



## TCEQ GENERAL INFORMATION

---

External Relations Division  
GI-640e • November 2024

# Public Meetings on Municipal Solid Waste Landfills

## Purpose of this Meeting

The purpose of this public meeting is to provide information about a pending application for a Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) landfill permit and allow members of the public to ask questions of the applicant and TCEQ and provide formal comments on the application.

## Components of an MSW Landfill Permit Application

Facilities that dispose of municipal solid waste must have a permit to do so. TCEQ reviews a permit application to determine if it satisfies state rule requirements and to ensure that the proposed landfill is designed, constructed, and operated in a manner that prevents nuisance conditions or impacts the surrounding environment. The permit application contains detailed information about the proposed facility's design, activities, and operations.

Here are brief descriptions of typical MSW landfill components that you may hear about at this public meeting:

- **Closure processes** – Landfills must close in a way that maintains the integrity of the final cover, slopes, and other major components.
- **Financial assurance** – applicant provided funding for environmental protection and maintenance during and after landfill closure.
- **Gas collection system** – A series of perforated pipes that collect and remove methane and other gases produced during the breakdown of waste.
- **Groundwater monitoring system** – Wells installed around a landfill to monitor groundwater and determine if waste constituents have escaped from a landfill.
- **Liner** – A combination of impermeable materials comprised of in situ clay, compacted clay, or geomembrane materials that separate waste from the underlying soil and groundwater.
- **Leachate collection system** – A network of pipes and collection wells that collects precipitation that has fallen on waste (leachate), and stores and treats it. Leachate cannot be discharged without a separate TCEQ water quality permit.
- **Operational practices** – Operational procedures that a landfill operator must follow, including, but not limited to daily cover; controls for dust, windblown waste, odors, vectors, and animal scavenging; fire prevention and response; and waste acceptance procedures.
- **Stormwater management** – A system of engineered structures, like swales, pipes, and berms, that direct stormwater away from a landfill. Any water that contacts waste cannot be discharged without a separate TCEQ water quality permit.

## Issues TCEQ Cannot Consider

TCEQ does not have the authority to consider potential effects on *property values* or *zoning* when determining whether to approve or deny a permit application. Applicants must comply with local government requirements for zoning.

---

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY • PO BOX 13087 • AUSTIN, TX 78711-3087

TCEQ is an equal opportunity employer. The agency does not allow discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this document may be requested in alternate formats by contacting TCEQ at 512-239-0010, or 800-RELAY-TX (TDD), or by writing PO Box 13087, Austin TX 78711-3087. We authorize you to use or reproduce any original material contained in this publication—that is, any material we did not obtain from other sources. Please acknowledge TCEQ as your source. For more information on TCEQ publications, visit our website at:

[tceq.texas.gov/publications](https://tceq.texas.gov/publications)

How is our customer service? [tceq.texas.gov/customersurvey](https://tceq.texas.gov/customersurvey)

## **For More Information**

For questions about the permitting process, call or email our Public Education Program at 800-687-4040 or [pep@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:pep@tceq.texas.gov).

You can also view pending permit applications, find information on public meetings and contested case hearings, provide comments, request accommodations, and more on our website at [www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/participation](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/participation).