

Office of the Executive Director

The executive director is hired by the commissioners and is responsible for managing the agency's day-to-day operations. Major responsibilities include directing operations of approximately 2,800 employees in 17 offices statewide, implementing commission policies, making recommendations to the commissioners regarding contested permitting and enforcement matters, and approving uncontested permit applications and registrations. Two deputy executive directors serve as the chief operating officers to assist the executive director in the administration of the agency. Six program offices, including, Office of Legal Services, Office of Administrative Services, Office of Air, Office of Water, Office of Waste, and Office of Compliance and Enforcement, report directly to the executive director with each office managed by a director. These directors are responsible for administering the regulatory and administrative programs within their respective offices.

External Relations Division

The External Relations Division works to deliver information to the public and within the agency. The division coordinates agency responses to all media inquiries, prepares and distributes agency [news releases](#), coordinates news conferences, and updates agency social media content. The division includes a publishing staff that coordinates, produces, or distributes regulatory and general information materials. Through the Take Care of Texas campaign, the division encourages all Texans to help keep the state's air and water clean, conserve water and energy, and reduce waste. This division also implements TCEQ's Public Education Program. The program answers questions about pending TCEQ permits, explains the permitting process, helps the public learn of opportunities for public participation on permit applications, and staffs a toll-free hotline for the public (800-687-4040). In addition, the Public Education Program distributes the TCEQ Customer Satisfaction Survey, which encourages customers' feedback on their experiences with the agency. Every two years, the most recent survey responses are published in a Report on Customer Service.

Toxicology, Risk Assessment, and Research Division

The Toxicology, Risk Assessment, and Research Division helps the agency make scientifically sound decisions by applying toxicological principles when evaluating environmental data, issuing authorizations, developing environmental regulations, and making policy decisions. TCEQ toxicologists identify chemical hazards, evaluate potential exposures, assess human health risks, and communicate risk to the public and stakeholders. A critical role of the division is to support human health protection and toxicology outside the agency by answering questions and responding to inquiries from the public, the media, regulated entities, stakeholders, legislators, and other government agencies regarding the activities and functions of TCEQ. As part of the Executive Office, the division offers fast and efficient technical support to all other programs in the agency. A detailed summary is included in Section VII.

Intergovernmental Relations Division

The Intergovernmental Relations Division coordinates the agency response to legislative inquiries and constituent issues, legislative initiatives, and interim committee studies affecting the agency and ensures that the legislature is informed of TCEQ's initiatives and activities. The division serves as a clearinghouse for [border affairs information](#) for TCEQ and coordinates agency comments on national policy issues.

The role of the Border Affairs team is to meet the regional needs of Texans near the border. The team is organized within the Intergovernmental Relations Division and supports agency leadership on transboundary air, water, and waste issues, and environmental policy along the Texas border with Mexico. The bilingual Border Affairs team liaises with Mexican officials, the Texas Secretary of State's office, and the Office of the Governor to support commitments under the 1983 La Paz agreement, the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, as well as binational Memoranda of Cooperation. The Border Affairs team is part of a broader effort called the TCEQ Border Initiative, which includes the four regional offices in South and West Texas near the border as well as subject matter experts from across the agency who dedicate part or all of their time to the border region.