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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

APRIL 2008

Welcome the New Pollution Prevention Advisory Committee Members

The TCEQ is happy to announce the four newest members of the Pollution Prevention Advisory Committee (PPAC). This committee advises the TCEQ on matters involving pollution prevention. Authorized under the Texas Health and Safety Code, it also advises the agency on the state's pollution-prevention policy and coordinates the recycling activities of state agencies. The PPAC (P-pack), as it's commonly called, comprises nine voting members with a balanced representation of environmental and public interest groups, and the regulated community.



Fred Kelly is a senior environmental specialist for 3M Company in Brownwood, Texas, with more than 21 years of environmental engineering experience. 3M Brownwood has been one of the most successful facilities within the global 3M Corporation and is a previous Texas Environmental Excellence Awards winner. In addition, 3M Brownwood is a Platinum-level member of CLEAN TEXAS.

Lynne S. Nava is the executive director of Keep Laredo Beautiful where she works to develop public awareness about the environmental challenges in her community. Nava spends much of her time volunteering and serving numerous associations and organizations.

Don L. Rennie, Ph.D. has more than 30 years of experience in the environmental-protection field. Rennie works for the Texas AgriLife Extension Service as program leader for the Agriculture and Environmental Safety Program and serves on the board of the American Association of Pesticide Safety Educators.

Catrennia R. Williamson represents the League of Women Voters-Lubbock, where she serves as a board member and chairs both the Natural Resources Committee and Legislative Breakfast group. Williamson works for the City of Lubbock as an environmental compliance specialist, which allows her to bring public-interest and local-government knowledge to the committee.

Portrait of a CLEAN TEXAS Gold-Level Member:

Fort Hood, a 340-square-mile military installation and a CLEAN TEXAS Gold-level member, can be proud of two major

national awards it has won for its environmental efforts. Randy Doyle, Fort Hood's Pollution Prevention Program manager, says that Fort Hood's robust environmental management system is the reason for these and other successes. "Fort Hood's environmental management system focuses on performance, communication, and training, not paperwork," Doyle says. Analyses of the facility's buildings and processes resulted in staff assignments to make major environmental improvements in areas such as energy reduction, water conservation, and management of the installation's chemical use and storage system.



In addition to dedicating staff resources to environmental efforts, Fort Hood implemented a unique performance contract in which contractors receive a percentage of the money saved by employing energy-conservation projects. It's a win-win situation for Fort Hood and the contractor.

Fort Hood also began using a centralized hazardous-material management system that improves purchasing practices and reduces waste at the source, reducing the need for costly hazardous-waste disposal.

The new energy-reduction program includes an automated meter-reading system at facilities that receive an electric bill of at least \$35,000 a month or encompass 30,000 square feet. The meters will transmit usage information to the main computers, allowing Fort Hood engineers to evaluate the efficiency of the equipment and create an effective energy-conservation plan for large facilities.

For water conservation, Fort Hood installed an innovative fuel-tanker purge and wash system that cleans fuel tanks and recycles water in a closed-loop system. To date, the system has purged 193 vehicles, saving 965 employee-hours and 2,895,000 gallons of water from being discharged into the wastewater treatment facility.

Register for the Wastewater Record-Keeping and Reporting Workshops

The TCEQ Small Business and Local Government Assistance program is offering low-cost workshops on wastewater record keeping and reporting. The workshops include hands-on training to learn how to properly complete discharge monitoring reports (DMRs) and how to use the new wastewater electronic reporting system (e-DMR). TCEQ staff with wastewater knowledge will be on hand to answer questions. Participants will earn five hours of wastewater operator's continuing education credit. Registration is \$15 and includes lunch.



Locations and dates for the workshop are:

June 24, Hill College - Hillsboro
June 25, Killeen Community Center - Killeen

For more detailed information about the workshops and how to register, visit <www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/sblga/wastewtr_wkshops.html> or call 1-800-447-2827.

New Sales-Tax Holiday for Energy Star Purchases

During the 2008 Memorial Day weekend, Texas shoppers get a break from state and local sales- and use-taxes on purchases of certain energy-efficient products. The new Energy Star sales-tax holiday takes effect each Memorial Day weekend, and this year the holiday begins at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, May 24, and ends at 11:59 p.m. on Monday, May 26.

The products qualifying for the exemption are:

- air conditioners priced under \$6,000 (room and central units)
- clothes washers (but not clothes dryers)
- ceiling fans
- dehumidifiers
- dishwashers
- light bulbs (incandescent and fluorescent)
- programmable thermostats
- refrigerators priced under \$2,000



Qualifying products will display the Energy Star logo on the appliance, the packaging, or the Energy Guide label. Energy Star is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Earning the Energy Star means a product meets strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the EPA and the DOE. For more information about Energy Star, visit <www.energystar.gov/>.

The holiday tax-exemption does not include clothes dryers because most dryers offer similar amounts of energy-use, so Energy Star does not label clothes dryers.

This tax-free holiday also applies to some Internet and catalog sales of eligible products. Consumers also can use layaway plans to take advantage of the sales-tax holiday, within specific parameters.

To find out more about the tax-exempt weekend, visit <www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/taxpubs/tx98_836/>.

TCEQ Publications Available

TCEQ Small Business and Environmental Assistance Regional Staff (GI-002a) lists the Small Business and Local Government Assistance staff and Pollution Prevention and Education staff located in the TCEQ's regional offices.

Mickey Leland Environmental Internship Program (GI-296) is a brochure describing the TCEQ's internship opportunity for women, minorities, and economically disadvantaged college students pursuing environmental, engineering, science-related, and public-administration careers.

Your yard is the environment over which you have the most control. A **Green Guide to Yard Care (GI-028)** includes a simple, four-step program to help you maintain a healthy yard with less cost, less work, and less waste.

2007 Emissions Inventory Guidelines (RG-360A/07) is a guide for industrial facilities that produce air emissions and must report their annual emissions to the TCEQ.

2007 Emissions Inventory Forms and Instructions (RG-360B/07) offers sample forms and instructions to facilities that produce air emissions for use in reporting annual emissions to the TCEQ. This is a companion publication to RG-360A.

Automate Your TERP Monitoring (GI-386) informs grant recipients of the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan of a service that allows them to automate their monitoring by using a global positioning system.

To view any of the above publications, visit <www.tceq.state.tx.us/publications/> and in the publication number box enter the number you are interested in viewing.

Take Care of Texas Tip

Wash Full Loads, with Cold Water

Washing full loads as opposed to partial loads of laundry can save an average household more than 3,400 gallons of water each year. Using cold water



for laundry instead of hot or warm water can save the average household more than \$30 annually.



www.takecareoftexas.org

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1. Call us at 512-239-3150.
2. Fax us at 512-239-3175.
3. E-mail us at <educate@tceq.state.tx.us>.

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