**TCEQ Water Quality Advisory Work Group (WQAWG)**

**Stakeholder Meeting**

January 21, 2025 @ 1:30 p.m.

Building F, Room 2210

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Moderator:** Gregg Easley

Welcome and Introductions

**Permitting Program-Specific Updates:**

Oil and Gas Extraction General Permit (TXG310000 and

Outer Continental Shelf General Permit (WQG280000) Nikita Hardy

* TCEQ was transferred permitting authority for discharges into surface water in the state for oil and gas extraction facilities and gas plants by House Bill 2771 during the 2018 legislative session.
* TCEQ obtained TPDES authorization from EPA on January 2021 via a revised Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).
* TCEQ did not obtain authority for land application or reuse. These remain under the Texas Railroad Commission (RRC).
* The General Permit (GP) for Hydrostatic Discharges (TXG670000) was amended and re-issued to include crude oil and natural gas hydrostatic test discharges.
* TCEQ has developed two general permits for oil and gas extraction facilities’ discharges into surface waters of the state.
* TXG310000 under the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) program.
* WQG280000 under state-only authority.
* TXG310000 replaces EPA’s general permits [TXG260000 (TXG two hundred and sixty thousand) and TXG330000 (TXG three hundred and thirty thousand)] and individual Railroad Commission authorizations.
* WQG280000 will replace individual Railroad Commission permit authorizations.
* Implementation Activities
* TXG310000 [Onshore Stripper Well Facilities, Coastal Facilities, and Territorial Seas Facilities in the Gulf of Mexico (within 3-miles of the Texas Coastline)]
* Combines and replaces NPDES GP No. TXG260000 and TXG330000, both of which were administratively continued.
* TCEQ shared the draft GP with stakeholders for review/comments. TCEQ reviewed all comments received.
* TCEQ submitted the draft GP to EPA Region 6 for a 90-day review on August 2, 2022.
* EPA completed its review on November 14, 2022.
* TCEQ received no-objections and minor suggestions.
* EPA approved TCEQ for issuance of the GP.
* State-wide public notice in the Texas Register and state-wide circulation in newspapers occurred on May 12, 2023, with a formal 30-day comment period.
* The public comment period ended on June 12, 2023.
* Development of TXG310000 NOI, NOC, and NOT forms was completed.
* The Commission adopted and issued the permit on January 10, 2024
* WQG280000 [Outer Continental Shelf Facilities (between 3 and 10.2 miles of the Texas coastline) in the Gulf of Mexico]. Note: TCEQ does not have authority to regulate these discharges under the federal TPDES program. A separate federal authorization for these facilities is required from EPA under GMG290000 GP.
* The TCEQ state-only GP authorizes discharges to surface waters in the Gulf of Mexico
* WQG280000 was drafted/developed in coordination with EPA Region 6’s renewal of their equivalent permit, NPDES GMG290000.
* Timeline for this GP is paired up with TXG31 since the state-only GP is not subject to EPA review and approval.
* Released for stakeholder input – December 2022 via the Water Quality Advisory Work Group.
* The informal comment period ended on January 18, 2023.
* Development of GMG280000 NOI, NOC, and NOT forms were completed.
* The Commission adopted and issued the permit on January 10, 2024.
* Oil and gas authorizations issued or pending
* Issued and active:
* 70 general permits for hydrostatic test discharges (TXG670000)
* 21 general permits for oil and gas extraction discharges (TXG310000)
* 6 general permits for oil and gas outer continental shelf discharges (WQG280000)
* 9 individual oil and gas TPDES permits.
* Pending: 8 individual oil and gas TPDES permit applications.
* Below are the specific permit numbers for the currently pending oil and gas permits. It is based on the permits listed in the LEAN spreadsheet.
* WQ0005360000
* WQ0005372000
* WQ0005445000
* WQ0005454000
* WQ0005414000
* WQ0005371000
* WQ0005360000
* WQ0005355000

Nikita Hardy

Homeland Security Annual Contact Information Update Maria Benitez

**General Permit Updates:**

Quarries in Certain Water Quality Protection Areas General Permit Monica Alba Garcia

(TXG500000) 2025 Renewal

Multi-Sector General Permit (TXR050000) 2025 Amendment Hannah Cobos

Multi-Sector General Permit (TXR050000) 2026 Renewal Jesse Gress-Alamilla

Small (Phase II) MS4 General Permit (TXR040000) 2024 Renewal Rebecca Villalba

Aquaculture General Permit (TXG130000) Shannon Gibson

* TCEQ is proposing to renew and amend the Aquaculture General Permit TXG130000, which authorizes discharges from an aquaculture facility or a related aquaculture activity. The renewal will replace the current permit when it expires on April 18, 2026.
* The draft permit was sent to TPWD for their 45-day review on January 6, 2025. TCEQ anticipates EPA review in March 2025 and publication of the public notice in September 2025.
* Major changes to the general permit include:
* exclusion of level V (oyster mariculture) facilities from the prohibition from cleaning system components in or over water in the state;
* revision of the definition of wastewater to include water from the washdown, cleaning, and flushing of sorters and tumblers, types of processing equipment now commonly used in oyster mariculture; and
* clarifying that submerged cage systems are included in the allowable systems that may be used in oyster mariculture.

Hydrostatic Test General Permit (TXG670000)

Evaporation Pond General Permit (WQG100000)

**Rule Updates:**

Upcoming Agenda for Proposal (Dairy Waste Rules) and Adoption Gregg Easley

(Excess Reclaimed Water Disposal Rules)

* HB 1289 (88th Session) Implementation – Amendments to 30 TAC Chapter 210 and Chapter 321, Subchapter P
  + At the February 13, 2025 Agenda meeting, TCEQ commissioners will consider for adoption the Excess Reclaimed Water Disposal Rules
  + Amendment of Chapters 321 and 210 to authorize the disposal of treated wastewater without a permit for an alternative means of disposal, if the facility disposes of the treated wastewater through a wastewater collection system via contract
  + Anticipated effective date: March 6, 2025
  + More information at: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/rules/adopt.html#2023-137-321-OW>
* HB 692 Implementation – Proposed 30 TAC Chapter 321, Subchapter Q and Amendments to Chapter 321, Subchapter B
  + Also at the February 13, 2025 Agenda meeting, TCEQ commissioners will consider for proposal the dairy waste rules for implementation of House Bill 692 (88th Session)
  + If approved for proposal, public comment period will extend from February 28 – March 31, 2025
  + Public hearing/meeting will be held at TCEQ on March 31, 2025
  + More information at : <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/rules/prop.html#2023-139-321-OW>

**Questions & Answers** Gregg Easley

**Announcements:**

* The next WQAWG Meeting will be held on April 15, 2025 @ 1:30 p.m.

**Thank you.**