

Houston Small Business Advisory Committee Minutes

March 16, 2011

Fiscal Year 2011 Priorities

Provide input on TCEQ rules and policies to represent small businesses and strengthen partnerships with local elected officials.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 AM by Co-Chairs J. Kelly Mowry and Jack Holmes. Each of the 10 participants introduced themselves and the business/organization they represented.

REVIEW ACTIONS ITEMS FROM DECEMBER 15, 2010 MEETING

Matt Boger briefly discussed minutes from the December 15, 2010 meeting and commented that no action items were outstanding.

RULE UPDATE

Matt Boger discussed upcoming rule changes that could have an impact on small businesses in the Houston region. The first item discussed was the new operator training rule for petroleum storage tank facilities. This rule requires that operators at a PST facility must obtain a certification, which is obtained by taking a TCEQ approved training course. Class A operators are responsible for proper operation of the Underground Storage Tank, while Class B operators ensure the day to day implementation of all applicable requirements. The Class C operators typically respond to alarms, releases, spills, or threats to the public or environment. The last item discussed was the expiration of the Multi Sector General Permit (MSGP) on August 14, 2011. All active permits will automatically expire in August 2011, and regulated entities will need to apply for a new storm water permit by November 21, 2011 (90 days after effective date of the new MSGP permit). If the MSGP is issued earlier than expected, then the current permit will expire upon issuance of the new MSGP. The public comment period for the new MSGP is from March 8, 2011-April 12, 2011.

TCEQ AUSTIN UPDATE

Andy Gardner provided the SBAC with information regarding the Texas Legislature, and how proposed legislation could impact small businesses. There are a few recycling bills that have been introduced that if passed could have impacts on small businesses in the Houston region. Andy addressed Senate Bill 389, which if passed will limit emergency power requirements for public water supply to only those systems with over 250 connections. The Sunset Commission Bills (Senate Bill 657 and House Bill 2694) have been introduced and are identical. Andy provided the SBAC with some of the proposed management and statutory changes of these bills as it relates to the TCEQ. Lastly, Andy discussed the proposed budget cuts for the TCEQ due to the budget shortfall that Texas is currently facing. The current proposed budget calls for a reduction of \$300 million for the TCEQ's next biennium as well as 235 full time employees.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Provide SBAC with The Advocate article that has the PST operator information.
2. Send out the TXR050000 "What to Do" web page.

See www.texasenvirohelp.com to find a full list of compliance tools.

Next SBAC Meeting: Wednesday June 15, 2011