



TCEQ GENERAL INFORMATION

External Relations Division
GI-640g • November 2024

Public Meetings on Municipal Solid Waste Medical Waste Facilities

Purpose of this Meeting

This public meeting provides information about a pending registration application for a Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) medical waste facility and allows members of the public to ask questions of the applicant and TCEQ and provide formal comments on the application.

Contents of a MSW Medical Waste Facility Registration Application

Medical waste is waste material generated in health care settings, such as hospitals, clinics, doctors' offices, laboratories, and veterinary facilities, which may contain potentially harmful substances like blood, bodily fluids, used needles, or other items that could pose risks to people when improperly handled. Treatment of medical waste neutralizes it and eliminates its potential health effects. After medical waste is treated, it is considered municipal solid waste and must be sent to an authorized disposal facility.

TCEQ reviews a registration application to determine whether it satisfies state rule requirements and to ensure the proposed facility is designed, constructed, and operated in a manner that prevents nuisance conditions or impacts to the surrounding environment. The application contains detailed information about the proposed facility's design, activities, and operations.

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

- **Facility layout or facility design** – The proposed layout of the facility, including any buildings, roads, buffer zones, and areas marked for medical waste handling, treatment, or storage.
- **Operational processes** – Operational procedures that an operator must follow, including, but not limited to, controls for storage times and temperatures, fire protection, and windblown waste.
- **Processing or treatment method** – Medical waste facilities may be authorized to transfer, store, and treat medical waste. If the facility is proposing treatment, the type of treatment can include, but not limited to, sterilization, incineration, chemical treatment, or mechanical treatment.
- **Stormwater management** – A system of engineered structures, like swales, pipes, and berms, that direct stormwater away from any waste areas. Any water that comes in contact with waste cannot be discharged without a separate TCEQ water quality permit.
- **Waste acceptance** – Procedures for screening, rejecting, and accepting waste.

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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 an application. Applicants must comply with local government requirements for zoning.

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.

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.