

Municipal Solid Waste Recycling Stakeholder Advisory Group Waste Permits Division TCEQ

Discussion Questions for July 14, 2022, Meeting

Meeting dates, location, and other information about the advisory group are available on the [Municipal Solid Waste Recycling Stakeholder Advisory Group webpage](#)¹.

TCEQ is seeking input and data, from select stakeholders, on the best ways to continue encouraging the diversion of waste for recycling through lower tier authorization requirements (e.g., exemptions or notifications), while strengthening any necessary material handling, financial assurance, or reporting requirements to encourage these recycling facilities to operate in an environmentally protective manner.

A. Clarifying and strengthening authorization and exemption requirements to improve compliance

What are the challenges faced by exempt-tier recycling facilities and notification-tier recycling facilities in meeting the general recycling requirements (for all facilities), their authorization requirements, and operating in an environmentally protective manner?

Are notification-tier authorizations appropriate for shingle recycling activities? How can TCEQ improve long-term compliance (one or more years) at shingle recycling facilities?

How can TCEQ clarify the rules and requirements for exempt activities, notification-tier activities, and the general requirements for all recycling activities?

B. Determining and adjusting adequate financial assurance amounts to ensure proper long-term care of a site

What is the process of securing or updating financial assurance amounts with the financial institution/vendors? Is it a lengthy process?

Is it difficult to find a financial institution/vendor to obtain financial assurance from?

What about facilities long-term costs related to maintenance and closure that should be covered by financial assurance? Are the financial assurance amounts covering the right costs to ensure the state can cleanup a site when the owner is unwilling or unable to?

C. Improving onsite material handling requirements to reduce environmental risks

Do the requirements for facilities operating in Bexar County—time limits, volumes, numbers and sizes of piles, fire lanes, and other—result in better protection of the environment, public health and safety than facilities elsewhere in the state?

Would limiting the size of piles and requiring access lanes between piles of materials waiting to be processed result in better environmental protections?

Are there material handling procedures that can be employed to reduce the risk of fires at recycling facilities?

Are there other operational practices that would result in better environmental protection?

¹ www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/waste_permits/advgroups/msw-recyclingadv

D. Expanding reporting requirements to improve agency oversight

Are the current recordkeeping requirements for recycling facilities—maintain records and make them available to TCEQ and local governments upon request—adequate to ensure compliance and protection of the environment, public health and safety? Should reporting requirements be expanded to require periodic reporting to TCEQ?

Would adding term limits or renewals to recycling authorizations, or certain types of authorizations, result in better protection of the environment, public health and safety?

Would requiring facilities that qualify for exemption from storage limitations, reporting, and recordkeeping requirements to submit documentation to TCEQ demonstrating how they qualify for exemption result in better compliance and protection of the environment, public health and safety?