

Update September 30, 2019: Permit and Registration Applications Will Need to Use Updated Rainfall Estimates

Effective immediately, applications for permits, permit amendments, permit modifications, and registrations for municipal solid waste (MSW) facilities requiring a facility surface water drainage report, or a design for a leachate management system or a contaminated water management system will need to use updated precipitation data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

NOAA updated Texas rainfall data in NOAA Atlas 14, Volume 11, released in September 2018. Volume 11 of the atlas provides precipitation frequency estimates for durations of 5 minutes through 60 days, at average recurrence intervals of 1 year through 1,000 years for the State of Texas. Depending on specific location, the rainfall depths may have increased or decreased compared to previous data.

- [NOAA Atlas 14, Precipitation-Frequency Atlas of the United States](#)

In addition, assessment of surface water drainage (existing and proposed) for a facility must follow the methods described in the September 2019 version of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Bridge Division Hydraulic Design Manual.

- [TxDOT Hydraulic Design Manual](#)

TxDOT issued an updated Hydraulic Design Manual on September 12, 2019. The updated manual refers to the 2018 NOAA Atlas 14 for its Depth-Duration-Frequency (DDF) data, which is accessible through NOAA's Precipitation Frequency Data Server (PFDS). The prior data source for rainfall was the Atlas of Depth-Duration Frequency of Precipitation Annual Maxima for Texas (TxDOT 5-1301-01-1, 2004). The manual indicates that the prior precipitation data is considered superseded for Texas by the 2018 NOAA Atlas 14 data.

Please [contact the TCEQ MSW Permits Section](#) if you have any questions.