

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

February 24, 2025

## Plain Language Summary of Renewal and Revision of Municipal Solid Waste Landfill General Operating Permit Number 517; Project Number: 2023-134-OTH-NR

### Introduction

TCEQ is issuing a renewal and revision of Municipal Solid Waste Landfill (MSWL) General Operating Permit (GOP) Number 517 effective February 24, 2025. The GOP contains revisions based on recent federal and state rule changes, which include updates to the Statement of Basis, requirements tables, the addition of new requirements tables, and updates to the terms. The renewal also corrects typographical errors and updates language for administrative preferences.

### Summary

GOPs are a type of authorization for certain stationary sources that must obtain a Federal Operating Permit (FOP). FOPs are required for major stationary sources and some minor stationary sources to operate their facilities. Information about the FOP program is available on the TCEQ website at: [Air Operating Permits \(Title V\)](#). GOPs identify uniform permit conditions that specify all applicable requirements for a defined class of stationary source. If a stationary source meets the applicability criteria identified in the GOP, it can apply for authorization to operate under the GOP. If not, it must apply for a source-specific Site Operating Permit. Requirements for the FOP program are located in Title 30 Texas Administrative Code (30 TAC) Chapter 122; requirements for GOPs are located in 30 TAC Chapter 122, Subchapter F.

GOP Number 517 is developed to authorize operation at major and minor source landfills engaged in the collection and disposal of nonhazardous waste. Municipal solid waste landfills (MSWL) are subject to 30 TAC 122 regardless of major source status and require a FOP.

A MSWL is considered a major source if it meets the criteria defined in 30 TAC Chapter 122, Subchapter A. Different thresholds apply to different sites, based on the attainment status of the county in which the site is located.

Any site that is a non-major source which the EPA, through rulemaking, has designated to obtain a permit are required to obtain a FOP. Minor source landfills subject to certain state and federal rules require authorization to operate under a Title V permit and may apply to operate under GOP Number 517.

The renewal to GOP 517 includes revisions resulting from new and amended federal and state rules, as well as other changes, which are applicable requirements under the FOP program. Specific information about the changes is available by reviewing the Statement of Basis, which is available on the TCEQ website at: [General Operating Permits](#). This renewal fulfills the obligation to renew the corresponding MSWL GOP Number 517 every five years as required by 30 TAC §122.501 (General Operating Permits).

## Public Comment and Hearing Information

Before the issuance of a renewal or significant revision to a GOP by TCEQ, the GOP must comply with 30 TAC Chapter 122, Subchapter F, procedural requirements, including a 30-day public comment period with an opportunity to request a notice and comment hearing, an affected states review, and a 45-day United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) review. Once issued, the GOP is subject to a 60-day public petition period during which the public may petition EPA to object to the GOP. Petitions shall be based only on objections to the permit that were raised with reasonable specificity during the public comment period, unless the petitioner demonstrates in the petition to EPA that it was not possible to raise the objections within the public comment period, or that the grounds for the objection arose after the public comment period. The petition shall identify all objections.

Simultaneous with the public comment period, affected states (Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Oklahoma) had the opportunity to comment on the draft GOP. No comments were received from affected states.

The EPA 45-day review period began on October 15, 2024, and ended on November 29, 2024, during which time EPA had the opportunity to comment on and object to the GOP's issuance. No comments or objections were received from EPA.

No stakeholder meetings were planned or held for this project.

TCEQ did hold a hybrid in-person and virtual public hearing in Austin, Texas on September 16, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. in Building F, room 2210, at the commission's central office located at 12100 Park 35 Circle. The hearing was structured for the receipt of oral or written comments by interested persons. Open discussion was not permitted during the hearing; however, commission staff members were available to discuss the draft GOP 30 minutes prior to the hearing. No attendees made formal comments during the hearing. Written public comments were received and are responded to in the Response to Comments section of the Statement of Basis.

**The comment period closed September 16, 2024.**

Copies of the GOP may be obtained from the commission website at [https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/air/nav/air\\_genoppermits.html](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/air/nav/air_genoppermits.html)

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