

# Process to Obtain an Authorization under a Stormwater General Permit

2025 Water Quality / Stormwater Seminar

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**Stormwater Permits Team** 

#### **Outline**

**STEERS and ePermits** 

**Creating a STEERS account** 

Permit application structure and process in ePermits

**Best Practices** 



#### TCEQ'S

# State of Texas Environmental Electronic Reporting System (STEERS) and ePermits

- STEERS is a vehicle to collect data electronically.
- STEERS provides a common framework and security for multiple agency programs that enable the regulated community to submit reports, permits, and registrations electronically.
- ePermits is the online application tool to submit permit requests for various program types to TCEQ.
- TCEQ created the ePermits system to automate the process of creating and managing authorizations, registrations, and permits.
- For some transactions, TCEQ in turn reviews when needed these general permit applications and processes them accordingly.

5 EERS



# Why was ePermits Developed?

# Internally – to allow TCEQ staff to create and maintain electronic applications

- Clean and synchronized data in databases.
- Less paper applications to process.
- More time to spend on customer service to assist customers using ePermits.
- Ideal to electronically transfer permit data to EPA's ICIS database.

# Externally – to allow customers to select, complete, and submit an electronic application

- Less time, effort and cost, flexibility.
- Electronic Application Fee is less than the paper application, online payment.
- Easy to fill out process, instant approvals, and share applications.



# Why was ePermits Developed?

- Needed to meet requirements of the federal Electronic Reporting Rule (40 CFR Part 127)
  - All general permit applications must be submitted electronically by Dec. 21, 2025.
- Meets federal CROMERR requirements and requires users to establish an account and an electronic signature.



#### What Programs/Applications are in ePermits?

#### Water Quality Division electronic permits/registrations

- Construction General Permit TXR150000
- Multi-Sector General Permit TXR050000
- CAFO General Permit TXG920000
- Pesticide General Permit TXG870000
- Concrete Batch General Permit TXG110000
- Hydrostatic Test Water General Permit TXG670000

#### **Applications for various permitting needs:**

- Create New Authorizations NOIs, NECs, Low Rainfall Erosivity Waivers
- Modify Existing Authorizations NOCs
- Renew Authorizations NORs
- Terminate Authorizations NOTs
- Share/Access In-Progress Authorizations
- View Application documents and submissions—including Certificates and Letters
- Delegation of Signatories to Report Form



#### **EXTERNAL**

- Create New Authorizations NOIs
- Modify Existing Authorizations NOCs
- Renew Authorizations NORs
- Terminate Authorizations NOTs

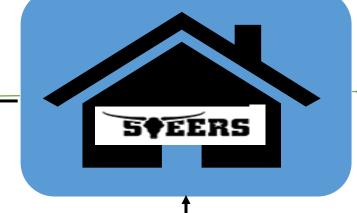
# **ePermitting**

#### **INTERNAL (For TCEQ purposes)**

- Review applications.
- Process applications.

# View Submissions

- Share/Access In-Progress Authorizations
- View Application documents and submissions
- Certificates and Letters.



Registrations

# **eReporting**

- EBT
- IHW
- MSW
- P2PLAN
- PDW
- TIER II Govt Official
- TIER II Reporting
- TROLS



#### **Welcome to STEERS**

**Step 1:** For new users, creating a STEERS account is the first step in submitting an online permit application.

Accounts are created for the **individual user**, and not for a facility or entity.

- Each STEERS account must have a unique e-mail address. Duplicates checks are done for both the email address and last name.
- Applicant information like names, address, company email and phone number are asked to create a new account.
- All STEERS user accounts are renewable every 2 years. Can update if change in your personal account information or modify your program area access.



#### **Welcome to STEERS**



#### Here is what you can do online in STEERS:

#### e-Permits\Registrations:

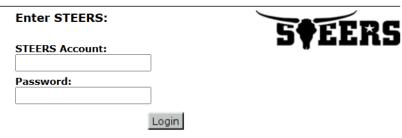
- >> Aggregate Production Operations Registration
- >> Air New Source Review and Title V Operating Permits
- >> Electronic Core Data Forms (ECDF)
- >> Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Notifications
- >> Petroleum Storage Tank (PST) Registrations
- >> Tax Relief for Pollution Control Property
- >> Tires Annual Operational Status Report
- >> Water Quality General & Individual Permits (SW, WW, & more)
- >> Water Quality Emergency Preparedness System

#### e-Reporting:

- >> Air Emissions & Inspection Fees (AEIF)
- >> Air Emissions & Maintenance Events (AEME) Reporting
- >> Annual Emissions Inventory Report (AEIR)
- >> Emissions Banking and Trading (EBT)
- >> Industrial & Hazardous Waste (IHW) NOR and Summaries
- >> Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Reporting
- >> Pollution Prevention Planning (P2PLAN) Reporting
- >> Public Drinking Water (PDW)
- >> Stack Test Online Reporting System (STORS)
- >> Tier II (TIERII)
- >> Training Roster Online Submittal (TROLS)

See details of what you can do.

This is STEERS version 6.9.



TCEQ Home

#### I need:

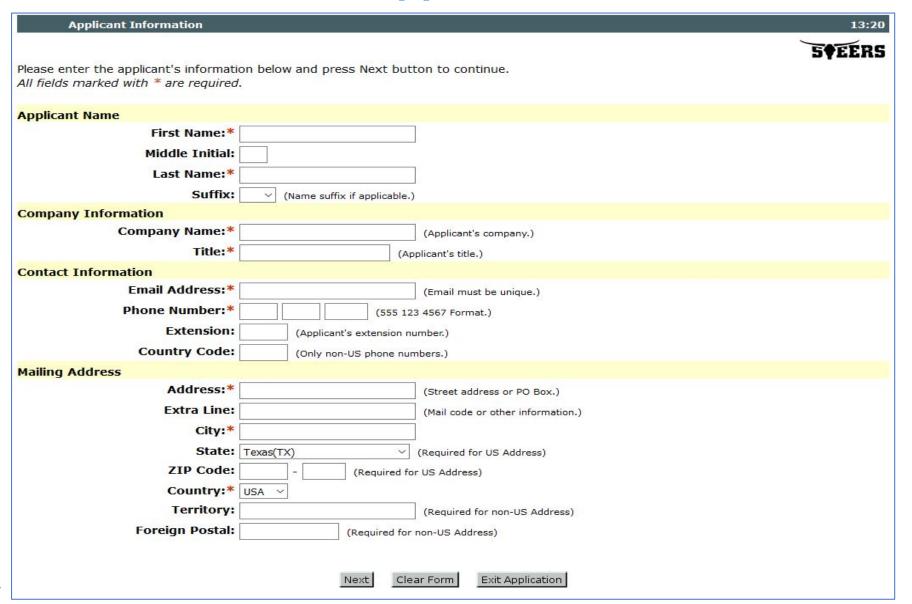
- my password
- to create a new account
- to authorize another user's account

#### Find Out When STEERS Will Be Offline

We do our best to ensure that STEERS is online when you need it. But for upgrades, security measures, and other maintenance, we must bring STEERS or one of its modules offline. We cannot predict emergency outages, but for scheduled downtimes, see our STEERS maintenance schedule.



#### **New Account - Applicant Information**

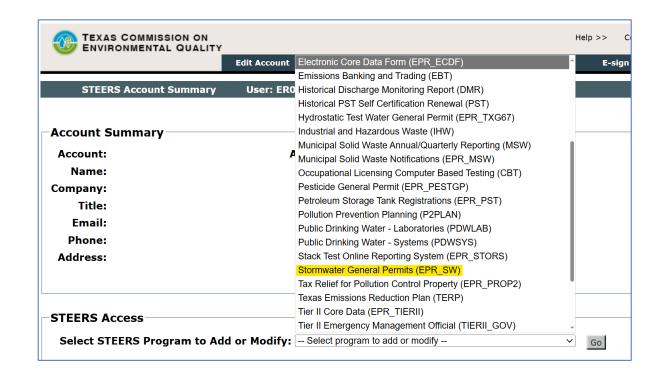


# **New Account – Add Program Type**

**Step 2:** Select STEERS Program to Add or Modify.

Add the program of interest from the list of ePermits/Registrations or eReporting programs that STEERS houses.

- Choose Storm Water General Permits (EPR SW)
- Once the security questions are set, user needs to add the program that he wishes to get an authorization for.
- The list encompasses all the agency approved ePermits applications. Choose the one that fits you.





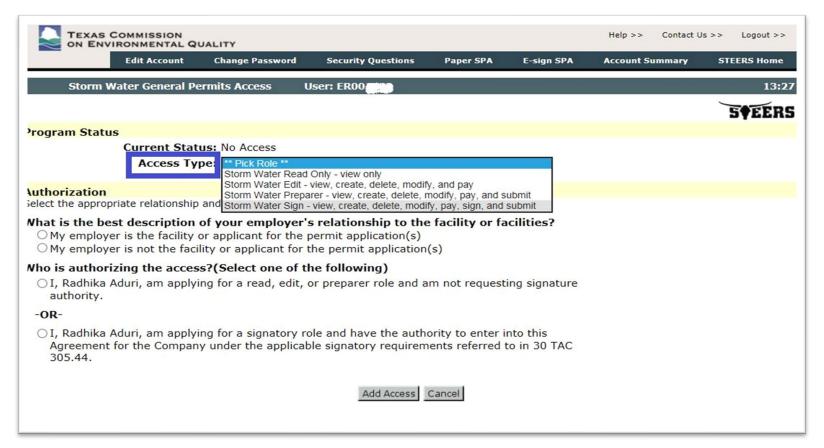
#### **Access Type - Roles**

- **Step 3:** Next, you will select your role and define the type of access you will have to prepare this authorization.
  - Read Only view only. You will only be able to view submitted applications. You will not be able
    to see applications in progress.
  - Edit view, create, delete, modify and pay. You cannot sign for or submit this application.
  - Preparer view, create, delete, modify, pay and submit. You cannot sign for this application.
  - Sign view, create, delete, modify, pay, sign and submit.
- Select the appropriate relationship and authorization statement.



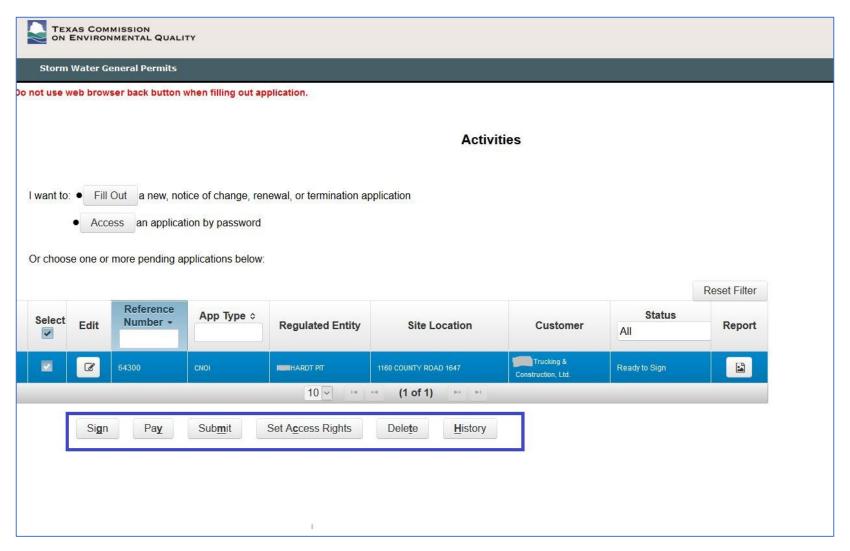
#### **Access Type - Roles**

- Pick a ROLE based on your contribution towards filling this application form.
- You can have only one ROLE per program.
  - There can be more than one user for different roles for a specific program.





# **Options Based on Action Type**



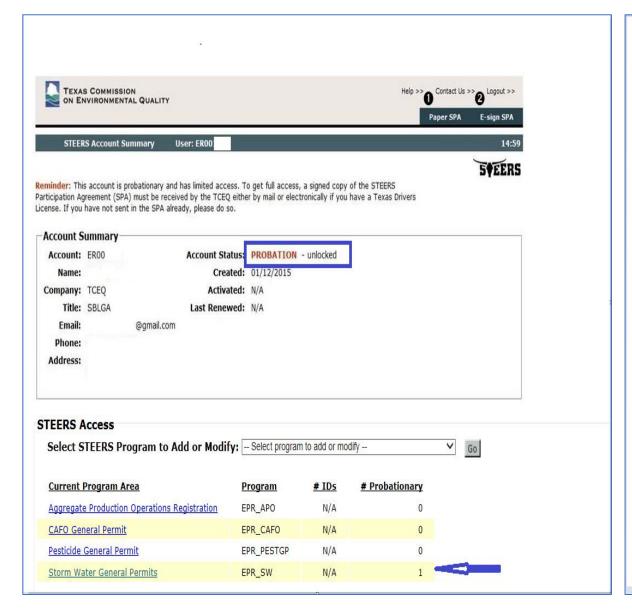


## **STEERS Participation Agreement (SPA)**

- Step 4: The account is probationary and has limited access (is not yet authorized to submit a permit application) until a signed copy of the STEERS Participation Agreement has been received by the TCEQ. An electronic signature or hard-copy signature must be provided for the program "Stormwater General Permit".
- Select the type of SPA to submit by selecting from the two options in the top right corner. –
   Paper SPA or E-Sign SPA.
  - E-Sign SPA
    - Submitted electronically and will activate your account immediately
    - Requires valid Class C Texas Driver License
       OR
      - LexisNexis InstantId (nationwide)
    - Enter your identifying information, read and check both boxes, and click "E-Sign SPA".
    - You will receive the message: "This page confirms the submittal of your electronically signed STEERS Participation Agreement (SPA) to the TCEQ. You will also receive a confirmation e-mail."
  - Paper SPA
    - By selecting "Generate Your SPA", an SPA will automatically be filled in with the information associated with your STEERs account.
    - Print out, sign, and mail the SPA the STEERS mailing address listed at the top of the printed page.



# **STEERS Participation Agreement (SPA)**



All fields are required. TCI number.	EQ will not save confide	ential data such as TD	L, audit number, birthday	, and partial social securit
First Na	ame:	Your	first name as it appears on	your TDL.
Last Na	ame:	Your	last name as it appears on	your TDL.
Company Na	ame: TCEQ			
1	Title: SBLGA			
TDL Num	nber: 8	to 10-digit number		
TDL Audit Num	iber:	The 11-, 1	6- or 20- digit number on y	our license.
	SSN: Last 4 d	igits only		
Date of B	Sirth: m	im/dd/yyyy		
☑ I, the applicable	e standards listed be		is Agreement for TCE	Q dildei
	, certify that I a	m signing this docu	ment with my persona	l Texas
			ment with my persona	l Texas
	nse information.  E-Sign S  Signature ve	SPA Cancel Ex	it Application	
	E-Sign S Signature ve Please do not pr  are, and/or sign and into this agreement:	rification can take ess the E-sign but	it Application several minutes. ton more than once	
orniver's Licer  am applying to read, prepare the authority to enter in the community of th	E-Sign S Signature ve Please do not pr  are, and/or sign and into this agreement:	rification can take ess the E-sign but	several minutes. ton more than once	

## **Successfully Completed**

#### STEERS Account

- > ER001234
- Added Stormwater General Permit Program
- > Signed e-SPA
- Now Ready to Prepare General Permit



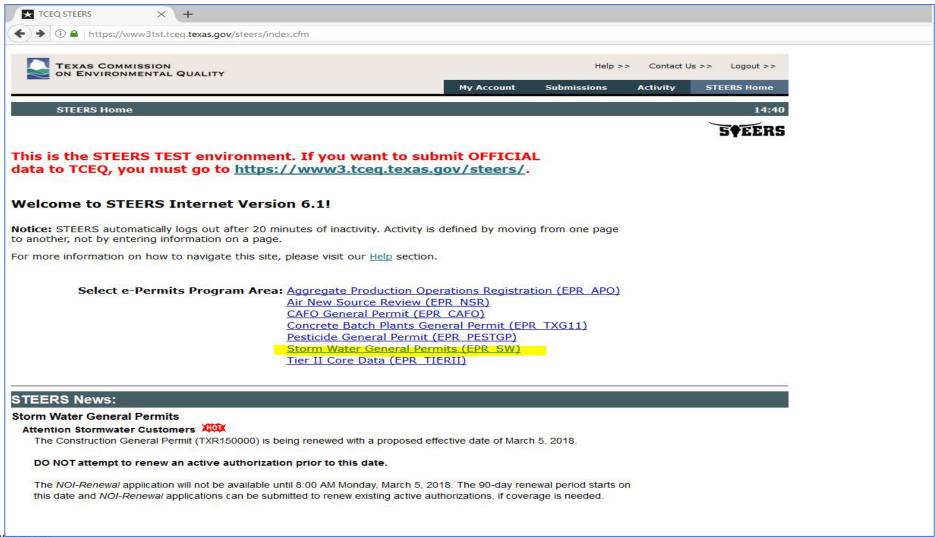


## **Preparing a Notice of Intent**

- When you log into STEERS, you will be directed to the STEERS Home page. From the home page you can navigate to the different areas of STEERS.
  - This is where you will see the newly added Program Area Storm Water General Permits (EPR\_SW).
  - To begin an application, select the program hyperlink:
     Storm Water General Permits (EPR SW).
  - Note: If you do not see the program area, it is highly likely that you have not signed the SPA.
- Now Ready to Prepare General Permit

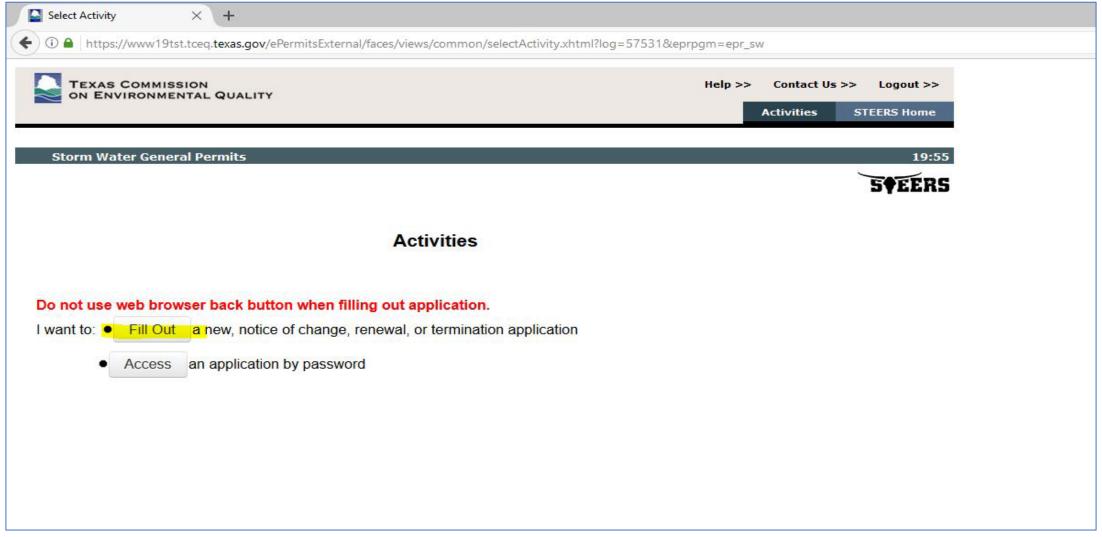


### **Preparing a Notice of Intent**





### Preparing a Notice of Intent (NOI)





#### **Creating Application**

- Choose the Storm Water General Permits (EPR\_SW) at the Select your Program Type screen.
   This is where we select what type of permit is this going to be.
- Construction General Permit (CGP) has the following available.
  - New Notice of Intent application (CNOI).
  - Cancel Terminate an existing NOI authorization (CNOT)
  - Modify Notice of Change application (NOC)
  - Create a Low Rainfall Erosivity Waiver Application (C-LREW)



#### **Creating Application**

- Across the top of the screen, the application status bar will guide you through completion of the application from creation, filling the application out, signing the application, paying and finally, submitting.
- Note that until you submit the application, the agency will not receive or process it. You must
  pay and then return to the application to submit it before you will receive the confirmation of
  submission email.
- Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) has the following available.
  - New Notice of Intent application (INOI).
  - New No Exposure Certification application (INEC)
  - Cancel Terminate an existing INOI authorization (INOT)
  - Cancel Terminate an existing INEC authorization (INOT)
  - Modify Notice of Change application (INOI-NOC)

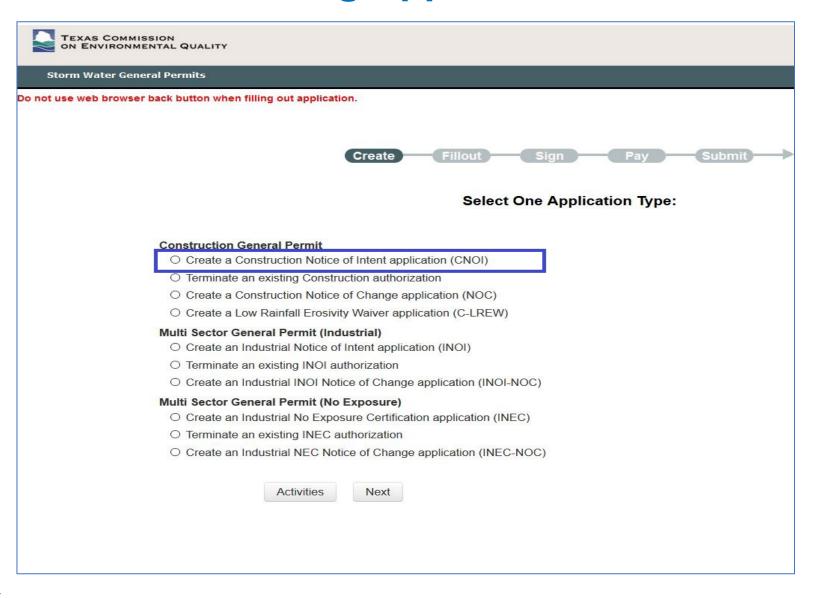


#### **Changes in Information (NOC)**

- Examples of information that may be submitted on an NOC include the following:
- Change to applicant contact or billing information.
- Changes to the General Characteristics section, such as adding, removing, or changing an SIC code or industrial activity code; adding or removing industrial activities with federal effluent limitations; or changing the discharge information.
- Operator name change, provided that only the name has changed and that no transfer of ownership has occurred
- Addition, removal, or change in the location of a permitted outfall.
- Request to stop submitting monitoring results of benchmarks, numeric effluent limitations (hazardous metals), and pollutants of concern.
- Changes in facility status from active to inactive and vice versa.



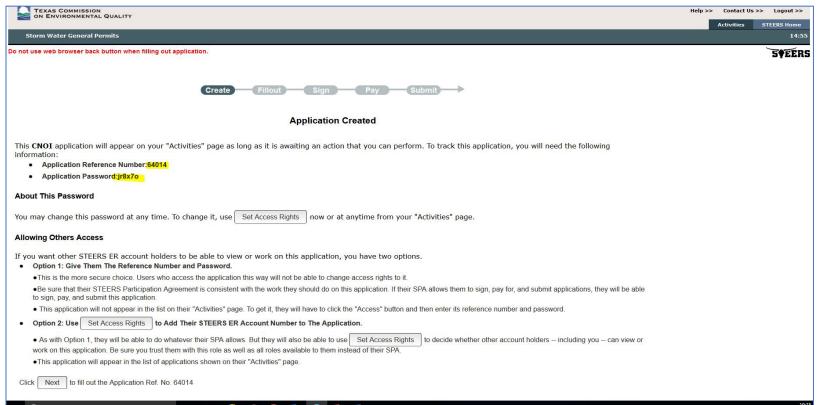
#### **Creating Application**





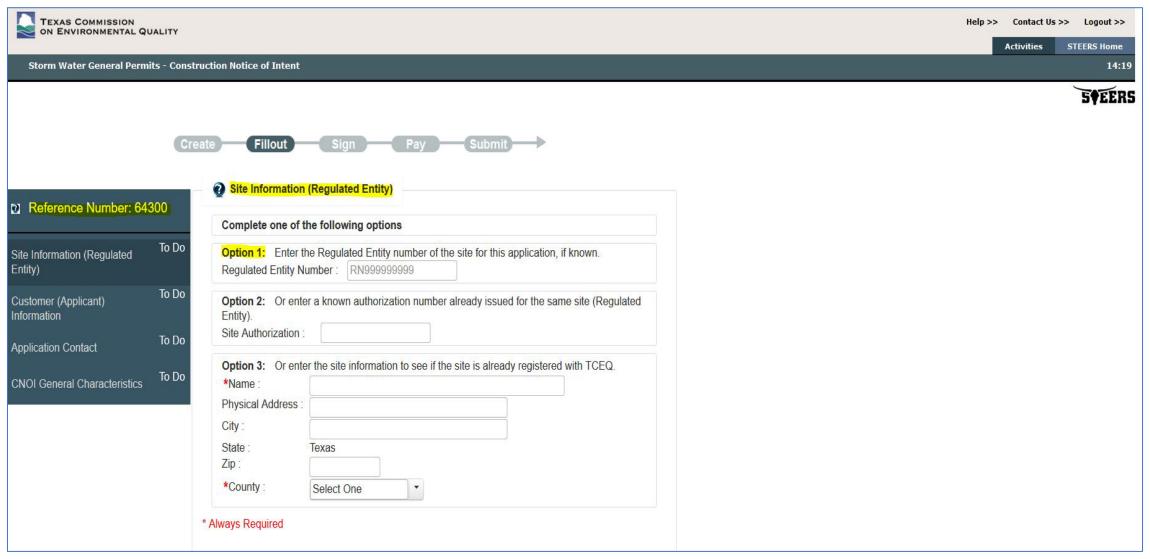
### **Creating Application**

- The Application is created. This will have information of the Reference Number and system generated password. User can change the password as needed.
- This information can be used to access the application at a later time or if it has to be shared between users.



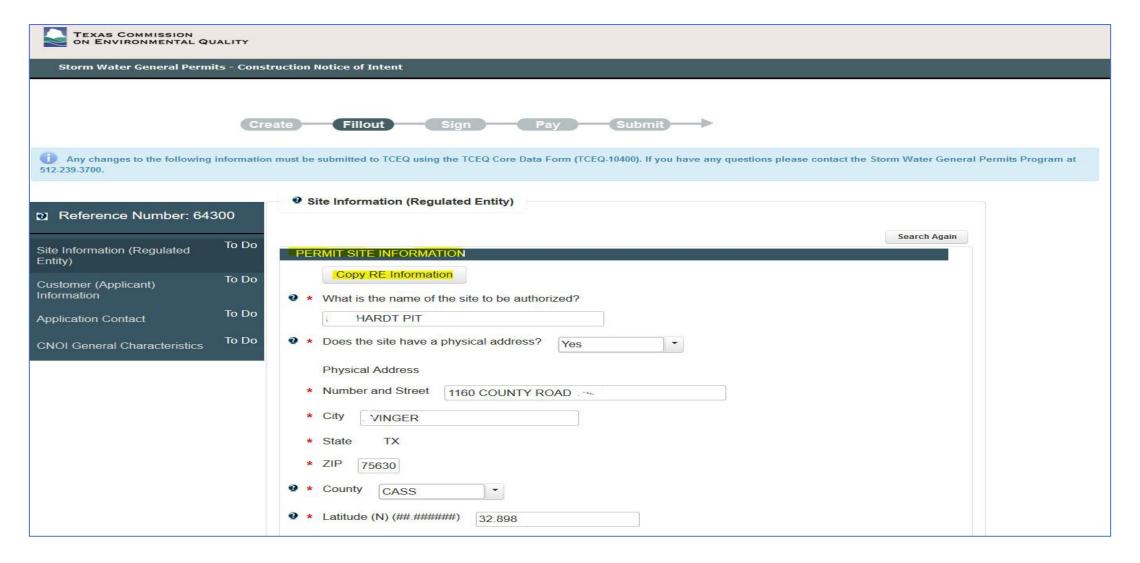


# **Site Information (Regulated Entity)**





# **Site Information (Regulated Entity)**





# **Customer (Applicant Information)**

Storm Water General Permits - Construction Notice of Intent						
Site Information (Regulated Enti	Crea	s been saved successfully. Please continue until all sections are complete.				
Reference Number: 64	1200	Customer (Applicant) Information				
M Reference Number, 64	1300	Complete one of the following options				
Site Information (Regulated Entity)	Done	Option 1: Choose a customer that is already doing business at this site  Customer Number Full Name				
Customer (Applicant) Information	To Do	CN6031 TRUCKING & CONSTRUCTION LTD				
Application Contact	To Do	Option 2: If the customer (applicant) is already a TCEQ customer then enter the CN What is the applicant's Customer Number(CN)? : CN999999999				
CNOI General Characteristics	To Do	Option 3: Enter a known authorization number already issued to the same customer (Applicant) to find the CN Authorization from Same Company:				
		Option 4: Enter the customer's (applicant's) information to see if the applicant is already a TCEQ customer Customer/Ownership Type: Select One  Legal Name:  100 characters remaining.  Federal Tax ID: State Franchise Tax ID: SOS Filing Number:  Activities Next				



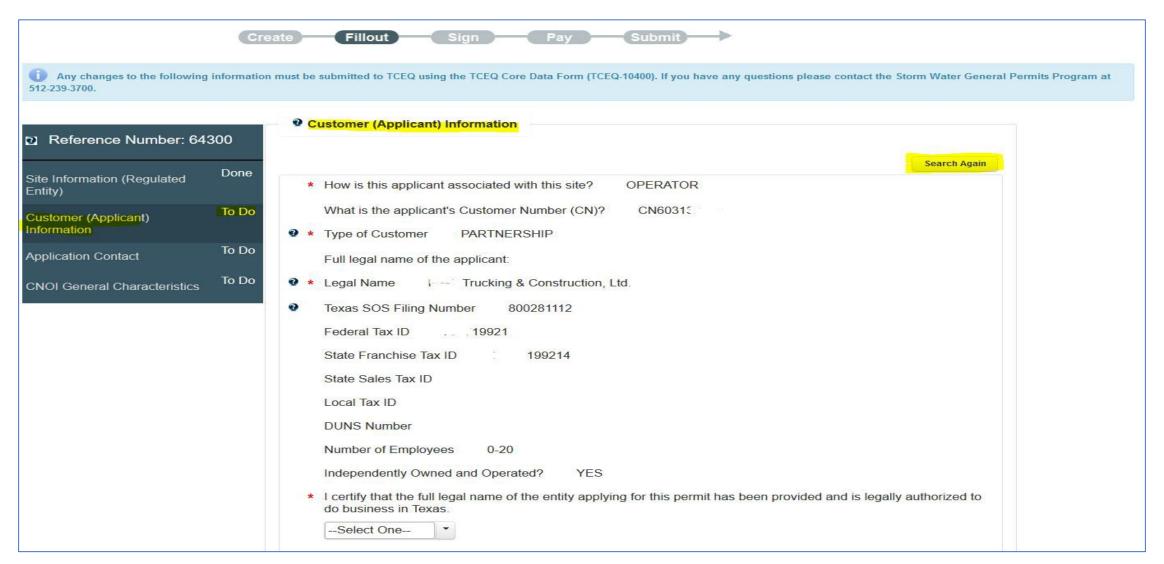
# **Customer (Applicant Information)**



- Verify the CN.
- OPTION 1 existing CN, all this information is READ only – verify and proceed by certifying that the above information is all correct and valid.
- User need to certify by choosing YES in the drop down. If you notice any incorrect or old information, Central Registry and Program Area numbers are shown at the top for easy access. You may contact them at any time
- If you choose OPTION 3, all these data would have to be entered. And during data entry, system validates the CN statuses with SOS/CPA.

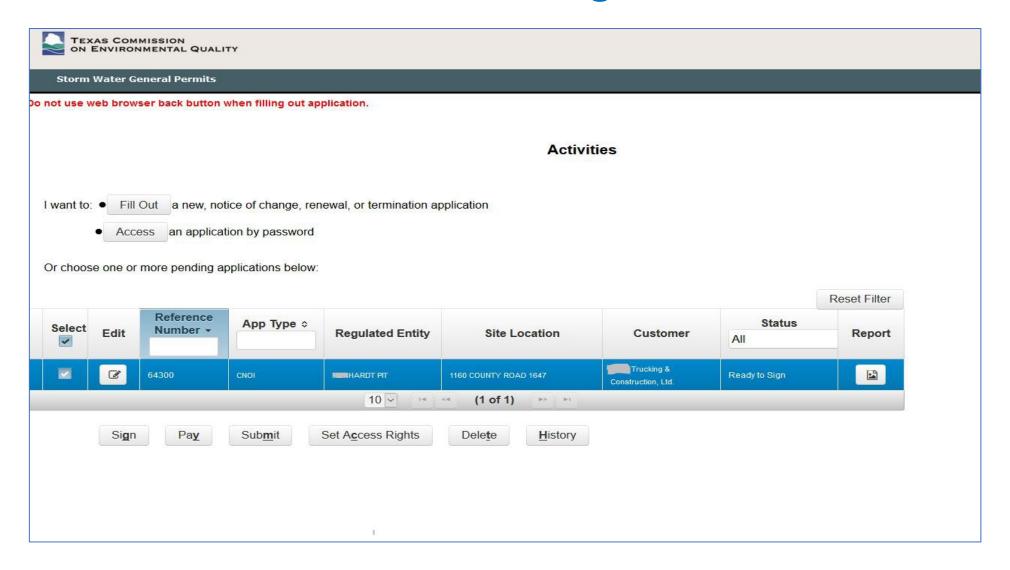


#### **Customer (Applicant Information)**





# **Activities Page**





## **Signature Page**

Review this list to be sure that the statements at the bottom of this page are true for each application shown.

Reference Number ≎	Application Type	Regulated Entity	Site Location	Customer
64300	CNOI	"HARDT PIT	1160 COUNTY ROAE	Trucking & Construction, Ltd.

#### You are signing on behalf of the

OPERATOR- 1 Trucking & Construction, Ltd., CN60313

Please confirm you have read and agree with each of the statements below by selecting each checkbox.

**Y** 

I certify that I am authorized under 30 Texas Administrative Code Subchapter 305.44 to sign this document and can provide documentation in proof of such authorization upon request.

I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

By entering my password and pressing "Apply Electronic Signature" button, I agree that:

- 1. I am Radhika Aduri, the owner of the STEERS account ER001332.
- 2. I have the authority to sign this data on behalf of the applicant named above.
- 3. I have personally examined the foregoing and am familiar with its content and the content of any attachments, and based upon my personal knowledge and/or inquiry of any individual responsible for information contained herein, that this information is true, accurate, and complete.
- 4. I further certify that I have not violated any term in my TCEQ STEERS participation agreement and that I have no reason to believe that the confidentiality or use of my password has been compromised at any time.
- 5. I understand that use of my password constitutes an electronic signature legally equivalent to my written signature.
- 6. I also understand that the attestations of fact contained herein pertain to the implementation, oversight and enforcement of a state and/or federal environmental program and must be true and complete to the best of my knowledge.
- 7. I am aware that criminal penalties may be imposed for statements or omissions that I know or have reason to believe are untrue or misleading.
- 8. I am knowingly and intentionally signing Construction Notice of Intent.
- 9. My signature indicates that I am in agreement with the information on this form, and authorize its submittal to the TCEQ.

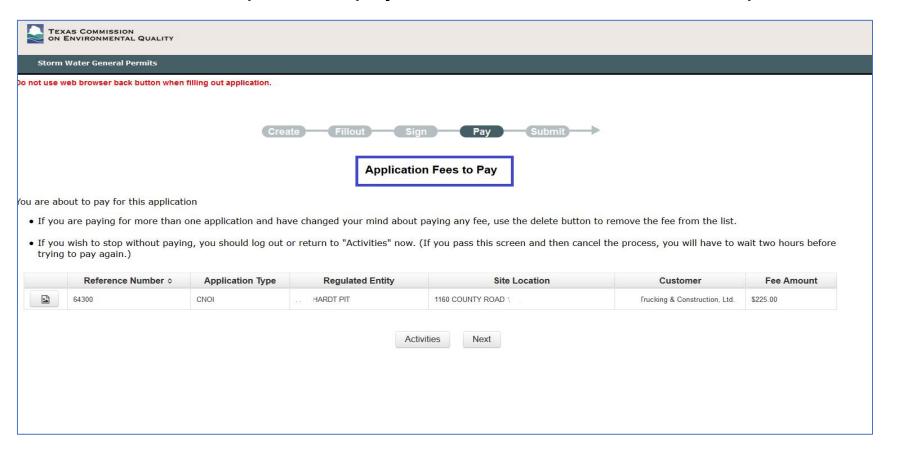
I understand that by entering my ER account password below and selecting the "Apply Electronic Signature" button, I am electronically signing the application(s) identified by the reference number(s) displayed above.

STEERS ER Account Password:	•••••	
	Activities	Apply Electronic Signature



### ePay Payment

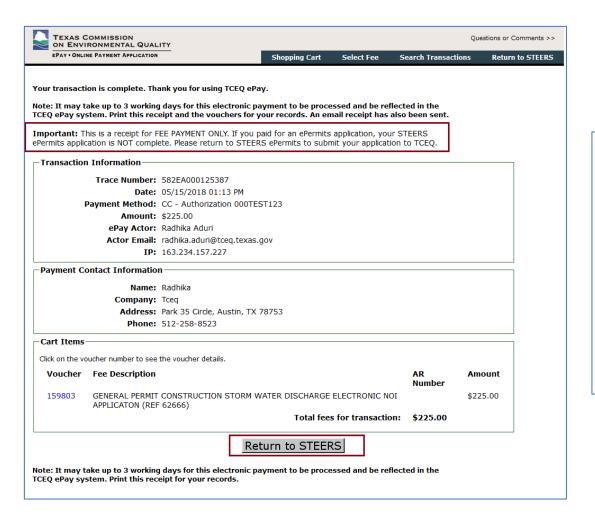
- Once the application is complete, the takes user to another TCEQ portal for payment called ePay.
- Customer has 2 options to pay, ACH or Credit Card. Either option can be used to proceed;

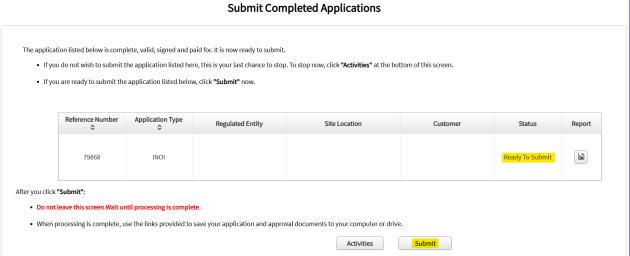






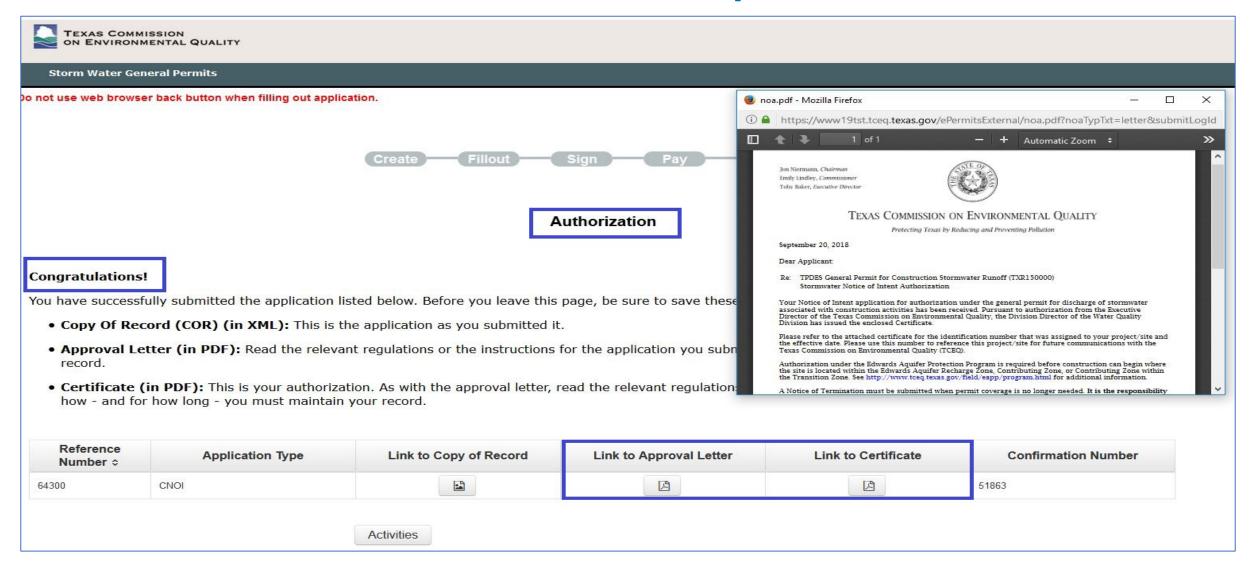
#### **Submit Application**







#### **Submission Complete**





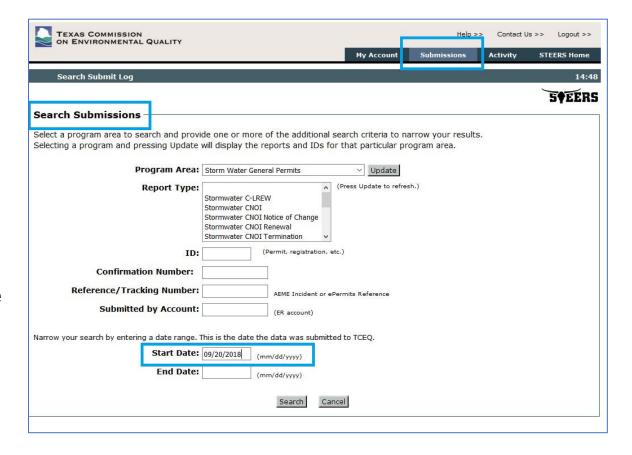
# **Permit Application Process Complete**





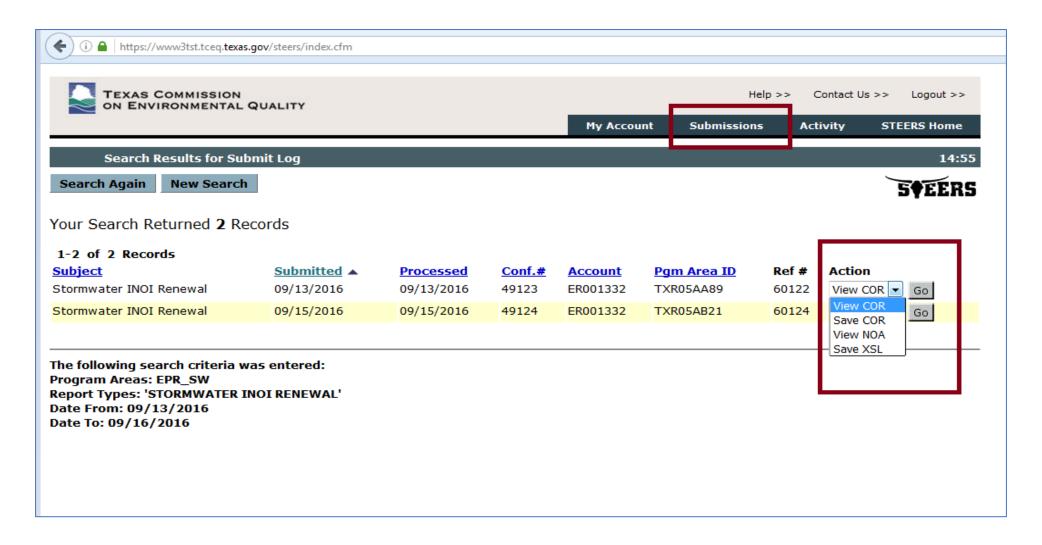
#### **Inside STEERS - Submissions**

- All your submissions are stored at a repository – called Submissions.
- Customer can always search and look for their Notice of Authorizations and related documents at this location such as Copy Of Records (COR) and NOA's which is your authorization certificate and approval letter.
- Also have the option to view or save these records any time as long as STEERS account is active.





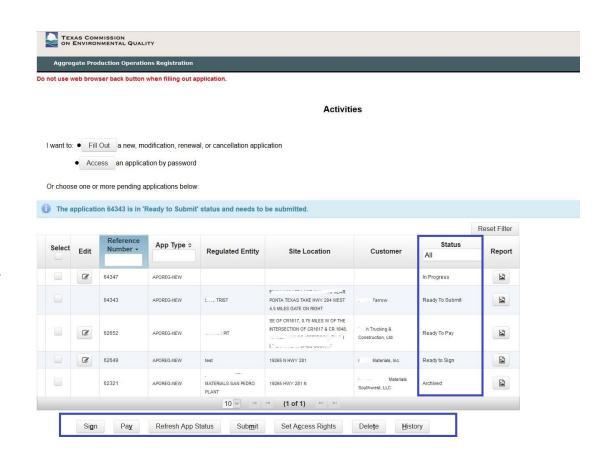
#### **Inside STEERS - Submissions**





#### **Inside STEERS - Activities**

- The ACTIVITIES page shows all your applications in their respective statuses.
- In-PROGRESS like the name says the fill out process is in progress.
- Ready to SIGN is soon after fill out is complete.
- READY to PAY is soon after you sign
- READY TO SUBMIT is soon after you sign, pay and then submit. This would be the end of the permit application process.
- ARCHIVED these are one's that customer did not take any action on \*these applications in the past where in one of the 3 statuses before but as the deadline approaches, they deemed to be archived.





## **Challenges**

#### **User Characteristics**

- Internet availability and customers' ability to use computers.
- Customers are expected to have some knowledge of the program areas they use.

#### **Data Integrity**

- Data is directly entered by the customer. The customer has a vested interest in entering the data correctly in the system.
- Data must meet several minimum validation standards before it can be submitted to the agency.
- Customer Validations against Secretary of State (SOS) and Comptrollers(CPA)
  databases.



#### **Best Practices**

- Make sure you provide valid email addresses.
- Please do not ignore Automated STEERS email messages.
- Promptly respond to requests for additional information.
- Customers have paid the application and have not submitted.
- STEERS archives the applications as part of the STEERS system maintenance.
- Check reminders during general permit renewal time.
- Check respective webpages and STEERS News items for information.
- Make sure proper statutory authorities are set while creating the account.
- Sign and Submit.





#### **Best Practices**



- When filing for an NOI, always make sure you search to for Site/Regulated entity and Customer before creating new data.
- Report to TCEQ immediately through Core Data Form, if the CN name is changed with SOS or CPA.
- During renewal time 90 days is given for the customers to renew and it is strongly suggested to renew at the earliest.
- Authorization will be set to "Expired" by TCEQ, if its not renewed during the renewal period.
   Pending applications are set to "Archived" status if not renewed on time, which means you can just view it.



# **Permit Application Cycle**



# **Stormwater Team Contacts**

#### **Stormwater Team**



512-239-4671



SWGP@tceq.texas.gov

#### **Stormwater Processing Center**



512-239-3700



SWPermit@tceq.texas.gov

#### Rebecca L. Villalba- Team Leader

- Benjamin Dixon
- Amrita Gabu
- Jesse Gress-Alamilla
- Sofia Martinez
- Hannah Mendez
- Leland Moore
- Mariana Rivas-Varela
- Mary Huseman, SWPC
- Jeneane Toliver, SWPC
- Carol Lee Trucksess, SWPC





# Questions?