

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION FOR TPDES PERMIT FOR INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER

MINOR AMENDMENT

PERMIT NO. WQ0000455000

APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION. OQ Chemicals Corporation, P.O. Box 1141, Bay City, Texas 77404, which operates OQ Chemicals Bay City Plant, an organic chemicals manufacturing plant, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a minor amendment to Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0000455000 to authorize the description change of process wastewater from "treated process wastewater from the neutral effluent treatment (NET) system" to "treated process wastewater" for Outfall 001. The draft permit authorizes the discharge of treated domestic wastewater and treated process wastewater, treated utility wastewater, stormwater, groundwater recovered during site excavations, stormwater from the old dewatering area and from landfill cells, groundwater from the bailing of monitor wells, groundwater from recovery wells, and hydrostatic test discharge water at a daily average flow not to exceed 2,280,000 gallons per day via Outfall 001, and utility wastewater, stormwater, and allowable non-stormwater discharges on an intermittent and flow-variable basis via Outfall 002. The TCEQ received this application on May 18, 2023.

The facility is located at 2001 Farm-to-Market Road 3057, near the City of Bay City, Matagorda County, Texas 77414. This 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. For the exact location, refer to the application.

<https://tceq.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=db5bac44afbc468bbddd360f8168250f&marker=-96.020039%2C28.862922&level=12>

The effluent is discharged via Outfall 001 through an underground pipe to a concrete-lined ditch (not water in the state), thence to the Colorado River Tidal in Segment No. 1401 of the Colorado River Basin; and via Outfall 002 through a concrete-lined ditch, thence to the Colorado River Tidal in Segment No. 1401 of the Colorado River Basin. The designated uses for Segment No. 1401 are primary contact recreation and high aquatic life use.

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 Bay City Public Library, 1100 7th Street, Bay City, Texas.

ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE NOTICE. Alternative language notice in Spanish is available at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/plain-language-summaries-and-public-notices>. El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/plain-language-summaries-and-public-notices>.

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 written or oral comment or to ask questions about the application. Generally, the 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.

Written public comments should be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087 or electronically at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/comment/> within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice in the Texas Register.

After the deadline for public comments, the Executive Director will consider the comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **The response to comments will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments or who requested to be on a mailing list for this application.**

MAILING LISTS. In addition to submitting public comments, you may ask to be placed on a mailing list to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. You may request to be added to: (1) the mailing list for this specific application; (2) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and (3) the permanent mailing list for a specific county. Clearly specify which mailing list(s) to which you wish to be added and send your request to the TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address above. Unless you otherwise specify, you will be included only on the mailing list for this specific application.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at <https://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://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/comment/>, 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 <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/agency/decisions/participation/permitting-participation>. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from OQ Chemicals Corporation at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Kelly Wyatt at 979-241-4132.

Issued: October 18, 2023