

From: [Susan Jablonski](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [OCE](#); [Shawn Stewart](#); [Java Zyman](#); [David Van Soest](#); [Michelle Harris](#); [Rosalind Stockton](#)
Subject: RE: Enforcement Discretion COVID-19 - Tejas Camp and Retreat
Date: Monday, March 23, 2020 9:41:21 PM

Mike Newton
Facilities Director
Tejas Camp and Retreat
Giddings, Texas

Re: Request for Enforcement Discretion for Wastewater Class D License at Tejas Camp and Retreat

Dear Mr. Newton:

This is in response to your request dated March 21, 2020 requesting enforcement discretion to address the lack of a Class D licensed operator due to COVID-19. The TCEQ is exercising enforcement discretion on a case by case basis for regulated entities that are experiencing staffing shortages due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Given your unique situation as a former wastewater licensed operator and the extreme reduction in the daily use of your wastewater plant to one on-site family, please accept this correspondence as acknowledgement that the TCEQ is granting enforcement discretion for the lack of a class D licensed operator for up to 60 days, until May 20, 2020.

Additionally, please be aware that TCEQ's occupational licensing program has extended all current occupational licenses ending in March and April for an additional 30 days. At this time, the program is not issuing emergency licenses, but instead the agency is handling unique cases like yours on an individual basis.

Please ensure that all required records are maintained during this period. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Shawn Stewart, TCEQ Region 11 manager, at (512) 239-0431.

Sincerely,

Susan Jablonski, P.E.
Area Director for Central Texas
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
(512) 239-6731

From: OCE <OCE@tceq.texas.gov>

From: Mike Newton <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 4:51 PM
To: OCE <OCE@tceq.texas.gov>; Shawn Stewart <shawn.stewart@tceq.texas.gov>
Subject: WQ0014773001 Assistance Needed

To whom this may concern,

My name is Mike Newton. I am the facilities director at Camp Tejas in Giddings Texas. We are a camp and retreat center in the hospitality industry. Due to the coronavirus outbreak, we have been forced to terminate employment of the vast majority of our staff and we are no longer in operation. Among those who were laid off, was Matthew Preece, our class D wastewater operator (License# WW0063859). Our plant is a small .024MGD packaged extended aeration process. We also are a land application permittee With a .86 acre foot retention pond. Right now, and for the foreseeable future, there is one small family consisting of two adults and a small child living on the property. I am writing this to request enforcement discretion based on these facts and hoping to find justification to be issued an emergency class D license for Wastewater only, as I am the former operator of the plant for three license terms lic# WW0037480. I, as the supervisor of facilities employees, have remained abreast of the goings on of the wastewater plant. Those who have remained on the payroll have taken significant pay cut and are only working as needed. If TCEQ is able to help me with this, I would be able to monitor and operate the plant as required by the permit. I am fully confident and capable of carrying out these tasks again. We're simply not able to pay anyone else from the outside to do it, and I want to remain in compliance. Please contact me and let me know what you were able to do.

Thank you,

Mike

--

Mike Newton

Facilities Director

281-682-6229 cell

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