

Water Quality Division Update

Robert Sadlier, Deputy Director

STATIFFONMENTAL QUALITY

OFFICE OF WATER

Fiscal Year 2023

Cari-Michel La Caille, Director

Vacant, Special Counsel Laurie Fleet, Special Assistant Oluwatosin Awonuga, Budget Liaison Shannon Harris, Executive Assistant

Water Quality Division

Robert Sadlier Deputy Director Water Quality Planning Division

Kelly Mills, P.G. Deputy Director Water Supply Division

Michele Risko Deputy Director Water Availability Division

Kim Nygren Deputy Director



Water Quality Division Organization

Deputy Director

Robert Sadlier

Assistant Deputy Director

Erika Crespo

Wastewater Permitting Section

Matthew Udenenwu

Water Quality Assessment Section

Gregg Easley

Division Support Section

Jennifer Bowers

Municipal Permits Team

Firoj Vahora (11)

Land Application Team

Brian Sierant (7)

Customer Information & Assistance Team

Vacant (7)

Industrial Permits

Alyssa Loveday (11)

Standards Implmenation Team

Peter Schaefer (7)

Application Review & Processing Team

Erwin Madrid (10)

Pretreatment Team

Colleen Cook (7)

Water Quality Assessment Team

Vacant (11)

Information Technology Team

Kim Nguyen (5)

Stormwater Team

Rebecca L. Villalba (6)



Water Quality Division – FY23 Overview

- Fiscal Year 2023 (September 2022-August 2023):
- 103 FTEs (+2 due to Sunset)
- 20% of positions turned over (-)
- 853 incoming water quality applications (+)
- 752 water quality applications processed
- 76 response to comments filed (+)
- 60+ bills reviewed during the 88th legislative session
- 23 public meetings attended (+)
- 9 contested case hearings attended (+)



Wastewater Permitting Milestones

170 days Application Process+ 160 days Draft Permit Process330 days



Application and Application Review

Public Notice of Application





Technical Review of Application



Draft Permit



Public Notice of Draft Permit





Public Comment Period

Consideration for Final Action



Improvement Initiatives

- Since 2021, WQD focused on streamlining permitting processes and reducing permitting timeframes.
- Addressing backlogged applications
- Process changes, modernization, engaging stakeholders
- Challenges: staff turnover, loss of senior staff, and increasing workloads
- FY23 (9/1/22-8/31/23) average processing timeframe 141 days to filing with TCEQ's Office of the Chief Clerk



88th Legislative Session Implementation

- HB 0692
 - Disposal and land application of dairy waste
- HB 1688
 - Expansion of water quality protection areas for quarries to include "Coke Stevenson Scenic Riverway"
- SB 1289
 - Allows alternative disposal for reclaimed wastewater





TCEQ Sunset Legislation

SB 1397 Impacts to Water Quality Permitting Process

- Public Notice Information (Section 8, 9)
- Community Outreach (Section 10)
- Electronic Posting of Permit Applications (Section 11)
- Permitting Procedures Generally (Section 12)
 - Electronic Publication of Notice, Newspaper Verification, <u>Security at Public</u>
 <u>Meeting</u>, Elected Official Notice, Temporary and Indefinite Permit Reporting



TCEQ Sunset Legislation

Electronic Posting of Permit Applications

TCEQ will post administratively complete permit applications on its website

- permit application and any associated materials, revised or amended permit application
- applicant for a permit, permit amendment, or permit renewal that will include address of the TCEQ website in published notice

Security at Public Meeting

The commission may request that an applicant for a permit that is the subject of a public meeting provide uniformed security at the meeting sufficient to provide for the safety of all attendees and orderly conduct at the meeting or hearing.



Other Rule Updates

- Wastewater System Design Criteria (30 TAC Chapter 217)
 - Wastewater System Design Criteria Stakeholder Group
- Reclaimed Water (30 TAC Chapter 210)
 - Updated rules adopted February 8, 2023
- Quadrennial Rule Reviews ongoing





General Permit Updates

- Oil and Gas Extraction General Permit (TXG310000)
 - Commission to consider adoption in November/December 2023
- Oil and Gas Outer Continental Shelf General Permit (WQG280000)
 - Commission to consider adoption in November/December 2023
- Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) GP (TXG920000) (Renewal)
 - Public Notice in February 2024 / Adoption target June 2024
- Livestock Manure Compost General Permit (WQG200000) renewed 9/27/23
- Petroleum Contaminated Water General Permit (TXG830000) renewed 8/16/23



Wastewater Regionalization

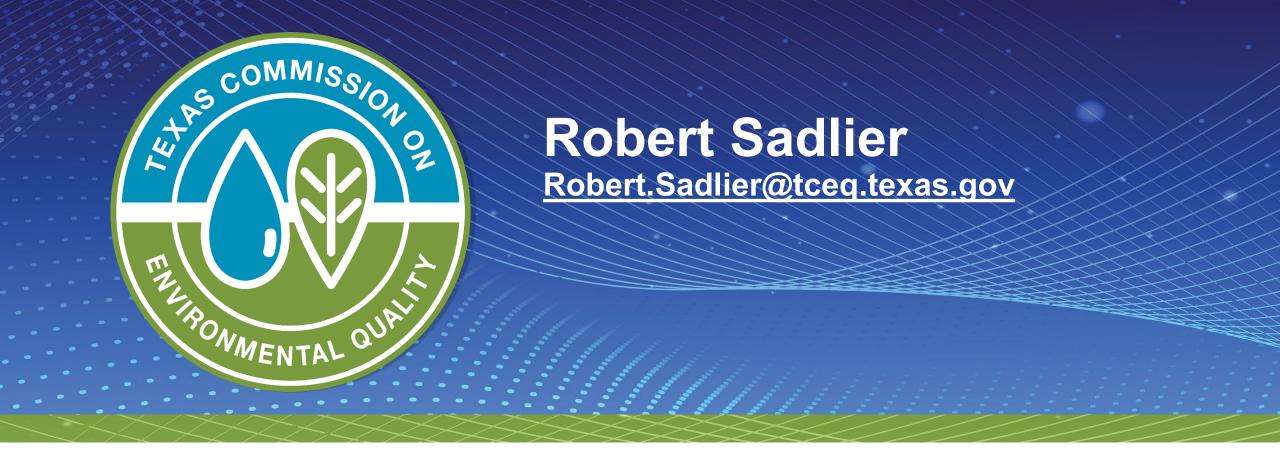
- Regulatory Guidance (RG-632): Evaluating Regionalization for Proposed Wastewater System is now available on the TCEQ website.
 - www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/tceq-regionalization-forwastewater



Water Quality Advisory Workgroup (WQAWG)

- WQAWG is open to the public and is a voluntary group of participants who meet on a quarterly basis to discuss issues related to water quality, wastewater permits, and wastewater standards
- www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/WQ_advisory_group.html
- Next meeting is October 24, 2023





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www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater

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