at stationary
194 monitoring sites across the state. Our federal monitoring requirements are determined by the
195 Environmental Protection Agency and they're discussed in title forty in the Code Of Federal
196 regulations or the CFR. These regulations include requirements for the how and where we cite
197 our monitors, the quality assurance requirements, and the type of equipment that we use. And
198 also how we cite our monitors. So, each pollutant has specific monetary requirements that are
199 spelled out in the CFR. We maintain a robust network of state initiative monitors as well in
200 addition to our federal monitors and this includes monitoring for volatile organic compounds
201 and hydrogen sulfide. So, air monitoring information is easily accessible from the TCEQ
202 homepage with just two clicks. So, um I'm a show you um some ways to, to do that. So, from
203 the TCEQ homepage and that's at tceq.texas.gov with Texas spelled out. Um you click on Air,
204 which is in the first ribbon here, and once you do that it's going to take you to the Air page.
205 And the Air Quality Monitoring information um link is right here in the middle and once you
206 click on that, that's the second click, you're at Air Quality and Monitoring. So, the TCEQ Air
207 Quality and Monitoring page contains information about the monitoring network and
208 frequently asked questions. It provides a variety of links to our air monitoring sites, a
209 geographical interface, and the data. So, here on, let's see if I can use the cursor here. Here on
210 the right side of the page are quite a few links I, I'm going to discuss. There is the map in the

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211 middle which is the geographical interface um showing all of our air monitoring sites and more
212 links over here on the left-hand side. So, on the right-hand side there's a link to today's Texas
213 Air Quality Forecast. And this is distributed um daily, if you are on the, if you request the e-
214 mail notification for this. But it's also posted on the TCEQ web page, so um anyone can access
215 this daily. Um it's sorted by region and um if you'd like more detail on the air quality forecast
216 for your region you select any of the regions here and it's going to take you to the
217 Environmental Protection Agency's AirNow website. A little more detail about the daily air
218 quality forecast and there is an option here, at the bottom of AirNow, where you can um even
219 select county, city, or down to the zip code level. So, going back to um our air monitoring web
220 page, there is a link to go to our TAMIS which is our Texas Air Monitoring Information System.
221 So, data is available publicly here in near real time and I'm so it's also available through our
222 GeoTAM or our geographical interface. So, from the air monitoring web page you click on
223 TAMIS and it's going to bring you to, I'm a try and use the mouse, the TAMIS web page and the
224 TAMIS web page has a ribbon here at the top and I'm going to highlight two of the items on the
225 ribbon. So, this site list is the first um thing I'm going to highlight. If you click on the site list,
226 it's going to populate a very long list, 230 monitoring stations, um and it gives you some basic
227 information about those sites. However, if you are interested about the Harris County or the
228 city of Houston and you want to narrow that down um here in the middle there are site list
229 options. And you can filter this and sort this in many, many different ways. Okay um. Okay. So,
230 going back to the Ambient Air Monitoring page. Or actually let me show you one more thing,
231 right up here is another link to our GeoTAM which is the Geographical Info Interface. If you
232 don't know exactly which site you're interested in, you can go to our GeoTAM web page and
233 you're going to open up a large map, uh, of the state of Texas. You can use your mouse to zoom
234 in on a specific area. There's also a plus and minus here on the left. There's a legend which is
235 going to show you what all of the colors in the pie charts mean and they are designated to
236 specific samplers and so not every site has every sampler and you can see what air monitoring
237 is in your area or your neighborhood. So, here I'm also um show you ah more of a zoomed-in
238 image of the Houston area. And going a little further into the Houston area, um here is a snip of
239 the Houston Ship Channel and um I'm going to to show you how to get data from here from
240 GeoTAM and this is for the Clinton site that we have just north of this ship channel. So, if you
241 take your mouse um when you're fairly zoomed-in and, and like this example and put it over
242 the circle pie chart and click. You will pop up um uh a little pop up about site information
243 which is going to give you basic air monitoring information at a glance. But if you click on the
244 where it says site information it's actually going to bring you to our TAMIS um to this main
245 page with the basic information and that's the logistics of where the site is the city, the county.
246 But right next to that is the monitoring information and if you click on that's going to populate
247 a new cell and it's going to show you all the samplers at the site. Um and then over in this
248 column you have data options and if you click on current day on any of these it's going to take
249 you to another screen and it's going to show you the hourly data for that site, for each sampler
250 monitor at that site for the whole day. Um ah it's very sensitive, um from here you can also run
251 other reports. You can run a report for all the monthly data for that site. You can also run a
252 report for the yearly data for that site and all of these reports are also downloadable in comma
253 delimited files. So, if you need to put it in Excel or manipulate the data in other ways um it's
254 very easily accessible. And if you want to have a picture of our site those are also available. So,
255 here on the basic information page there's a tab for photos so this is a picture of our Clinton
256 site and on the same page there's cardinal direction photos. If you want to say, "Well what's
257 around this site?" there's also all the eight cardinal direction photos as well. So, that's all I have
258 for how to access the data, but Doug's going to come and um discuss on how the data is
259 actually used at TCEQ.

260 **Doug Boyer:** Hi everybody, thanks for being here. My name is Doug Boyer, I'm with the Air
261 Quality Division. Um I'm going to breeze through how we use air quality data at TCEQ. This is
262 really just a high-level overview, but um you heard Holly talk about the criteria pollutants and
263 Amy as well. Those are our most common air pollutants and they're federally regulated. There's

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264 health-based standards for them and so we need to determine the compliance with the federal
265 health-based standards for the different areas within Texas. That's one of our main jobs. Uh we
266 certainly want to analyze trends to see how these pollutants are varying over time and, and
267 hopefully we're seeing decreases in them. Ah certainly we have days or events that where we
268 might have high concentrations and we're going to evaluate those and make sure that uh we
269 understand why they're happening. Um and then we have other programs that we're going to
270 support. So, um I, I just wanted to briefly discuss how we compare the monitoring data to those
271 health-based standards. And so, um this is uh a bar chart here of all the major urban areas
272 within Texas and comparing it to the federal uh health-based standard for ground level ozone.
273 Um and so the, the values, sort of squat down here, um on the left uh some of our larger urban
274 areas are, are, are above the federal health-based standard for ozone pollution including that
275 the Houston area. And so um that's not unusual for large urban areas um cuz there's a lot of
276 people, a lot of cars, a lot of industry um, but we're working to, to bring that down. And so uh
277 going further we look at trends and trying to see over time how are things changing. And so
278 there's a map of the local Houston area here starting on the left from 2012 going to 2016, 2021
279 and each of the purple circles is one of the monitoring stations within the Houston area. And
280 the uh color fill there indicates uh the, the ozone concentration. And so warmer colors are
281 higher concentrations and over time we're seeing that it overall in the Houston area that we're,
282 we're seeing a lot of decreases which is a great thing, especially since we're seeing such a large
283 population increase in Houston and a lot of our urban areas. And so there's still challenges left
284 to be uh to remain here and we're certainly looking into that, but wanted to uh point that out.
285 So, also in terms of how, how you can be involved in our processes for that, we have um e-mail
286 listers and you can find any one of those for air quality specifics and uh relating to Holly's
287 group and, and the Air Quality Division and we uh certainly invite you to, to join in there, And
288 here's our contact information if you'd like to reach out and see more information. So, thanks a
289 lot.

290 **Anita Keese:** Hello everyone, thank y'all so much for being out here tonight. Um my name is
291 Anita Keese. I've been with the Office of Compliance and Enforcement for nineteen years and
292 complaints. I'm going to be talking about complaints today, it's a core focus of what we do at
293 the TCEQ especially in OCE. So, if I can get this thing to work, awesome. So, there's a lot of
294 different ways you can file complaints with us we have an online portal and that's becoming
295 increasingly popular because I just think that's the way people interact. So, we also have a
296 number of e-mail addresses you can use, you can use complaint or complaints with an "s" or
297 Queja or Quejas with an "s", right either of those will work and go to the same place. We also
298 have a one 800 number you're welcome to use. You can dial it into your phone right now. And if
299 you want to talk to a human being, we have 16 different regional offices. You can Google TCEQ
300 regional offices to get those contact information and speak to a human being. We have people
301 available Monday through Friday, 8:00 to 5:00, to talk to you about your complaint. And you
302 can get more information, especially about whether or not TCEQ can address your complaint.
303 So, which leads me to what kind of problems can TCEQ help with? Um we can't do everything
304 related to environmental quality because we have limited authority and we have so many local
305 governments that assist us in this role too. So, a lot of times, especially in Harris County, you
306 might find that when you contact the TCEQ we may refer it to the local jurisdiction. Cuz they
307 share that role with us, right? So, one of them is if you see water that may be polluted, like a
308 fish kill, we want to know about those. Um if you see something unpleasant in the air,
309 especially if you are on your property and it's becoming unbearable, those are situations, we are
310 very interested in. If you see land that may be contaminated and specifically, a spill of
311 chemicals. If, you know, of a company that may not be handling their waste materials properly,
312 we would love to know about those. And then drinking water. Drinking water is a core focus of
313 our agency as well. If you are having problems with the quality of your drinking water or, you
314 know, that there's something problematic about how your water is being treated, we are very,
315 very interested in those circumstances. So, please file those complaints with us. We also have
316 scenarios in which people are complaining against a competitor or they work for a company

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317 that they have concerns that are not following the law. So, we have sometimes these insider
318 complaints and they have evidence that can be very useful for us to pursue an investigation, to
319 pursue a violation. So, if you have those scenarios we were very interested in those kind of
320 complaints as well. And we also provide licenses to a number of industries primarily drinking
321 water, wastewater, landfill operators, and then folks who install septic systems, and folks who
322 install irrigation systems. We provide licenses to those folks. If they're not meeting all
323 environmental laws, we would love to know about those as well. And then finally, if you just
324 have some concerns, and we hear this a lot, about neighborhoods that begin to change over
325 time. Where industry begins encroaching on a neighborhood and you don't know if this facility
326 is permitted properly, you have a concern that they're um don't belong there or didn't have
327 TCEQ authorization we get a lot of complaints and a lot of successful enforcement cases out of
328 those, those types of complaints. So, evidence. So, we do have a situation in which folks will
329 give us evidence that we can use for pursuing a violation. So, nowadays a lot of folks like to
330 snap a quick photograph and send it our way. And that's great, but there are certain sets of
331 circumstances where we may be using your evidence as a as evidence towards citing a violation
332 and that meets a much higher bar for us. And so, it's really important that we get these other
333 things that I've listed here. We need a, we need you to sign an affidavit in front of a Notary
334 Republic. In some of these situations, we'll work with you very closely at this happens. In rare
335 circumstances, we might actually have you guys testify in court which will also release your
336 identity. Cuz most of our complainants we make every attempt to hold your, your information
337 confidential, especially from who you're complaining against since you might make if that
338 would make sense. So, it's really important that um, you know, that ahead of time because then
339 you have some choices to make about whether or not you want your identity to be released.
340 And then we want to make sure that you are following TCEQ procedures because we have to
341 follow certain procedures for us to find evidence to cite uh violation, so we need you to be
342 following the same sort of scenarios, right? We have to we have to follow the set of
343 requirements, so if we're going to use that for the enforcement case with the TCEQ we also
344 need to have y'all follow that that protocol. So, we also need to make sure that the information
345 was legally obtained. We don't want anyone committing theft or trespassing in order to gain
346 this information. So, just some examples of evidence I'm going to go through these really
347 quickly. An odor log is the one we most um frequently encounter with the public, where folks
348 are experiencing very, very strong odors on their property and they can document when and
349 what the nature is of that smell and they can document it on this odor log and submit it with an
350 affidavit and this becomes very, very useful information for us and sometimes it can be hard
351 for our investigators to obtain this information because of the natures of odors being
352 transitory. And then photograph is always a very popular choice. We also have copies of
353 records again sometimes this is insider information can be very, very useful for us. And then I
354 just have a copy of an affidavit there that you can see. We have an example on our website. So,
355 most folks when they take the time to file our TCEQ complaint they want to know how long it's
356 going to take for you guys to get out here, right? We do have sixteen different regional offices.
357 We have two people who are always assigned to be available to go out right away because
358 sometimes we get complaints that really fall under the level of emergency response which
359 Jason is going to talk about next. So, those we will respond to those right away. For, for
360 complaints where we have concerns about health, like people are complaining that their health
361 be affected, we try to do those within twenty-four hours. Everything else we try to go no longer
362 than thirty days. We have more detailed protocol on our website if you want to get into the
363 details about what is a five day response and what's a seven day response, but we try never to
364 go beyond thirty days. We also would refer a lot of our complaints, again like I spoke about
365 earlier, to local jurisdictions or to other state agencies that have jurisdiction over that issue.
366 And then you want to know what happened, you filed a complaint with us you want to know
367 what happened, what did we do. So, if you have given us contact information, we will let you
368 know. We're going to, we're going to send you an e-mail. We're going to send you a letter. We're
369 going to find a way to contact you and let you know what happened. If we take enforcement

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370 action we're going to notify you throughout that process because that process can take a little
371 longer. Um finally once that order comes due you will have a an opportunity to comment on
372 that order itself, especially if you have concerns that perhaps some violations that you think
373 were valid violations were not included in that final order. Now, if you're anonymous you are
374 welcome to come on our website and search. We have a website that you can go on there. I'm
375 going to click on it now. So, you can see we have this thing we like to call it WACKY it's an
376 internal acronym, haha, but it's where you can search the status of your complaint and find out
377 if we issued a violation. You can find out if we took enforcement action and you can, you can
378 search this being completely anonymous, right? You don't have to let us know your contact
379 information, a lot of folks are very, very sensitive to that and we appreciate that. So, you can
380 usually search by date and by county and get pretty close and, and hunt down which one you
381 filed. So, we are in the midst of making some significant modernization to our complaint, our
382 complaint portal because it's become such a popular way for people to go to file complaints
383 with us. So, we did go ahead and publish our internal complaint procedures on our website to
384 be very transparent so y'all see what our staffer obligated to comply with. We have um
385 purchased some software that's going to do a few things for us. It's going to give you an
386 automated reply to your complaint. Right now we have human beings doing that and we're just
387 paranoid I guess that we might, one might fall through the cracks. So, this will give you an
388 automated e-mail that includes some really critical information for you to be able to follow up
389 on your complaint. It is going to have finally, we're so excited about this, you will be able to
390 upload your photographs directly to the TCEQ. Your photographs, your documents, your
391 videos, you'll be able to upload that and we will have secure storage for that information for
392 you as well. Um, we're going to be able to have it in Spanish. We're pursuing other languages as
393 well. So, that the complaint portal will be in Spanish asking those questions in Spanish, you will
394 get a reply in Spanish. And again, other languages to come. So we're very, very excited about
395 that. And then we're just very happy that we will have a very formal way to receive all these
396 complaints because again right now it takes a lot of massaging and data entry just to get this
397 information stored permanently. Now it would be stored permanently at the front end. So, we're
398 very excited about that. We also just recently did an upgrade to our, "Do you want to make a
399 complaint?", "Do you want to make environmental complaint?" pamphlet. This is more
400 designed for online use where it's got embedded links. We have a lot more information in this
401 than the historical one, the trifold y'all probably seen. So, this has a lot more information and
402 it's a lot more user friendly for your, for your phones. So, that's it for me. Jason will be next
403 talking about emergency response thank y'all.

404 **Jason Ybarra:** Good evening, everyone. Jason Ybarra with the Houston Regional Office. Our
405 office is kind of on the east-end of downtown Houston. So, we'll be just kind of giving an
406 overview of emergency response kind of here in the region and how all the other regions kind
407 of do it with the TCEQ. So, as far as emergency response, you know, kind of like Anita was
408 saying we have dedicated emergency response coordinators that are in each region there um,
409 you know, have office hours and they're 24/7, 365 days a year and then just kind of some
410 pictures where they're doing some community monitoring or assessing, you know, kind of
411 better emergency response incident. And you'll, you'll see um, you know, the, the vehicle with
412 air monitoring equipment where they're doing air reconnaissance, or community monitoring, or
413 taking kind of water samples to, to verify drinking standards, or, or ah water usage. So, so, with
414 the emergency response and, and what the, the TCEQ kind of oversees, you know, we, we
415 oversee the discharges of any kind of hazardous substance or oils, you know, to air land or, or,
416 or water so that it also includes kind of emissions as well um accidents through the vehicles.
417 So, every morning when you wake up and, you know, I-10 or 610 closed all those accidents kind
418 of are, are in the, the preview of the TCEQ. A lot of times local jurisdiction will be out there, so
419 you'll have fire departments, hazmat that are kind of overseeing the accident and, and ensuring
420 that everything is, is cleaned up properly. We do uh fires and explosions at regulated entities.
421 You know kind of here in the petroleum belt we do have a lot of that where we, um we oversee
422 large scale industrial incidents at refineries, petrochemical plants, and natural disasters. And,

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423 and, you know, when we have those large-scale events you'll see, you know, TCEQ and a lot of
424 the other state and federal agencies that are on scene kind of working together to, to oversee
425 the incident. So, notifications, how do we get those? So, you know, add the
426 responsibility of the, the entity they'll call the, the federal hotline and uh notify uhm kind of, of
427 the emergency response incident or um, you know, kind of through the transportation rules
428 that have to notify through the, through the federal hotline. And then you also have a, a state
429 hotline that's the, you know, Emergency Response Commission where a lot of our regulated
430 entities or, you know, an accident or anything that involves oils or hazardous substance will
431 have to call the state line and, and report that incident. And then additionally, they'll call the
432 office during eight to five, Monday through Friday and report them. So, so, when it when a call
433 comes in, you know, we'll review the, the incident, the spill, you know, whatever the, the
434 incident is. You know, see if they're doing air monitoring, how are they going to clean up, do
435 they have a contractor on site. We're kind of going through all the steps to ensure that
436 everything is going to, to be done correctly. They'll have to submit reports afterwards that we
437 review and, and verify. And then if it, you know, has potential for, for um, you know, impacting
438 the community, then at that time, you know, they'll be requested to do air monitoring. If local
439 jurisdictions on site, they, they'll uh be doing air monitoring as well or, or a hazmat or, or fire
440 department. And then, you know, as, as it escalation occurs then the agency will, will do the
441 community monitoring as well. Deployments, so we do natural disaster work, hurricanes,
442 winter storms. We also do air quality assessments, any type of emergency response that's,
443 that's in our area, and then um just kind of like Anita was saying, investigative support. So,
444 during the, you know, emergency complaints or, or anything that uh an investigator needs as
445 far as sampling or air monitoring or if, if other agencies need assistance, we'll, we'll help them
446 out. And as you saw out front if, if, if you all were there and, and looked at the uhm assessment
447 vehicles, we had the uh, the Swift van that, that does the, the mobile monitoring and then the
448 uh Jeep Cherokee that, that has the, the mobile monitoring inside as well. And the, the Jeep
449 Cherokee is, is the one that's housed in our region here. So, with the, the smaller, you know,
450 Jeep that has the, the UV spectrum meter and it, it kind of does the, the real time monitoring
451 and it measures compounds for, for volatiles. Usually it's, you know, the target chemicals would
452 be, you know, kind of, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene a lot of the, the, the chemicals that are in
453 the area that, that, that unit will pick it up. And then, you know, kind of we have them in
454 Houston and Beaumont and then this year, you know, the, the newer version would go to
455 Corpus Christi. So, that, that's kind of the, the picture that you saw. So, the Jeep Cherokee
456 would, would have that out there. And then as it's driving around, it's picking up the data and,
457 you know, kind of what we call it here is, is just the, the caterpillar trail going through. So, it, it
458 it picks up the, the spectrum of what's in the air and then it gives, you know, the readings and,
459 and PPB. And then what we can do is, is evaluate that through, through our monitoring division
460 group or toxicology group for the, for the, the readings that are going out there. And then you
461 can see as, you know, what we would be doing is, you know, kind of a reconnaissance or air
462 survey through community. You know doing the community monitoring that are downwind,
463 you know, of an incident. So, one other aspect that the agency does is um Disaster Response
464 Strike Team. So, we have, you know, a group in every region that are specialized for response
465 that have uh, you know, incident management training. They know how to do all types of
466 sampling, air monitoring that can assist in any type of natural disaster or emergency response
467 event in their region. Or we can request, you know, request them to come down or any type of
468 region that has an, a major incident to fulfill the needs of that, that scale so if they need more
469 monitoring people, more, you know, oversight of site coordinators, or clean up the agency can
470 move those, you know, investigators around to assist in any type of incident. And, you know,
471 also kind of if it's a prolonged event, then we would need, you know, kind of a rest and a
472 backup so everybody's trained, and they can plug in and, and work the incident and just be
473 continuous through the incident. So, Air, Air Reconnaissance so, so, the, the one things that we,
474 that we do kind of here in the region is ah we'll set up routes so you'll see that DUVAS vehicle
475 and then we also have um air survey teams that are kind of also on call twenty-four hours to, to

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476 monitor at any, any incident. And what we do is kind of identify any air quality impacts through
477 the through the DUVAS vehicle that has the UV or through air monitoring so we just collect the
478 data and see what's around that, that area that we're doing that reconnaissance at and then if
479 it's something that's elevated then we just kind of find the source and then start the
480 investigation there. So, if you see anybody that with the vehicle with the, you know, with the
481 state seal and TCEQ and, and they're out there that's kind of what they're doing is they're using
482 their handheld monitors and, and collecting data. And, you know, from, from our end we, we,
483 we do have um array of, of monitoring and, and water sampling that we use during
484 investigations, complaints, or any type of incident to verify compliance with our rules and
485 regulations, any of their permit standards. So, we also have um all the water sampling
486 capability for parameters as well. So, you know, kind of if you see the list it would be a lot of
487 the, the permit parameters for suspended solids, or nitrogens, or VOCs, or dissolve oxygen. So,
488 we, we have all that capability in our regions as well. And just some pictures of, of investigators
489 taking samples stream or, or taking the chlorine residuals there at the, at the vehicle. And
490 additionally, you know, we, we also have specialty equipment that are for landfills that uh we
491 can review the, you know, static pressure, the methane concentrations, and um, you know, CO2
492 and oxygen just to make sure that the, the landfill is, is running properly or uh, or doing kind
493 of, of probe monitoring at their point of compliance at the landfill, at the landfill fence line.
494 And we also use the optical gas imaging camera, the toxic vapor analyzer, and kind of the RAE
495 Sweet System. So, if you saw the Emergency Response Vehicle outside you can see the, all the
496 different types of the, the monitoring equipment that we use for emergency response and air
497 surveys. And uh just some, some other pictures of the toxic vapor analyzer. And if y'all saw the,
498 the optical imaging camera, you know, we use that a lot to, to do surveys for uh if you see the
499 tank battery you can see the levels of the chemicals that are in there for the airspace. There will
500 also, you know, show any types of vent valves that are that are potentially a source or could be
501 leaking so, so that's one of the evaluations that they do. And um I don't know if y'all got time
502 to, to look at the table, but, you know, they, they use that that tool a lot for, for the area for our,
503 our reconnaissance. They'll go to a lot of fence lines and look at all the, the tank batteries to, to
504 ensure that everything's sealed. And, you know, with that usage it, it has definitely a lot of
505 certification hours, you know, within that and kind of as of now we have, you know, 99 certified
506 operators throughout the state. And there's the, the picture of it and, you know, just another
507 example of ER information through, through our website is um, you know, we would have the
508 um, the tab that you, when you, when you pull up the, the tceq.texas.gov you'll have a tab on
509 the, the corner of it that will have uh, you know, anything new that that's going on. So, for, for
510 immersion response incidents that, that we would have all our information put on. The tab
511 would come up and, and these are just some examples of, you know, the last tabs that came up
512 would have been Hurricane Laura, the City of Lake Jackson, or the ITC terminal and you would
513 click on it and it would have all our data and information that's on there. And uh that's it for
514 my presentation we'll move on to, to the closing and here she comes. Thanks for your time.

515 **Laurie Gharis:** Thank you. Great, thank you to our speakers and now it's our turn to hear from
516 you. So, as I stated at the beginning um we'll have the question and answer session. We um will
517 take questions and an or question and answers until eight-fifteen and then we will have to stop.
518 So, we do have a microphone here and if you have a question for our panelists or for TCEQ
519 please feel free to come on up. Um I'd ask that you ask only a question or two if there's several
520 people behind you and then give and then we can go back through if we have time. The floor is
521 yours.

522 **Person #1:** Will the slides be made available uh by request or do we have to go on to a certain
523 uh website or something?

524 **Laurie Gharis:** They, they will be on our website. Um so, we'll have um those slides up
525 hopefully within, within a week or so.

526 **Person #1:** Thank you.

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527 **Laurie Gharis:** Thank you.

528 **Person #2:** Hi, thank you so much for hosting this today. Um I was wanting to get more
529 information on the public involvement plan form that's certain applicants will need to. Um I
530 guess complete, but along with our permitting applications. Um my two questions on that is
531 well I guess just to make sure I understand it. Um so how I understand it is that through the
532 form, applicants will provide certain information that TCEQ will then analyze to determine
533 whether the activity will have any sort of environmental justice issues. And if so, then the
534 applicants will need to um develop a public, public involvement plan. My two questions were
535 um how this new requirement may delay permitting applications for permitting decisions and
536 my second question was how the, if the applicant has to complete a public involvement plan,
537 how that is different from the notice and comment.

538 **Amy Browning:** So, I can answer that. The public involvement plan form, that was just rolled
539 out as part of TCEQ's public participation plan and asked the applicant to provide some basic
540 information about the community in which their proposed activity will be. For a large number
541 of applicants, they're already going to be subject to the requirements of Chapter 39. Uh which
542 are where the general public participation requirements are and if you are subject to the
543 requirements of Chapter 39 then you basically met the requirements and uh if you go through
544 the form, you'll see that you, you can check that box and, and you're done. Um so, but we do
545 have some applications that go through the agency that are not subject to Chapter 39 and so
546 we are asking them to provide some basic information so the applicant and the agency will
547 know uh what the community is that the uh proposed operation will be and whether or not that
548 applicant may have to do some uh enhanced public uh outreach which might, might include
549 alternative language notice if they are required to do other alternatives other notice, but might
550 not have been required to do alternative language notice under Chapter 39, and to provide a
551 plain language summary. If you're subject to Chapter 39 you already have to provide a plain
552 language summary. You don't have to do a different one.

553 **Person #2:** Okay, Thank you.

554 **Amy Browning:** You're welcome. Oh I'm sorry you also asked if it would delay permitting, no.

555 **Person#2:** Thank you.

556 **Amy Browning:** Yeah.

557 **Person#3 (Ryan Cooper):** Hello there, my name is Ryan Cooper and I'm a law student at the
558 University of Houston Law Center. Uh I guess what that means is if I say something that's
559 wrong that's just another day at the office. Huh. Uh so this is more of a substantive question
560 rather than a process question but as you guys are no doubt aware solid waste facilities,
561 landfills, and whatnot are often located in poorer communities and minority communities. And
562 they have certain impacts on those communities, they lower property values, they have uh
563 litany of health impacts that come with them. And TCEQ's involvement in this process is
564 generally just making sure that the permits that we get for waste facilities conform with the
565 law. But doesn't necessarily take into account as, as far as I'm aware like where the facilities are
566 sited, or if there are multiple being put in these poor or predominantly minority communities.
567 And so, I guess what I'm asking is, is there anything in TCEQ's regulations that require
568 assessment of these kind of environmental justice issues, and if not, why?

569 **Amy Browning:** Uh so no, no one here at the table is, is a waste expert. Um.

570 **Person#3 (Ryan Cooper):** I am not either.

571 **Amy Browning:** Yeah, uh so, but just in general all TCEQ permitting actions are taken to
572 comply with the requirements of state and federal rules and regulations. Uh as, you know, as
573 instituted by the, the federal and the state government so the legislature ah sets our authority

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574 and we permit, take permitting actions in accordance with the authority as the legislature has
575 given it to us.

576 **Person#3 (Ryan Cooper):** Excellent, um can I do a brief follow up question? So, when the city
577 of Houston or theoretically any city makes a decision to cite a lot of the facilities in these
578 communities. Uh is there any recourse from TCEQ, I mean is there any state law on the books
579 anything that allows them to regulate in that area or is that just no, that doesn't comply?

580 **Amy Browning:** Uuh, I'm not sure I understand your question, but again when you start getting
581 into the very specifics of different media permitting that one is beyond my level of expertise. I
582 don't do waste applications. Um but also again so, all of our permitting actions are taken with,
583 in accordance with the authority that, that we have been granted by the legislature so.

584 **Person#3 (Ryan Cooper):** Thank you.

585 **Laurie Gharis:** And if, if we don't have the experts, if you want to send an e-mail, we can see if
586 we can get an expert for you.

587 **Person#4 (Chase Porter):** Hi everyone. Chase Porter, uh Lone Star Legal Aid. First off, just
588 thank you so much for coming out and doing this. Uh I hope you'll do more of these in the
589 future. I just encourage you to throw out a active community groups around Houston that I'm
590 sure would love to have one or all of you out there and talk about topics. So um, uh help us
591 connect you with the right people and, and hopefully we can do these in the future. Um
592 probably questions for Amy um actually about the interpretation. Um I appreciate that y'all
593 have a, I assume a, you've contracted with this company tonight. Um am I correct in assuming
594 though that sometimes you may not go outside, you may use TCEQ staff or, or someone to do
595 these?

596 **Amy Browning:** Um I mean, speaking very generally.

597 **Person#4 (Chase Porter):** Sure.

598 **Amy Browning:** For these types of meetings if we were to have interpreters, we generally have
599 um professional interpreters that we contract with. That doesn't mean we'd never have a
600 meeting where we might have in-house staff to do interpretation. That that has happened. Um
601 and, and generally speaking, when you have a permitting meeting, uh it is actually the applicant
602 that provides the interpretation services for those meetings.

603 **Person#4 (Chase Porter):** Okay.

604 **Amy Browning:** Um not, not the agency itself.

605 **Person#4 (Chase Porter):** Okay. And so follow up question if I could ask. Um at permitting
606 meetings and meetings that are more technical than what we got into tonight, and this isn't just
607 a TCEQ problem this is a problem for any type of meeting or discussion, when you get into
608 technical issues not every interpreter out there has the background and knowledge to deal with,
609 you know, a complex air permit right. And so, especially when the applicant is providing or
610 making arrangements, do y'all have a way to make sure that the people that are going to be
611 there interpreting that night have that qualification to be able to talk about what's going on?

612 **Amy Browning:** So, the rules require the applicant to provide competent interpretation
613 services.

614 **Person#4 (Chase Porter):** Okay.

615 **Amy Browning:** Um and, you know, that's, that's what the rule requires and that's what we
616 would, that's what we would expect.

617 **Person#4 (Chase Porter):** Okay.

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618 **Amy Browning:** Um and, you know, if there were, uh if there were egregious errors with the
619 interpretation then that would be something that we would have to consider.

620 **Person#4 (Chase Porter):** Okay. Thanks, all right.

621 **Person#5 (Kristen Lee):** Hi um I echo everyone's gratitude for you all to being here tonight. Um
622 I very much appreciate the outreach. This is a really good opportunity for a lot of us. Um my
623 name is Kristen Lee, I'm a policy advisor for Commissioner Adrian Garcia in Harris County
624 Precinct 2, which is where we all are right now. Um was wondering if you could clarify for me a
625 little bit about it might be emergency response, might be monitoring, but when we know a
626 hurricane is coming our industry neighbors ah tend to uh they'd start their, their shutdowns
627 and startups, you know, on either side of the hurricane, right and we get a lot of um concern
628 from our community members about the air quality, differential basically. You know before the
629 shutdown begins and as the startup is coming back and we're having a ton of flaring and
630 there's a lot of activity in the neighborhoods. And I'm wondering what TCEQ's role is in those,
631 you know, uh short windows of time. What, you know, even if or hurricane is relatively minor
632 we still have the same level of concern among our industry major neighbors. They take the
633 same protocols to protect themselves and all of us and so I'm wondering what you guys are
634 doing on the air quality side.

635 **Holly Landuyt:** Okay, so I'll talk a little bit um about our air monitors and um how hurricanes
636 can affect them. So all of our ambient air monitors um, you know, can range from \$20,000 to
637 \$150,000 and when we have swirling wind that comes across our air inlets um the water and
638 the salt water can get sucked into the inlets and into our air monitoring equipment, and that
639 would ruin them. And so, to be protective of um our um investments that the, the public health
640 support um we, we do initiate um a shutdown of our air monitoring sites. And um we have
641 procedures and processes and hurricane preparedness that, that we actually prepare for well in
642 advance of hurricane season every year and we have staff that are trained to um to expedite the
643 startup and shutdowns of our air monitoring equipment. Um and, and we do so as, as safely as
644 soon it is safe for staff to travel.

645 **Person#5 (Kristen Lee):** So, what should we be doing in the meantime when there's no air
646 quality data coming in but there's a lot of activity in the industrial corridor?

647 **Jason Ybarra:** So, so, as you know the, the monitoring division is, is protecting assets and, you
648 know, getting the assets to, to higher ground, you know. With, within the, the TCEQ and what
649 we call our Natural Disaster Operate Operational Workgroup "NDOW" you know all our state
650 partners and federal partners are coming together, you know, pre-hurricane, you know, having
651 conference calls, you know, kind of finding the impacted area, you know, looking at, you know,
652 storm surge, and getting ready. That, you know, once, once it hits landfall, you know. When is it
653 safe to go out? And, you know, as we have ah, you know, investigators and air monitoring
654 groups in harm's way, you know, we wait for everything that is safe to go out. And then, you
655 know, if it's, when it's ready then we will have our mobile monitoring team and then our air
656 survey teams going out to the affected areas to do handheld monitoring and kind of what we
657 have with our with our new equipment that they would be doing, you know, pre runs of, of
658 community areas and community monitoring with state and federal partners. And, and you
659 would call, you know, kind of typically like we just say with, with Harvey. We had handhelds on
660 the ground, you know, we requested um kind of the EPA assets, the aspect plane to come and
661 do flights over the, the area. And then once we grab all that data you know quality review it and
662 then it goes on our tab on our website for, for the public to see.

663 **Person#5 (Kristen Lee):** Okay, um I still think that there's going to be this gap that I'm a little
664 bit concerned about. That there's this time where there's shutdowns are occurring and it's still
665 safe to travel, but there's no like emergency response air monitoring happening during that
666 shutdown to show the difference between pre-shutdown, shutdown, and then after the storm.

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667 And so, if, if we could coordinate better across multiple agencies, you know, Harris County now
668 has a mobile monitor.

669 **Jason Ybarra:** Yes, yes.

670 **Person#5 (Kristen Lee):** And many stationary monitors that are in our network is growing. And
671 maybe we could coordinate better to make sure that, that information is. Cuz we're not going
672 anywhere, we don't have anywhere to evacuate to so.

673 **Jason Ybarra:** No, no.

674 **Person#5 (Kristen Lee):** We're going to stay.

675 **Jason Ybarra:** I think, you know, coordinations after action reviews, you know, you have just
676 say from Harvey, you know, we all those uh comments from the public and, and legislature and
677 the, you know, the EPA's findings. We all review it and get better with it with, with every, every
678 hurricane, so, you know, just to, to that effect, you know, we'll, we'll, we'll definitely have
679 baseline. You know the hurricane comes, it's safe to come out, and then the, the monitoring
680 teams will be dispatched out there.

681 **Person#5 (Kristen Lee):** And then do, does industry still have to, to submit STEERS reports
682 even if the governor has declared state of emergency and lifted the, the regs?

683 **Jason Ybarra:** Yes, yes they would have to, you know, document all that and, and provide it
684 through, you know, through the what we call STEERS reporting.

685 **Person#5 (Kristen Lee):** Okay, awesome. Thank y'all very much.

686 **Laurie Gharis:** Feel free to ask extra questions too. If you've come through once and there's not
687 a line feel free to come on up. These are really good questions.

688 **Person#6 (Juan Padras):** Hello, I believe I saw y'all yesterday. Um my name is Juan Padras and
689 I'm with Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services. And uh I know we don't have, we
690 didn't have a lot of time to ask a lot of questions so I came so I can ask another question. But,
691 you know, there's policies in our country for individuals that are stricter than we have
692 regulations on the industry. One example is for instance if I'm driving drunk I get pulled over
693 and go immediately to jail. But yet the industry can pollute us day in and day out with cancer
694 causing chemicals and deadly chemicals and I never see them in jail or given huge penalties.
695 And uh that's, that's, that's an issue that I think we ought to seriously look at. The, uh again
696 another example of that is if I'm selling drugs, you know, I can go to jail right away and, and
697 this industry is again polluting us and hurting us and, and we never see any, any reason for
698 them to not do what they're doing because there's no penalties. You know it's, it's a machine
699 that's it's a notary and it goes away. So, I think we have to figure out how to reevaluate, you
700 know, what's in our communities and, and what is justifiably reasonable to do and what is
701 wrong, you know, what needs to be done. Because that's the way we uh our communities are,
702 you know, inundated with seven, seven cancer causing chemicals every day. And they know it,
703 but there's nothing they can do and so we're left in this vicious circle that we have people uh
704 employed to do their job, but they also come up with just multiple reasons why they are
705 reluctant to or cannot enforce the regulations. Did the bell ring or what? I thought I heard a ring
706 on cutting me off.

707 **Laurie Gharis:** You're good.

708 **Person#6 (Juan Padras):** Okay, but, but anyway look Houston is known as the gas and oil
709 capital of the nation and we also are known as the best cancer treatment center in the world.
710 And jokingly I say this because I ah don't want nobody to get cancer, but I do say to
711 communities that I'm talking about is maybe it's because, you know, there's just too many
712 cancer-causing chemicals that are going into our community. And, and so we know how to treat
713 that and people basically from all over the world come to the Houston Centers for cancer

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714 treatments because we are experts in dealing with all types of cancer. And again I say it's
715 because we have a lot of guinea pigs. I only seen that not to insult people, but just to get the
716 idea that why are we experts in dealing with cancer and we know the treatment for cancer, and
717 we know the issues that cause cancer, and we're surrounded by all those cancer-causing
718 chemicals, yet we don't say we got to stop this. Just like you, I'm driving dw drunk I'm going to
719 get stopped and go to jail. Anyway, there's a, a whole bunch of things that we can compare, you
720 know, analogies with different things that just I think we just got to think outside of the box.
721 How can we really and seriously address the issues that we care about in our communities and
722 our children. Thank you for your time.

723 **Laurie Gharis:** Thank you. I don't know if Anita wants to say anything about the, the, the
724 policies cuz did, did we not just update some of our the, the amounts of fines that people get
725 did, did we not just go through some updates. Maybe that's not it, okay if we, if you don't have
726 the expertise sorry about that um. Do we have any other questions from our audience? And like
727 I said, if you have a question and we're not able to answer it and you want to send us an e-mail.
728 Feel free to, to send us an e-mail. We did bring a lot of experts with us tonight, but um we do a
729 lot of work at TCEQ, so we weren't able to bring everyone. Okay, well if, if we don't have any
730 further questions, I just want to thank you for coming out tonight. I know you have very busy
731 schedules and lives and I, I appreciate you coming out. I hope you had the chance to meet some
732 of our employees face to face, ask those questions that were concerning you, getting get some
733 contact information um, and get what you needed. I want to thank the TCEQ staff for being
734 here there's, they're up here and also all around you, um for our interpreters for helping us
735 with this meeting to make sure that we um had the language access that, that you needed for
736 this area. And um, so it is 7:46 and we'll go ahead and uh end this meeting, and hope hopefully
737 everyone has a very good evening. Thank you.