

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Drinking Water Advisory Work Group (DWA WG) Meeting

July 21, 2020

Program Updates

- *Welcome*

Michele Risko – Manager - Drinking Water Standards Section

Michele.Risko@tceq.texas.gov (512) 239-1689

Vacant – Special Assistant – Drinking Water Standards

Steven Swierenga – Manager - Drinking Water Special Functions Section

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Sean Ables – Special Assistant – Drinking Water Special Functions Section

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Permitting & Registration Support Division

Occupational Licensing Section

Shannon Watson – Section Manager

Occupational Licensing – shannon.watson@tceq.texas.gov

(512) 239-6543

Tamara Calhoun – Team Leader

Occupational Licensing – tamara.calhoun@tceq.texas.gov

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No updates.

Office of Compliance and Enforcement

Program Support Section

Kristi Mills-Jurach – Division Director

OCE Program Support and Environmental Assistance Division – Kristi.Mills-Jurach@tceq.texas.gov

(512) 239-1261

Kendra Houston – Program Support Section Work Leader

OCE Program Support Section – kendra.houston@tceq.texas.gov

(512) 239-1080

Marilyn Gates – Program Support Section Manager

OCE Program Support Section – Marilyn.gates@tceq.texas.gov

(512) 239-4662

Al Fuentes - PWS/Water Liaison

OCE Program Support Section – Alfonso.Fuentes@tceq.texas.gov

512-239-1407

No updates.

Environmental Assistance Division (EAD)

Small Business and Local Government Assistance Section

Diana Steele - Team Leader

Small Business and Local Government Assistance (SBLGA) Section

Diana.Steele@tceq.texas.gov

(325) 481-8061

No updates.

Water Supply Division

Plan & Technical Review Section (PTR)

Plan and Technical Review Section

Joel Klumpp - Manager

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(512) 239-4453

Brittney Wortham-Teakell – Technical Specialist/Special Assistant

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(512) 239-4392

Plan Review Team

Vera Poe - Team Leader

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(512) 239-6988

Response and Capacity Development Team

Kenneth Dykes – Team Leader

Kenneth.dykes@tceq.texas.gov

(512) 239-4753

Technical Review and Oversight Team

Stephanie Escobar – Team Leader

Stephanie.escobar@tceq.texas.gov

(512) 239-2439

Plan Review Team (PRT)

The team is accepting electronic submittals along with hard copy submittals when customers are able. Submittals may be sent via email to PTRS@tceq.texas.gov

Number of plans and specifications submittals processed by the Plan Review Team in April to June 2020: 609. The team is pleased to welcome Jose Castillo who started on May 2, 2020.

Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey: the EPA has indicated the four-year survey of infrastructure needs is on for 2020. The survey is very important for water systems funding as the sum of the state needs are used to determine the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) allotment Texas will receive. The DWSRF has become a major funding source of water system projects in Texas and careful completion of the survey benefits many Texans. The survey includes all systems with a population greater than 100,000 and a sampling of systems with populations less than 100,000. The American Water Infrastructure Act requires that the upcoming survey include an inventory of lead service lines and the cost to replace those lines. TCEQ is requesting that systems greater than 100,000 begin estimating their lead service lines if they are unsure of the inventory of lead service lines. The schedule has been delayed for

various reasons including the COVID-19 outbreak. EPA is indicating data collection may begin in September or October of 2020.

Technical Review and Oversight Team (TROT)

Number of Exception and Alternative Capacity Requirement requests processed by the Technical Review and Oversight Team during March 2020 – May 2020: 331.

TROT welcomes Trenton Chalk, who came on board as a Natural Resource Specialist on June 22. Trent will be working on Concentration-Time Studies and exceptions.

Response and Capacity Development Team (RCDT)

Number of free on-site Financial, Managerial, and Technical (FMT) Assistance assignments made for public water systems by the Response and Capacity Development Team March – July 2020: 272. This number excludes assignments made for wastewater systems and contractor training events.

Capacity Development:

- Do you need funding or other assistance? The Texas Water Infrastructure Coordination Committee (TWICC) is an umbrella organization designed to help water and wastewater systems find funding. TWICC is made up of state and federal funding, regulatory and assistance agencies including the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Texas Rural Water Association (TRWA), Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), General Land Office (GLO), Texas American Water Works Association (TAWWA) and Communities Unlimited. The last TWICC meeting was hosted remotely by USDA on July 15, 2020. If you are interested in talking to TWICC members about potential projects, funding and other assistance you can contact Dorothy Young at dorothy.young@tceq.texas.gov. Information on TWICC members, funding sources and other resource links are available at www.twicc.org. The next TWICC meeting is to be determined.
- TCEQ and other members of TWICC, including Communities Unlimited, will be participating in the EPA's Virtual Capacity Development workshop on August 11, 2020 called "Targeting Disadvantaged Systems to Develop Capacity and Compliance". This workshop will include case studies that highlight collaborative efforts to help disadvantaged systems with compliance issues and decrease health-based violations.

Texas Optimization Program (TOP):

From April to June 2020:

- TOP staff have been improving our ability to provide remote technical assistance using online meeting tools.
- TOP staff and TOP Support contractors have made updates to existing operator and staff training documents and are working to develop new technical guidance materials. Two draft items are a new iron and manganese guidance manual and a comprehensive plan to address regulatory compliance at low-pressure membrane plants. The target audiences for both projects include water operators and TCEQ staff. We have also been providing internal training to WSD staff through online meeting.

Drought:

- As of July 9, 2020, approximately 2% of the state is in extreme drought, 8% of the state is in severe drought, 25% of the state is in moderate drought, and 53% of the state is abnormally dry. None of the state is in exceptional drought.
- As of July 9, 2020, the state's monitored water supply reservoirs are 85.7% full, a decrease of 1.6% since April 2020.
- Staff continue to monitor and provide additional resources to one High-Priority system and three Watch List systems until their current projects are completed.

Assistance for At-Risk Public Water Systems:

- Staff continue to monitor eleven systems in receivership, six systems under temporary management and thirteen systems designated as "Primary At-Risk."

Cross-Connection Control:

- Program staff are utilizing several options for remote Cross-Connection Control Program (CCCP) Surveys to provide technical assistance.
- The TCEQ Cross-Connection Control Subcommittee conducted its quarterly meeting remotely on June 4, 2020. It was well attended with participation amongst members and new members continue to attend. Topics discussed included difficulties presented by COVID-19 to CCCPs and irrigation issues. Interested attendees can subscribe to meeting notifications on the TCEQ homepage.
- The Cross-Connection Control Program continues to receive many requests for approval of alternate forms.
- Program staff presented at the FY20 Biennial Water Quality training for internal TCEQ staff. The presentation focused on cross-connection control issues encountered at wastewater treatment plants and the use of reduced-pressure principle backflow prevention assemblies.

Drinking Water Standards Section

Michele Risko – Manager

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(512) 239-1689

Vacant – Special Assistant

Drinking Water Assessment Team

Vacant - Team Leader

Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) Program

(Mia Gonzales, Claire Carlton, Lillian Johnson, Charlotte Pope, Jacqueline Hernandez, Sharika Thompson, Tammy Huynh)

Data Integrity and Adequacy

- Public Water System Supervision (PWSS) Quality Assurance (QA) Officer is has been filled by former Drinking Water Assessment Team Leader Jessica Hoch. Please direct QA concerns to Jessica at Jessica.hoch@tceq.texas.gov .
- Performing regular outreach to the micro labs to resolve month data gaps and ensure continuity of operations.
- Continuing program efforts to work with systems and laboratories to ensure all data is reported.
 - Ensure system operators are completing documentation appropriately.
 - Guidance for systems on how to complete the MRF:
 - <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/permitting/watersupply/pdw/tcr/Complete%20the%20Microbial%20Reporting%20Form.pdf>
 - <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/permitting/watersupply/pdw/tcr/Complete%20the%20Microbial%20Reporting%20Form.pdf>
 - Laboratory MRF Guidance:
 - <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/permitting/watersupply/pdw/tcr/Laboratory%20Guidelines.pdf>
 - TCEQ issues corrective actions to laboratories that do not adhere to the QAPP.
 - When laboratories do not adhere to the QAPP, systems are at risk of receiving violations.
 - Hold labs accountable for the requirements you need them to adhere to in order to remain in compliance.
 - File a complaint directly with the laboratory, when needed. NELAP accreditation requires laboratories to follow up on and keep record of all complaints and associated resolution.
- QAPP Addendum 4 is available on the RTCR Program and Public Water Supply Supervision (PWSS) webpages.
 - The requirements are applicable to laboratories and PWS.
 - Be knowledgeable in order to hold your lab accountable.

Groundwater Rule (GWR) Program

(Matt Court, P.G., Ken Quinney)

Triggered Source Monitoring Reminders

- A groundwater system that has a positive sample in the routine, monthly distribution coliform sampling must collect a Triggered Source Monitoring (TSM) “raw” coliform sample at each active well.

- If there are multiple routine, monthly distribution coliform samples that are positive on the same day; you must collect a TSM “raw” coliform sample for each routine positive at each active well.
- If the raw well sample is *E. coli* positive, the system must perform corrective action under the GWR.
 - If you receive notification of an *E. coli* positive raw sample result, please contact the TCEQ’s GWR program staff for corrective action guidance.

Assessment Source Monitoring Reminder

- A groundwater system may have wells placed on Assessment Source Monitoring (ASM) by the TCEQ if there is a request for an exception or concerns about contamination from surface water.
- Please ensure you review your system’s correspondence with the TCEQ related to requirements for ASM “raw” coliform samples at specified wells.
 - The GWR Program has noted some systems continue to collect ASM samples when there is no a compliance requirement for the samples.
 - If your system monitors wells for internal process control and data collection, please ensure the Microbial Reporting Form (MRF) has the samples marked as “special” so they are not used for compliance determinations.

Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) Program

(Jason Williams, Colin Gearing, Lauren Medlin, Thressa Webb, Chance Rushing)

Seth Kramer has left the LCR team to head up the voluntary Lead Testing in Schools and Child Care Program Drinking Water grant program. Please contact Seth for information on this new testing program at seth.kramer@tceq.texas.gov.

Proposed Lead and Copper Rule Revisions

- Rule still in proposed status. Promulgation and implementation timelines not determined. For specific questions about the proposed rule reach out the EPA.
- Proposed Revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule EPA website
 - <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/proposed-revisions-lead-and-copper-rule>
- EPA Lead and Copper Rule Proposal Infographic
 - https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2019-10/documents/proposed_lead_and_copper_rule_infographic.pdf
- EPA Reference Guide for Public Water Systems
 - https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2019-10/documents/lcr_proposal_comment_request.pdf

Tap Sampling

Systems scheduled to collect lead and copper tap samples during Reduced Monitoring 2020 are reminded to sample and follow the steps summarized below.

- Review guidance on the TCEQ’s Lead and Copper Website and ensure all steps associated with lead and copper tap sampling are completed and accurately documented. Set your system up for success and sample early.
 1. Contact an accredited laboratory for bottles and analyzing samples.

2. Visit the TCEQ Lead and Copper website for forms and instructions.
 3. Complete the Lead Consumer Notice form after sampling and deliver to customers and the TCEQ.
 4. Follow up with Texas Drinking Water Watch to make sure your data has been reported and accepted.
- QAPP Addendums 2 & 3 are available on the LCR Program and PWSS webpages.
 - These requirements are applicable to laboratories and PWS.
 - Be knowledgeable in order to hold your lab accountable.

The TCEQ encourages public water systems to make available to the public any information regarding the location of lead plumbing, fixtures, and/or pipes including lead service lines. Methods to make this material publicly available include posting maps or other locational information on your system's website, and adding into your Consumer Confidence Reports, Lead Consumer Notices, and Lead Public Education documents, as applicable. The TCEQ also encourages that the information be made available to your customers upon request.

- The EPA also highly encourages making public all discoveries of lead in your system.

Drinking Water Quality Team

Kasy Stinson - Team Leader

Kasy.stinson@tceq.texas.gov (512) 239-4722

Chemical Compliance Program- PWSCHEM@TCEQ.texas.gov

(James LaManna, Emily Smith, Colt Kernan, Rhea Cypert, Ian Sharp, Nathalie Bello, Matthew Munro)

- Staff and Program Areas
 - James LaManna x2374
 - Organics Compliance
 - Chemical Sample Collection Contract
 - Emily Smith x5282
 - Chemical Monitoring and Reporting Compliance
 - Disinfectant Level Quarterly Operating Report (DLQOR)
 - Chlorine Dioxide, Chlorite, and Bromate
 - Colt Kernan x4752
 - Inorganics Compliance
 - Radionuclides Compliance
 - Rhea Cypert x5728
 - Disinfection Byproducts (DBP) Compliance
 - Operation Evaluation Level (OEL) Compliance
 - Nathalie Bello x2533
 - Lab Approval
 - Sample Scheduling
 - Ian Sharp x0542
 - OEL

- Matthew Munro x5821
 - DLQOR
- Chemical Monitoring and Reporting
 - Violations are going out this week. If you think the violation was sent to you in error, please contact PWSCHEM@TCEQ.texas.gov
- Disinfectant Level Quarterly Operating Report (DLQOR)
 - This is a good opportunity to get set up for electronic reporting of your DLQOR. Contact Emily Smith for guidance on getting that set up
 - If you have concerns about the physical copy of your DLQOR being delayed in the mail, please provide an additional scanned copy to PWSCHEM@TCEQ.texas.gov

Surface Water Treatment Rule- SWTR@TCEQ.texas.gov

(Donald Hunter x4661, Aaron Vu x5216)

- If you have concerns about the physical copy of your SWMOR being delayed in the mail, please provide an additional scanned copy to SWTR@tceq.texas.gov
- SWMOR Audits: The program has been performing in-depth audits on systems each month. Several issues identified include: the SWMOR being set-up incorrectly (i.e. wrong CT parameters, wrong DIT parameters), reporting being completed incorrectly (i.e. data being pulled in a manner inconsistent with rule), and data consistencies/inconsistencies which indicate improper reporting or programming issues.
 - Please take this opportunity to check:
 - Is my SWMOR set-up using my most recent CT study and DIT parameters, as applicable?
 - Is my plant sampling and associated data being performed at the correct times and locations as reported in the SWMOR and consistently with my CT/DIT letters?
 - Are the reports, tools, and calculations programmed into my SCADA and/or used to produce data for my SWMOR set-up correctly?
- SWMOR Housekeeping
 - Make sure you are using the most up-to-date forms
 - Can be found on TCEQ website: [Forms, Instructions, and Guidance for Surface Water Monthly Operating Reports \(SWMORs\)](#)
 - Recommendations
 - If you have questions, contact TCEQ

Drinking Water Special Functions Section

Steven Swierenga - Manager

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(512) 239-6611

Sean Ables – Special Assistant

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(512) 239-1758

Drinking Water Technical Review Team (DWTRT)

Emma Jones – Team Leader

Emma.jones@tceq.texas.gov (512) 239-5665

Public Information Requests (PIRs)

(Kent Steelman and Data Support Group)

- PDW Section Responses to Public Information Requests Completed – **1/**
- PDW stated it had no responsive documents – **12**
- PDW provided individual response and/or data package – **6**

Data Support

(James Stapel, Kent Steelman, Rylan Fields, Ben Wesley, Lee Apostolo, Stephen Taylor)

- Continued work on the 2019 Annual Compliance Report
- Continuing implementation of courtesy reminder project
- Federal Reporting of Compliance Data to EPA
 - Texas submitted **485,536** records to EPA for review
 - These data include information on public water system facilities, compliance samples, and violations and enforcement actions
 - TCEQ has a current error rate of **0.09%**

Sample Migrations

(Lee Apostolo)

- Environmental Electronic (E2) Reporting
 - **125,636** sample records submitted through E2
 - **82** labs are reporting through E2
- Chem Reporting
 - Sample records migrated **22,325**
- Lead and Copper Migrations
 - Sample records migrated **3,919**

Enforcement

(Sally Paramo, CarMello Manning, Caleb Ingle, Arin Kent-Poole)

Enforcement

- 2nd Quarter 2020
 - **41** Enforcement cases
 - **0** Data maintenance case
- 1st Quarter 2020
 - **41** Enforcement cases
 - **0** Data maintenance case

Pre-Enforcement

- Notes for 2nd Quarter 2020
 - 206 new systems reviewed
 - 136 systems have been completed
 - 176 systems are still open and have unresolved violations
- Notes for 1st Quarter 2020
 - 151 new systems reviewed
 - 78 systems have been completed

- 130 systems are still open and have unresolved violations

Post-Enforcement

- Notes for 2nd Quarter 2020
 - 1 new system reviewed
 - 1 case have been closed
 - 32 cases are still open and have unresolved violations
- Notes for 1st Quarter 2020
 - 2 new systems reviewed
 - 1 case have been closed
 - 32 cases are still open and have unresolved violations

Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)

(Arin Kent-Poole and Kent Steelman)

CCR generator is live and our interns are trained and reviewing incoming CCRs

Drinking Water Inventory and Protection Team (DWIP)

Patrick Kading – Team Leader

Patrick.kading@tceq.texas.gov (512) 239-4670

Leticia DeLeon – Technical Assistant

Leticia.DeLeon@tceq.texas.gov (512) 239-4978

Boil Water Notices

(Mike Howell)

In Q2 2020, the DWIP team received notification of 551 issued Boil Water Notices and 505 Boil Water Notices rescinded.

Public Notice

(Kristi Krieg, Mike Howell and Nicole Frisbie)

Public Notices Submitted (Data Entry):

Apr 2020: 433

May 2020: 416

June 2020: 408

Q2 2020 Total: 1,257

Public Notice Violations:

Apr 2020: 218

May 2020: 163

June 2020: 389

Q2 2020 Total: 770

Public Health Service Fees

(Teri Cisneros)

CY 2020:

Total invoices: 7,037 (approximately)

Amount invoiced: \$25,498,764 (approximately)

Date invoices will be mailed: November 2019 (dated 11/30/2019)

Due date: 12/30/2019

As of 07/09/2020 **99.76% collected for CY2020**

Regulatory Assessment Fees

(Teri Cisneros)

CY 2019: 2,273 postcards mailed out December 20, 2019.

As of 07/09/2020 **93% collected**

Inventory Team Information:

(Hannah Evans, Nicole Frisbie, Zach Spivey, Taylor Nickell, Collin Goostree, Kendall Adair, Paiton Upshaw, Celinda Vallejo-Rodriguez, Tabitha Guardiola, James Harville, Katia Ayala, Emily Mailman)

In Q2 2020, DWIP Inventory Team received 1,568 requests and processed 1,534 requests.

Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP)

(Leticia DeLeon and Taylor Nickell)

17 EPP letters went out from April to June 2020.

Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness

(Leticia DeLeon and Taylor Nickell)

45 Emergency Contact Update (ECU) forms were processed since April 2020. Water systems are encouraged to keep their emergency contact information up to date at all times. The information can be verified on [Drinking Water Watch](#). A water system needing their information updated can email in their request to pdws@tceq.texas.gov or call (512) 239-4691 to request a 2020 form. The 2020 ECU form will not be mailed out in 2020 as mail outs are scheduled for every other year. TCEQ will begin to mail out the 2021 form in October 2020 to ensure updates for water systems across the state are completed by May 2021.

If you have any questions you can also contact Leticia De Leon at (512) 239-4978 or (512) 965-2371.

Recently, CDM-Smith, the Security Education contractor for TCEQ, held a two-day Water Resiliency Workshop webinar. We had 285 attendees on the first day and 251 attendees on the second day. We will be working towards bringing another workshop to the web either in August or September of 2020.

Superior Systems

(Leticia DeLeon and Taylor Nickell)

39 Superior System letter reviews were conducted from April to June 2020.

Source Water Protection (SWP)

(Mason T. Miller)

- TCEQ DWIP Team manages the SWP contract and assists public water systems with completing and updating SWP plans.

- TCEQ SWP contractor is CDM Smith
- During FY20 CDM Smith and subcontractors will complete source water protection plans for 26 groundwater systems and three surface water bodies.
- TCEQ DWIP Team assists Texas Rural Water Association as they work with public water systems updating SWP plans and implementing best management practices throughout the state.
- Partnering with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to implement SWP at State Parks.
- TCEQ DWIP Team staff serve as the TCEQ GPS Coordinators and Trainers for TCEQ's staff and contractors.
- TCEQ DWIP Team coordinates the TCEQ PDW Conference
- TCEQ DWIP Team assists with the Texas Optimization Program (TOP)
- TOP - Recognition Program Update (April 2020 through June 2020)
 - Water Treatment Plants receiving annual awards: Benbrook Water Authority (13 YR), City of Gainesville (10 YR), City of Victoria (1 YR)
 - 23 surface water treatment plants participating in Recognition Program, currently five have met all the requirements continuously for 5 to 10 years, three for 10 to 15 years and one for more than 15 years.
 - For more information on the Texas Optimization Recognition Program please contact Mason T. Miller at mason.miller@tceq.texas.gov

PDW Conference Update

- The Public Drinking Water Conference will be held **virtually** this year on August 4-5, 2020.
- The conference will be held online this year due to COVID-19.
- As in previous years, Continuing Education Unit credits will be offered when you view presentations. A maximum of 12 CEUs can be earned.
- Registration is open to everyone.
 - Register by going online to the TCEQ home page and look under the Spotlight Heading or by going directly to <https://lbj.utexas.edu/public-drinking-water-conference>

Next DWAWG Meeting: October 2020