

Jon Niermann, *Chairman*
Bobby Janecka, *Commissioner*
Catarina R. Gonzales, *Commissioner*
Kelly Keel, *Executive Director*



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED NEW 30 TAC CHAPTER 353

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (commission) will conduct a public hearing to receive testimony regarding proposed new 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 353, Leaking Water Wells Grant Program, §§353.1-353.8, under the requirements of Texas Water Code (TWC), Chapter 28, Subchapter E and Texas Government Code, Chapter 2001, Subchapter B.

The proposed rulemaking would create Chapter 353 to implement House Bill (HB) 4256, 88th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2023, which amended the Texas Water Code, Chapter 28, Subchapter E to require the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to establish and administer a Leaking Water Wells Grant Program. The proposed rules would implement requirements in HB 4256 (88R) which includes the establishment of criteria for prioritizing projects and criteria for ensuring that wells are permanently plugged.

The commission will hold a hybrid virtual and in-person public hearing on this proposal in Austin on January 29, 2025, at 10:00 am in building A, room 173 at the commission's central office located at 12100 Park 35 Circle in Austin, Texas. The hearing is structured for the receipt of oral or written comments by interested persons. Individuals may present oral statements when called upon in order of registration. Open discussion will not be permitted during the hearing; however, commission staff members will be available to discuss the proposal 30 minutes prior to the hearing at 9:30 a.m.

Individuals who plan to attend the hearing virtually and want to provide oral comments and/or want their attendance on record must register by January 27, 2025. To register for the hearing, please email Rules@tceq.texas.gov and provide the following information: your name, your affiliation, your email address, your phone number, and whether or not you plan to provide oral comments during the hearing. Instructions for participating in the hearing will be sent on January 28, 2025, to those who register for the hearing.

Any members of the public who do not wish to provide oral comments but would like to view the hearing may do so at no cost at:

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/f1d357e0-a45e-4e8e-9d10-6fd55ec46a98@871a83a4-a1ce-4b7a-8156-3bcd93a08fba>

Persons who have special communication or other accommodation needs who are planning 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.

If you need translation services, please contact TCEQ at 800-687-4040. Si desea información general en español, puede llamar al 800-687-4040.

Written comments may be submitted to Gwen Ricco, MC 205, Office of Legal Services, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087, or faxed to *fax4808@tceq.texas.gov*. Electronic comments may be submitted at: <https://tceq.commentinput.com/>. File size restrictions may apply to comments being submitted via the TCEQ Public Comment system. All comments should reference Rule Project Number 2025-008-353-OW. The comment period closes February 4, 2025. Copies of the proposed rulemaking can be obtained from the commission's website at https://www.tceq.texas.gov/rules/propose_adopt.html. For further information, please contact Cindy Hooper, Water Availability Division, (512) 239-4271.