

Response to Public Comment
 Four TMDLs for Two Volatile Organic Compounds in Clear Creek
 February 7, 2001

Tracking Number	Date Recd.	Name & Affiliation of Commentor	Summary of Request or Comment	Summary of TNRCC Action or Explanation
001	01/10/01 (letter)	Concerned Citizens	<p>a) The TNRCC should continue to improve water quality standards in Clear Creek by increasing and thus strengthening the TMDL standard.</p> <p>b) At a minimum, water monitoring should continue and current standards should stay in place while the Brio Refining remediation project continues.</p>	<p>a) The TNRCC is dedicated to improving the water quality in Clear Creek and believes that the proposed TMDL will achieve that goal. TMDLs do not set or change water quality standards. Designated uses are assigned in the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards (TSWQS). The Texas Surface Water Quality Standards are established and reviewed on a periodic basis pursuant to the Texas Water Code, §26.023, as amended, and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act), as amended. The standards for toxic materials allow for the derivation and/or revision of ambient concentration limits using best available data, provisions specified in TAC §307.6, and current EPA guidelines. Any change to a Surface Water Quality Standard will be addressed during a triennial review of the TSWQS. No changes have been made to the TMDL based on this comment.</p> <p>b) Water quality monitoring currently being conducted in relation to the remediation of the Brio Refining Plant will continue until the remediation project is completed. Water, sediment, and fish tissue monitoring in relation to the TMDL, a separate water quality improvement measure, will also continue as part of the TMDL implementation plan. The TMDL development process involves the preparation of two documents (1) a TMDL which determines the maximum allowable loading and allocates the load to pollutant sources, and (2) an implementation plan which is a detailed description and schedule of regulatory and voluntary management measures necessary to achieve the pollutant reductions identified in the TMDL. Subsequent monitoring of these water bodies is an aspect of implementation and will be addressed in the implementation plan for the TMDL of VOCs in Clear Creek. Preparation of implementation plans is critical to ensure water quality standards are restored and maintained. Preparation of the implementation plan for the TMDL of VOCs in Clear Creek will be initiated immediately upon Commission approval of the TMDL. No changes have been made to the TMDL based on this comment.</p>