Dear Stakeholders,

Thank you for your participation in the June 30th Standards Implementation Procedures stakeholder meeting. As discussed, the TCEQ proposes to place a prohibition in wastewater permits for facilities which handle plastic resin pellets generated at organic chemical manufacturing facilities, or packaged and transported to processors for molding into plastic products. This proposal does not include post-consumer refuse such as plastic bottles, straws, or bags.

The TCEQ requests your input on the following topics related to the plastics presentation which is available on our website at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/standards/WQ_stds>.

1. Please provide input on the following proposed definition of plastic (taking into consideration the focus on pre-production plastic): Plastic means all forms of visible plastic produced, received, or handled at the permittee’s facility, including but not limited to: pellets, powder and flakes.
2. TCEQ’s intent is to regulate plastics visible to the naked eye, but please provide input on class sizes for our review.  Additionally, please provide input on the use of the word “visible” in the definition above.
3. In addition to the prohibition, permittees with stormwater outfalls under the Multi-Sector General Permit or an individual permit will be required to develop a comprehensive set of Best Management Practices to include within their Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan. Please provide input to assist with the identification of effective BMPs and potential sources of information such as “Operation Clean Sweep”.
4. Please provide input on additional requirements such as: outfall and receiving water inspections, notification of spills and unauthorized discharges to Regional Office, recovery of released materials from receiving waters, and clarification that the point of compliance for the prohibition on the discharge of plastic is at the final outfall.
5. TCEQ is requesting stakeholder input regarding additional time to comply with the prohibition on the discharge of plastic. The Texas Surface Water Quality Standards allow up to a three-year compliance period.  TCEQ is proposing that requests for a compliance period must justify the need for additional time including a construction schedule to install new control structures or retrofitting existing systems to achieve compliance. If approved, the compliance period will include submission of quarterly progress reports.

Please provide your comments by 5:00 P.M., August 10,2020.