

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

October 19, 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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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

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(512) 239-6543

Tamara Calhoun – Team Leader

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

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Updates:

- Spanish exams available soon on CBT
- Misunderstanding of Groundwater Under the Influence (GUI) systems – when applying for a license

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
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Kendra Houston – Program Support Section Work Leader

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Marilyn Gates – Program Support Section Manager

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(512) 239-4662

Al Fuentes - PWS/Water Liaison

OCE Program Support Section – Alfonso.Fuentes@tceq.texas.gov
512-239-1407

No updates.

Program Support & Environmental Assistance Division (EAD)

Keith Sheedy – Acting Deputy Director

Program Support and Environmental Assistance Division – kristi.mills-jurich@tceq.texas.gov
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Program Support Section

Marilyn Gates – Program Support Section Manager

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Zachary king – Program Support Field Support Work Leader

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LaTrichia Spikes – PWS/Water Liaison

OCE Program Support Section – latrichia.spikes@tceq.texas.gov
(713) 767-3551

No updates.

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

(956) 721-8457

SBLGA will be hosting SB3 webinars on the following dates and CEUs will be offered to licensed water operations:

- October 28 1:00-5:00pm
- November 5 8:00am-12:00pm
- November 8 1:00-5:00pm
- November 18 8:00am-12:00pm

Information will be available on www.texasenvirohelp.org

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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(512) 239-6988

Technical Review and Oversight Team

Stephanie Escobar – Team Leader

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(512) 239-2439

Corrosion Control and Disinfection Protocol Team

Vacant – Team Leader

Plan Review Team

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 July to September 2021: 646

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. **PWS participation is very important in documenting all needs.** Staff will be focusing efforts on modifications and the lead service line inventory. Please assist TCEQ if you are contacted regarding the survey and thank you to those PWSs that have already assisted.

Technical Review and Oversight Team (TROT)

Number of Exception and Alternative Capacity Requirement requests processed by the TROT team during July – September 2021: 475.

Corrosion Control and Disinfection Protocol Team (CCDPT)

This new team will include staff who will review submittals related to the Lead and Copper Rule, including recommendations for Optimal Corrosion Control Treatment, Corrosion Control Studies, and recommendations for Optimal Water Quality Parameters. Staff on this team will also review Concentration Time “CT” studies for surface water treatment plants and groundwater plants that provide 4-log viral inactivation.

Emergency Preparedness and Response Section (EPR)

Vacant – Manager

Leticia DeLeon – Homeland Security

Leticia.deleon@tceq.texas.gov

(512) 239-4978

Texas Optimization Program and Response Team

Brian Matthews – Team Leader
Brian.matthews@tceq.texas.gov
(512) 239-4972

Resiliency and Preparedness Team

Vacant – Team Leader

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 TDA on September 22, 2021. The next TWICC meeting will be hosted by TWDB on November 18, 2021. 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. Information on TWICC members, funding sources and other resource links are available at 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.

FMT Assistance:

- Number of free on-site Financial, Managerial, and Technical (FMT) Assistance assignments made for public water systems by the Response and Capacity Development Team July – September 2021: 300. This number excludes assignments made for wastewater systems and contractor training events.

Texas Optimization Program (TOP):

From July – September 2021:

- TOP staff and contractors provided on-site technical assistance and training to multiple public water systems.
- TOP staff provided virtual assistance to a public water system during the construction of its membrane surface water treatment plant.

Drought:

- As of September 28, 2021, approximately 0.25% of the state is in severe drought, 7% of the state is in moderate drought, 47% of the state is abnormally dry. 45.75% of the state is not experiencing drought.

- As of September 28, 2021, the state’s monitored water supply reservoirs are 81% full, a decrease of 0.9% since April 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
- 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 available to conduct remote or in-person cross connection control program surveys and technical assistance visits.
- The TCEQ Cross-Connection Control Subcommittee conducted its most recent quarterly meeting remotely via Microsoft Teams on September 2, 2021. It was well attended with participation by long-term members and new members. Topics discussed included updates from the Data Capture Workgroup and discussion on upcoming Texas Department of Insurance rule changes regarding backflow prevention. Interested attendees can subscribe to meeting notifications on the TCEQ homepage. The next Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for December 2, 2021.
- The Cross-Connection Control Program continues to receive many requests for approval of alternate forms.

Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP):

(Leticia DeLeon and Taylor Nickell)

- 8 EPPs processed from July to October 2021.

Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness:

(Leticia DeLeon and Taylor Nickell)

- 205 Emergency Contact Update (ECU) forms were processed between July 20 and October 5, 2021.

Superior Systems:

(Leticia DeLeon and Taylor Nickell)

- 5 Superior System letter reviews were conducted from July 20 to October 5, 2021.

Drinking Water Standards Section

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Dania Grundmann – Special Assistant

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Drinking Water Assessment Team

Laura Higgins - Team Leader

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Drinking Water Quality Team

Kasy Stinson - Team Leader

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No updates.

Drinking Water Special Functions Section

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Sean Ables – Special Assistant

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(512) 239-1758

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 – **16**
- PDW stated it had no responsive documents – **10**
- PDW provided individual response and/or data package – **6**

Data Support

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

- Continuing implementation of courtesy reminder project

- Federal Reporting of Compliance Data to EPA
 - Texas submitted **496,913** 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 **0.15%**

Sample Migrations

(Lee Apostolo, Sarah Magana)

- Environmental Electronic (E2) Reporting
 - **128,593** sample records submitted through E2
 - **84** labs are reporting through E2
- Chem Reporting
 - Sample records migrated **21,223**
- Lead and Copper Migrations
 - Sample records migrated **3,683**

Enforcement

(Sally Paramo, CarMello Manning, Caleb Ingle)

Enforcement

- 2nd Quarter 2021
 - **43** Enforcement cases
 - **2** Data maintenance case
- 3rd Quarter 2021
 - **40** Enforcement cases
 - **0** Data maintenance cases

Pre-Enforcement

- Notes for 3rd Quarter 2021
 - 206 new systems reviewed
 - 114 systems have been completed
 - 92 systems are still open and have unresolved violations

Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)

(Arin Kent-Poole and Kent Steelman)

2020 CCR generator is live

- 775 Provider Certificates of Delivery have been received
- 4,244 Consumer Confidence Reports have been accepted as compliant
 - 94% (4,244/4,519) of currently reviewed CCRs are compliant

Drinking Water Inventory and Protection Team (DWIP)

Jacolyn (Jaci) Saldana – Team Leader

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(512) 239-4978

Boil Water Notices

(Mike Howell)

In Q3 2021, the DWIP team received notification of 632 issued Boil Water Notices and 574 Boil Water Notices rescinded.

Public Notice

(Kristi Krieg, Mike Howell and Nicole Frisbie)

Public Notices Submitted (Data Entry):

July 2021: 581

August 2021: 809

September 2021: 447

Q1 2021 Total: 1,837

Public Notice Violations:

July 2021: 5

August 2021: 509

September 2021: 184

Q1 2021 Total: 698

Public Health Service Fees

(Teri Cisneros)

CY 2021:

Total invoices: 7,034 (approximately)

Amount invoiced: \$25,909,425 (approximately)

Date invoices were mailed: November 2020 (dated 11/30/2020)

Due date: 12/30/2020

As of 04/01/2021 **99.88% collected for CY2021**

Regulatory Assessment Fees

(Teri Cisneros)

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

As of 09/17/2021 **92% collected**

Inventory Team Information:

(Hannah Evans, Nicole Frisbie, Taylor Nickell, Collin Goostree, Kendall Adair, Tabitha Guardiola, James Harville, Daniel Tomlinson, Shannon Uptmor, Dustin Scoggin)

In Q2 2021, DWIP Inventory Team received 1,457 requests and processed 1,491 requests.

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 completed SWP plans for 30 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.
- TCEQ DWIP Team staff continue to 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 (June 2021 through August 2021)
 - Water Treatment Plants receiving annual awards this quarter: City of Houston Southeast (2 YR)
 - 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

PDW Conference Update

(Mason T. Miller)

- TCEQ hosted its 18th Annual PDW Conference on August 10-11, 2021.
- This year the PDW Conference moved to an online format due to COVID-19.
- Over 1,100 people attended the online event including TCEQ staff, exhibitors, speakers, water operators, water system managers, laboratory professionals and engineers from across the state.
- The 2021 TCEQ Online PDW Conference proved to be challenging and rewarding!
- Thank you to everyone that attended and contributed to this year's conference.

Next DWA WG Meeting: January 2022