

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



Notice of Application and Preliminary Decision for Municipal Solid Waste Permit Amendment

Proposed Permit No. 66C

Application and Preliminary Decision. Waste Management of Texas, Inc. has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a permit amendment to authorize a lateral landfill expansion to increase the size and waste disposal volume (capacity) of the facility. In addition to waste disposal, waste processing, including liquid waste solidification, and storage will occur on-site. The facility is located at 1700 Kohlenberg Road, New Braunfels, 78130 in both Comal and Guadalupe Counties, Texas. TCEQ received this application on October 26, 2023. The following link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and is not part of the application or notice: <https://arcg.is/nTrme>. For the exact location, refer to the application.

The TCEQ Executive Director has completed the technical review of the application and prepared a draft permit. The draft permit, if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The Executive Director has made a preliminary decision that this permit, if issued, meets all statutory and regulatory requirements. The permit application, Executive Director's preliminary decision, and draft permit are available for viewing and copying at the New Braunfels Public Library, 700 East Common Street, New Braunfels, Texas 78130 in Comal County and at the Seguin Public Library, 313 West Nolte Street, Seguin, Texas 78155 in Guadalupe County. The permit application may be viewed online at <https://prj.geosyntec.com/TXPermits/MesquiteCreekLandfill.aspx>.

Alternative Language Notice / Aviso en idioma alternativo. Alternative language notice in Spanish is available at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/mswapps. El aviso en idioma alternativo en español está disponible en www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/mswapps.

Public Comment / Public Meeting. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting about this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ holds a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

Opportunity for a Contested Case Hearing. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments and the Executive Director's decision on the application will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting a contested case hearing or reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision. A person who may be affected by the proposed facility is entitled to request a contested case hearing from the commission.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in a state district court.

To Request a Contested Case Hearing, You Must Include the Following Items in Your Request: Your name, address, phone; applicant's name and permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period; and the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting. The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn.

If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law that are relevant and material to the Commission's decision on the application submitted during the comment period.

Executive Director Action. The Executive Director may issue final approval of the application unless a timely contested case hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed. If a timely hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed, the Executive Director will not issue final approval of the permit and will forward the application and request to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

Mailing List. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing, or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. To be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s), and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

Information Available Online. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database (CID) at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Once you have access to the CID using the above link, enter the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

Agency Contacts and Information. All public comments and requests must be submitted within 30 days from the date of newspaper publication of this notice either electronically at www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/ or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address, and physical address, will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ's Public Education Program, toll free, at 800-687-4040, or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en español, puede llamar al 800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained by writing to Waste Management of Texas, Inc. at 1700 Kohlenberg Road, New Braunfels, Texas 78130, or by calling their representative, Mr. James Smith, at (512) 748-4235.

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