

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

April 13, 2021

## Program Updates

### - *Welcome*

**Michele Risko – Manager** - Drinking Water Standards Section

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Dania Grundmann – Special Assistant – Drinking Water Standards

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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](mailto:shannon.watson@tceq.texas.gov)

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**Tamara Calhoun** – Team Leader

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Occupational Licensing [COVID response page](#) updated. Of note are the following updates to licenses:

- BPAT Waivers for the practical skills continuing education requirement will end on Sept 30, 2021.
- Also, a reminder that all licenses expiring **after August 31, 2020**, are expected to comply within the original 3-year renewal cycle.
- [Paper exams](#) are being held once a month at TCEQ Central Office for Wastewater A and Spanish-version exams only. [Registration](#) is open online.

# 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](mailto:Kristi.Mills-Jurach@tceq.texas.gov)

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### **Kendra Houston – Program Support Section Work Leader**

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### **Marilyn Gates – Program Support Section Manager**

OCE Program Support Section – [Marilyn.gates@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Marilyn.gates@tceq.texas.gov)

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### **Al Fuentes - PWS/Water Liaison**

OCE Program Support Section – [Alfonso.Fuentes@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Alfonso.Fuentes@tceq.texas.gov)

512-239-1407

No updates.

## **Environmental Assistance Division (EAD)**

### *Small Business and Local Government Assistance Section*

### **Carmen Ramirez-Garcia - Team Leader**

Small Business and Local Government Assistance (SBLGA) Section

[Carmen.Ramirez@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Carmen.Ramirez@tceq.texas.gov)

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No updates.

## **Water Supply Division**

### *Plan & Technical Review Section (PTR)*

## **Plan and Technical Review Section**

Joel Klumpp - Manager

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Brittney Wortham-Teakell – Technical Specialist/Special Assistant

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## **Plan Review Team**

Vera Poe - Team Leader

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## **Response and Capacity Development Team**

Kenneth Dykes – Team Leader

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## **Technical Review and Oversight Team**

Stephanie Escobar – Team Leader

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### ***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](mailto:PTRS@tceq.texas.gov)

Number of plans and specifications submittals processed by the Plan Review Team in January to March 2021: 545.

Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey: 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. Staff has completed review of a few system surveys completed by TCEQ's FMT Contractor. PWS participation is very important in documenting all needs. Please assist the contractor and TCEQ if you are contacted regarding the survey and thank you to those PWSs that have already assisted.

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund FY22. TCEQ has received project information forms from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) and is in the process of ranking the proposed infrastructure projects based on health and compliance factors. TWDB uses the ranking for its annual Intended Use Plan for the DWSRF.

### ***Technical Review and Oversight Team (TROT)***

Number of Exception and Alternative Capacity Requirement requests processed by the Technical Review and Oversight Team during January– March 2021: 330.

Mr. David Williams, P.E., a long-time member of TROT, retired at the end of March. Mr. Williams served on TROT for nearly 15 years and will be missed.

Ms. Regina Frisancho joined TROT on March 15, after serving as a contactor on the team for nearly five years. She will continue to work on exception reviews, specialty research projects, and administrative duties.

TROT has recently approved and posted a challenge study for the Toray HFUG-2020AN Ultrafiltration Membrane Module. The Toray and all previously-approved challenge study letters are posted on the TCEQ website. You can find them here:

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/trot/membrane-challenge-studies>

### ***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 January – March 2021: 234. This number excludes assignments made for wastewater systems and contractor training events.

### **Capacity Development:**

- Do you know about a community that needs funding or other assistance for their water or wastewater system? The Texas Water Infrastructure Coordination Committee (TWICC) is an umbrella organization designed to help water and wastewater systems find funding and other assistance. 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), U.S. EPA, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), North American Development Bank (NADB,)General Land Office (GLO), Texas American Water Works Association (TAWWA) and Communities Unlimited. The last TWICC meeting was hosted remotely by TRWA on March 31, 2021. The next TWICC meeting is being hosted remotely by TCEQ at a date to be determined. If you are interested in talking to TWICC members about potential projects funding and other assistance at an upcoming TWICC meeting, you can contact Dorothy Young at [dorothy.young@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:dorothy.young@tceq.texas.gov). Information on TWICC members, funding sources and other resource links are available at [www.twicc.org](http://www.twicc.org).
- Do you know a water system that is helping other water systems? Providing mentoring? Interconnects? Helping out in emergencies? There is a new category in the TCEQ Public Drinking Water Recognition program called Water Partners: Water Systems Helping Water Systems. Check out the details at [https://www.tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/recognition/water\\_partners.html](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/recognition/water_partners.html).

## **Texas Optimization Program (TOP):**

From January to March 2021:

- TOP staff members were involved with responding to the contamination event that occurred in San Angelo. They assisted and provided training regarding backflow protection and cross-connection control.
- TOP staff have responded to requests for assistance from water systems affected by the February winter storm. Requests related to rescinding Boil Water Notices, reporting monitoring and compliance data, and correcting equipment and distribution system failures.

## **Drought:**

- As of April 7, 2021, approximately 7% of the state is in exceptional drought, 13% of the state is in extreme drought, 14% of the state is in severe drought, 35% of the state is in moderate drought, and 20% of the state is abnormally dry. 11% of the state is not experiencing drought.
- As of April 7, 2021, the state's monitored water supply reservoirs are 81.9% full, a decrease of 0.3% since January 2021.
- Staff continue to monitor and provide additional resources to two Watch List systems until their conditions improve.
- Staff ask that water systems report the current stage of their drought contingency plan (DCP) to TCEQ through the online reporting form, found here: [https://www.tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/homeland\\_security/security\\_pws](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/homeland_security/security_pws)
- We also want to remind water systems that their DCP stage should be updated with the agency every time a change is made or if they feel that a shortage could occur because they have less than a 180-day supply of water remaining.

## **Assistance for At-Risk Public Water Systems:**

- Staff continue to monitor nine systems in receivership, seven 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 most recent quarterly meeting remotely on March 4, 2021. It was well attended with participation by long-term members and new members. Topics discussed included updates from the Data Capture Workgroup and a discussion on common deficiencies with cross-connection control programs that can contribute to backflow events. 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.

## ***Drinking Water Standards Section***

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***Drinking Water Assessment Team***

**Laura Higgins - Team Leader**

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**Lead and Copper Reminders:**

In preparation for the upcoming Lead and Copper Rule reduced monitoring period, please ensure that your sampling sites are up to date. The TCEQ cannot accept data sampled from unapproved sites or documented from incorrect LCR sample sites. Please double check your paperwork!

Provide samples to your laboratory early in the compliance period. All samples must be collected during the monitoring period and results must be received by the 10<sup>th</sup> day after the close of the period. If you do not submit samples until the end of the compliance period or after the compliance period, the laboratory cannot perform analysis and report results to the TCEQ by the reporting deadline. Such late reporting may result in a violation being issued to the water system. Confirm receipt of samples in Drinking Water Watch by the reporting due date and communicate with your lab regarding and missing samples.

**Revised Total Coliform and Groundwater Rule Reminders:**

As temperatures increase, historically, more samples test positive for coliform organisms. Please ensure your Sample Siting Plan is up to date and your operators are trained on repeat and trigger source monitoring sampling protocols. Failure to properly collect repeat samples can trigger a Level 1 Assessment for your system. Confirm monthly reporting of sample results by viewing your samples in Drinking Water Watch.

***Drinking Water Quality Team***

**Kasy Stinson - Team Leader**

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**Chemical Compliance Sampling Reminders:**

Please coordinate sample scheduling with the third-party sampler. If a facility is off-line or inactive please communicate this to us at [PWSChem@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:PWSChem@tceq.texas.gov) to avoid monitoring/reporting violations. The third-party sampler cannot update this information; they do not have access to our database.

## ***Drinking Water Special Functions Section***

**Steven Swierenga** - Manager

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## ***Drinking Water Technical Review Team (DWTRT)***

**James LaManna** – Team Leader

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### **Public Information Requests (PIRs)**

*(Kent Steelman and Data Support Group)*

- PDW Section Responses to Public Information Requests Completed – **20**
- PDW stated it had no responsive documents – **11**
- PDW provided individual response and/or data package – **9**

### **Data Support**

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

- Continuing implementation of courtesy reminder project
- Federal Reporting of Compliance Data to EPA
  - Texas submitted **486,746** 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 **0.13%**

### **Sample Migrations**

*(Lee Apostolo, Sarah Magana)*

- Environmental Electronic (E2) Reporting
  - **127,418** sample records submitted through E2
  - **83** labs are reporting through E2
- Chem Reporting
  - Sample records migrated **21,223**
- Lead and Copper Migrations

- Sample records migrated **3,141**

### **Enforcement**

(Sally Paramo, CarMello Manning, Caleb Ingle)

#### **Enforcement**

- 1st Quarter 2021
  - **25** Enforcement cases
  - **1** Data maintenance case

#### **Pre-Enforcement**

- Notes for 1st Quarter 2021
  - 57 new systems reviewed
    - 45 systems have been completed
    - 165 systems are still open and have unresolved violations

### **Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)**

(Arin Kent-Poole and Kent Steelman)

2020 CCR generator is live; looking to fill internship positions, and train interns to review incoming CCRs

### ***Drinking Water Inventory and Protection Team (DWIP)***

**Patrick Kading** – Team Leader

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Leticia DeLeon – Technical Assistant

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### **Boil Water Notices**

(Mike Howell)

In Q1 2021, the DWIP team received notification of 2,853 issued Boil Water Notices and 2,747 Boil Water Notices rescinded. 2,367 of these Boil Water notices were issued as a result of Winter Storm Uri.

### **Public Notice**

(Kristi Krieg, Mike Howell and Nicole Frisbie)

Public Notices Submitted (Data Entry):

Jan 2021: 512

Feb 2021: 335

March 2021: 402

Q1 2021 Total: 1,249

Public Notice Violations:



Jan 2021: 209  
Feb 2021: 0  
March 2021: 114  
Q1 2021 Total: 323

### **Public Health Service Fees**

(Teri Cisneros)

#### **CY 2021:**

Total invoices: 7,034 (approximately)  
Amount invoiced: \$25,846,420 (approximately)  
Date invoices were mailed: November 2020 (dated 11/30/2020)  
Due date: 12/30/2020  
As of 04/01/2021 **99.64% collected for CY2021**

### **Regulatory Assessment Fees**

(Teri Cisneros)

**CY 2020:** 2,283 postcards mailed out December 2020.

As of 04/01/2021 **84% collected**

### **Inventory Team Information:**

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

In Q1 2021, DWIP Inventory Team received 1,765 requests and processed 1,660 requests.

### **Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP)**

*(Leticia DeLeon and Taylor Nickell)*

6 EPP letters went out from **January -April 2021**.

### **Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness**

*(Leticia DeLeon and Taylor Nickell)*

453 Emergency Contact Update (ECU) forms were processed between January 2021 and April 1, 2021. 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](mailto:pdws@tceq.texas.gov) or call (512) 239-4691 to request a 2021 form. TCEQ began 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.

### **Superior Systems**

*(Leticia DeLeon and Taylor Nickell)*

2 Superior System letter reviews were conducted from January-April 2021.

### **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 FY21 CDM Smith and subcontractors will complete source water protection plans for 28 groundwater systems and one surface water body.
- 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.
  - SWP plans have been completed for Guadalupe River State Park and Choke Canyon State Park Calliham
- TCEQ DWIP Team staff serve as the TCEQ GPS Coordinators and Trainers for TCEQ's staff and contractors.
- TCEQ DWIP Team assists with the Texas Optimization Program (TOP)
- Texas Optimization Recognition Program Update:
  - Water Treatment Plants that received annual awards December 2020 through February 2021: Aquilla WSD Two Years, Bluebonnet WSC Eight Years, City of Dallas - East Side 20 Years, City of Denton – Lake Lewisville Three Years, Guadalupe River State Park Three Years, City of Lewisville Six Years, North Texas MWD – Plant IV Four Years, City of Waco – Mt. Carmel Two Years, City of Waxahachie – Howard Road Two Years, West Cedar Creek MUD Two Years,
  - 23 surface water treatment plants participating in Recognition Program, currently three have met all the requirements continuously for 5 to 10 years, three for 10 to 15 years and one for more than 20 years.
  - For more information on the Texas Optimization Recognition Program please contact Mason T. Miller at [mason.miller@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:mason.miller@tceq.texas.gov)

**PDW Conference Save the Date**

*(Mason T. Miller)*

- Mark your calendars for the Annual PDW Conference August 10-11, 2021
- For more information and to register in mid-May visit the PDW Conference website
  - <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/conference.html>

**Next DWA WG Meeting: July 2021**