

Plain Language Summary of the Proposed Air Quality Plan Revision and Rulemaking for Chapter 114, Control of Air Pollution from Motor Vehicles

Introduction

Rules in 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 114 and the state's air quality plan require that vehicle emissions testing be done (inspection and maintenance (I/M) in eighteen counties. The I/M program is currently in place in seventeen counties: Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, and Tarrant Counties in the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) program area; Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, and Montgomery Counties in the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria (HGB) program area; Travis and Williamson Counties in the Austin-Round Rock (ARR) program area; and El Paso County. The eighteenth county, Bexar County, must start the program on November 1, 2026.

Summary

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is proposing a rulemaking and associated revision to the state's air quality plan (Project Nos. 2024-013-114-AI and 2024-014-SIP-NR). The proposed projects would make updates to Chapter 114 and the air quality plan that are needed due to the passage of House Bill (HB) 3297 and Senate Bill (SB) 2102 during the 88th Texas Legislature, 2023, Regular Session. HB 3297 will eliminate the required yearly vehicle safety inspection program for noncommercial vehicles beginning January 1, 2025. SB 2102 extends the initial registration and inspection period for rental vehicles from two years to three years. SB 2102 was effective on September 1, 2023.

The proposed projects would also revise the maximum emissions inspection fee that inspection stations are allowed to charge. Every two years, TCEQ performs an analysis of the fee charged by emissions inspection stations. The [2024 I/M Fee Analysis](#) study was completed in March 2024 and is being considered to update the inspection fee. The proposed rulemaking would update the maximum emissions inspection fee for the ARR area and El Paso County to \$18.50, which would be an increase of \$7.00 per annual emissions inspection. The maximum emissions inspection fee for the Bexar County, DFW, and HGB program areas is already set at \$18.50 and is not proposed to be updated. However, TCEQ is taking public comment as part of this rulemaking on a maximum statewide emissions inspection fee up to \$28.50, as recommended in the 2024 I/M Fee Analysis study.

This proposed rulemaking and revision to the state's air quality plan would also provide for an overall clean-up of the rule language to remove outdated program-related definitions, references, and requirements.

Public Comment and Hearing Information

TCEQ will offer a virtual public hearing on the internet for the proposed projects. The hearing will be offered on July 24, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. This virtual hearing is offered to receive spoken comments only on the proposed projects (Project Nos. 2024-013-114-AI and 2024-014-SIP-NR). Individuals may present spoken statements when called upon. Open discussion will not be permitted during the hearing, but TCEQ staff members will be available to discuss the proposal 30 minutes before the hearing.

The hearing will be conducted remotely using an internet meeting service. Persons who wish to attend and/or make spoken comments at the hearing must register by July 17, 2024. To register for the hearing, please email SIPRules@tceq.texas.gov and provide the following information: your name, the name of the group you represent or that you represent yourself, your e-mail address, and whether or not you plan to provide spoken comments during the hearing. Instructions for participating in the hearing will be sent on July 22, 2024, to those who registered for the hearing.

The hearing will be conducted in English. Spanish language interpretation services will be available. Persons who do not have internet access or who have special communication or other accommodation needs who plan to attend the hearing should contact Sandy Wong, Office of Legal Services at (512) 239-1802 or 1-800-RELAY-TX (TDD). Requests should be made as far in advance as possible.

The comment period for this project opens on June 14, 2024, and closes on July 29, 2024. Submit written comments through the *TCEQ Public Comments* system at <https://tceq.commentinput.com/>. Comments for the proposed rulemaking must reference **Rule Project Number 2024-013-114-AI**. Comments for the proposed revision to the state's air quality plan must reference **Non-Rule Project Number 2024-014-SIP-NR**.

The proposed rulemaking documents can be found on the TCEQ's website at https://www.tceq.texas.gov/rules/propose_adopt.html. The proposed air quality plan documents can be found at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/sip/siplans.html>.

For more information about the proposed rulemaking or to get help with submitting written comments, contact David Serrins, Project Manager, (512) 239-1954 or david.serrins@tceq.texas.gov. For more information about the proposed air quality plan revision or to get help with submitting written comments, contact Stephanie Frederick, Project Manager, (512) 239-1001 or stephanie.frederick@tceq.texas.gov.