



Technical Package Cover Page

This file contains the following documents:

1. Summary of application (in plain language)
 - English
 - Alternative Language (Spanish)
2. First notice (NORI-Notice of Receipt of Application and Intent to Obtain a Permit)
 - English
 - Alternative Language (Spanish)
3. Second notice (NAPD-Notice of Preliminary Decision)
 - English
 - Alternative Language (Spanish)
4. Application materials *
5. Draft permit *
6. Technical summary or fact sheet *

* **NOTE:** This application was declared Administratively Complete before June 1, 2024. The application materials, draft permit, and technical summary or fact sheet are available for review at the Public Viewing Location provided in the NAPD.

Plain Language Summary Template and Instructions for Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) and Texas Land Application (TLAP) Permit Applications

This template is a guide to assist applicant's in developing a plain language summary as required by [30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 39 Subchapter H](#). Applicant's may modify the template as necessary to accurately describe their facility as long as the summary includes the following information: (1) the function of the proposed plant or facility; (2) the expected output of the proposed plant or facility; (3) the expected pollutants that may be emitted or discharged by the proposed plant or facility; and (4) how the applicant will control those pollutants, so that the proposed plant will not have an adverse impact on human health or the environment.

Fill in the highlighted areas below to describe your facility and application in plain language. Instructions and examples are provided below. Make any other edits necessary to improve readability or grammar and to comply with the rule requirements.

If you are subject to the alternative language notice requirements in [30 Texas Administrative Code §39.426](#), **you must provide a translated copy of the completed plain language summary in the appropriate alternative language as part of your application package.** For your convenience, a Spanish template has been provided below.

ENGLISH TEMPLATE FOR TPDES or TLAP NEW/RENEWAL/AMENDMENT APPLICATIONS INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER/STORMWATER

The following summary is provided for this pending water quality permit application being reviewed by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality as required by 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 39. The information provided in this summary may change during the technical review of the application and are not federal enforceable representations of the permit application.

Southwestern Public Service Company (CN601481336) operates Tolk Station Power Plant RN100224534, a coal-fired electric steam generating facility. The facility is located on Farm-to-Market Road 2910 approximately 3 miles south of State Highway 70 and approximately 9 and one-half miles east of the city of Muleshoe, Lamb County, Texas 79031. This application is for renewal of TLAP permit [WQ0002548000](#) authorizing disposal of cooling tower blowdown, low volume waste sources, neutralized chemical metal cleaning waste, and wastewater from Plant X (WQ0001842000) at an annual average flow not to exceed 571,000 gallons per day routed to 14 synthetically lined evaporation ponds with a combined surface area of 163.5 acres and a storage volume of 762.92 acre-feet; and low volume waste and limestone sludge to two clay-lined decant ponds with a combined surface area of 3.0 acres and a storage volume of 30 acre-feet. This permit will not authorize a discharge of pollutants into water in the state.

Cooling tower blowdown is commingled with low volume waste and neutralized chemical metal cleaning waste prior to being routed to 14 evaporation ponds. Each evaporation pond is lined with synthetic liner meeting TCEQ requirements (Special Provision C) and has a secondary containment layer consisting of on-site clay mixed with bentonite to intercept the rout leaks into a French-drain leak detection system. Sludge from the cold lime-soda ash reactor and low volume wastewaters are sent to two ponds, LVW-1 and LVW-2, for evaporation. The two ponds are lined with one foot of Soda Lake Clay mixed with bentonite with one foot of fly-ash over the clay lining, and they have a combined surface area of three acres and a storage volume of 30 acre-feet. LVW-1 is used for five years or until full; the sludge is then dried and cleaned out. LVW-2 is used for six to nine months during the clean-out of LVW-1. Sanitary sewage is routed to septic tank - drainfield system(s).

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ0002548000

APPLICATION. Southwestern Public Service Company, 790 South Buchanan Street, Amarillo, Texas 79101, which operates a coal-fired steam electric generating station, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew Texas Land Application Permit (TLAP) No. WQ0002548000 to authorize the disposal of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed an annual average flow of 571,000 gallons per day via evaporation. The facility and disposal area are located at 970 County Road 65, Earth, in Lamb County, Texas 79031. TCEQ received this application on September 1, 2023. The permit application will be available for viewing and copying at Lamb County Library, 110 East 6th Street, Littlefield, Texas prior to the date this notice is published in the newspaper. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application.

<https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-102.568611,34.184722&level=18>

ADDITIONAL NOTICE. TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.**

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold 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 reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision**

and for requesting a contested case hearing. A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed 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 proposed 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 relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period. TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

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 specific 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. If you wish 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 at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at <https://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 Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit

their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Southwestern Public Service Company at the address stated above or by calling Ms. Patty Hill, Environmental Analyst, at 806-272-8028.

Issuance Date: September 27, 2023