

TCEQ Ending Enforcement Discretion Associated with the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is committed to continuing to work cooperatively and reasonably with the regulated community during the COVID-19 pandemic. At the onset of the pandemic, both the regulated community and the TCEQ made swift and necessary adjustments to address potential regulatory compliance issues.

The TCEQ implemented the COVID-19 enforcement discretion process: Entities sought COVID-19 enforcement discretion by submitting an email to the Office of Compliance and Enforcement, which included a concise statement supporting the request for enforcement discretion, the anticipated duration of the need for enforcement discretion, and a citation of the rule/permit provision for which enforcement discretion was requested. The TCEQ reviewed each discretion request. A summary of the requests received by the TCEQ is available on the TCEQ website.

The TCEQ believes that most of the regulated community has since adjusted their operating practices to account for COVID-19 while achieving or remaining in compliance, as demonstrated by the significant decrease in requests over time. **Therefore, the TCEQ is discontinuing the COVID-19 enforcement discretion process described above effective at 5 p.m. on April 9, 2021.**