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Small Business

The Advocate

For and about small businesses affected by environmental regulations

Healthy Environment. Strong Business. Good Sense.

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Regulatory Roundup

Title V Air Permit Deadlines Announced

February 2, 1998 was the pre-application deadline for all facilities subject to Title V Operating Permits. Final application deadlines vary for facilities that are classified by group category and standard industry code. Following are final deadlines for each group category:

- July 27, 1998 – Early Call-In Group
- October 15, 1998 – Major Group
- April 15, 1999 – Group I
- July 22, 1999 – Group II
- September 23, 1999 – Group III

The Early Call-In Group includes industries such as mining and quarrying; food products; lumber and wood products excluding furniture; rubber and miscellaneous plastic products; stone; clay; glass and concrete products; fabricated metal products excluding machines and transportation equipment; motor freight transportation and warehousing; and auto repair, services and parking.

All other sources must submit an application no later than April 20, 2000.

For more information or to determine your facility's group number and application deadline, call the SBAP at 1-800-447-2827. ■

Tax Exemptions for Pollution Control Equipment

Proposition 2 allows certain property used for pollution control to be exempt from property taxes. Equipment installed, constructed, or modified after January 1, 1994 is eligible. Pollution control can also include cleanup or a change in the production process that reduces a facility's air, water, or waste pollution. Small businesses should obtain and check the preapproved list of tax-exempt property contained in a publication titled: *Use Determination for Pollution Control Property (RG-102)*. To obtain a copy, call the TNRCC's Publications Unit at 512/239-0028. The publication is also available through the TNRCC Web site at www.tnrcc.state.tx.us

Applicants eligible for the exemption must submit a written application and required fee to the TNRCC. If the TNRCC determines the equipment or process qualifies for the exemption, applicants receive a letter to submit to their county tax appraisal district. The TNRCC does not forward a copy of the letter to the tax appraisal district.

If your equipment is not on the preapproved list, you may request that the TNRCC determine if your pollution control equipment is tax exempt. Written requests should be made to: TNRCC, Chief Engineer, MC-110, Attn: Proposition 2, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087 or for more information, call the Chief Engineer's Office at 512/239-6348. ■

New Risk Reduction Rules Affect Voluntary Cleanup Program

The TNRCC's Texas Risk Reduction Program (TRRP) will implement extensive new rules integral to the Voluntary Cleanup Program. The new rules define levels of risk in great detail, and have two key changes: 1) applicants will be able to use site-specific information to determine a protective concentration level (PCL) for their own site; 2) risk assessments and conceptual models will be eliminated. The new rules are scheduled to be finalized by the fall of 1998. ■

Foundries Affected by Exemption Revision

Exemption 106.321 (formerly Standard Exemption 58) has been revised to include additional operations that previously required a permit. The exemption is now authorized to:

- prohibit the melting of "manganese" bronze rather than "magnesium" bronze
- allow for the production of ductile iron
- allow for the use of a fluxing agent in aluminum foundries

Changes to Concrete Batch Plant Exemption Delayed

A TNRCC proposal to change the standard permit and exemption for concrete batch plants was not presented to TNRCC commissioners in May. A new draft proposal will be presented to the commissioners by the end of the summer. ■

Environmental Guide to Auto Repair Published

The Small Business Assistance Program has published *An Environmental Guide to Auto Repair*. For a free copy of this informative and easy-to-read guide, call the SBAP at 1-800-447-2827. 

Voluntary Cleanup Program: A Win-Win for Landowners and Communities

The TNRCC's Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) offers significant incentives to innocent landowners of contaminated properties who voluntarily enter the program and clean up the property. VCP participants design their own risk-based plans for cleanup and negotiate the terms of the plan with the TNRCC. VCP staff provide oversight as cleanup progresses. Once remediation occurs, the TNRCC issues a "Certificate of Completion" that absolves future owners and lenders from all liability for cleanup of contamination that occurred prior to their property transaction. ■

Exemption from Waste Generation Fees

Your business may be exempt from waste generation fees depending on how you answer the following questions. Does your facility generate:

1. less than 220 lbs. of hazardous waste in a calendar month?
2. less than a total of 2.2 lbs. of acute hazardous wastes such as cyanides, arsenics, nitric and sulfuric acids in a calendar month?
3. less than 220 lbs. of industrial Class I waste in a calendar month?

If your facility is an industrial generator and you answered "yes" to questions 1, 2, and 3, a Solid Waste Registration number (SWR) is not required and your facility does not have to register, report, or pay fees for waste generated. If your facility is a nonindustrial generator and you answered "yes" to questions 1 and 2, then an SWR is not required and you do not have to register, report, or pay fees for waste generated.

For more information call the TNRCC's Data Control Team, Waste Evaluation Section at 512/239-6832. ■



The TNRCC is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. The agency does not allow discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation or veteran status. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this document may be requested in alternate formats by contacting the TNRCC at (512)239-0028, Fax 239-4488 or 1-800-RELAY-TX (TDD), or by writing P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087.



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Article V, Section 66C, H.B. 558, 66th Legislature, 1979, requires state newsletters to notify recipients in three consecutive issues that they must formally request the publication in order to continue receiving it. **If you wish to continue receiving Small Business' The Advocate, please return this form to:**

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Austin, Texas 78711-3087

Toll Free

1-800-447-2827

(All calls are confidential)

Fax: 512-239-1065

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Autobody/Auto Service Workshop — Austin	Aug. 20
Dallas Small Business Advisory Committee Meeting — Dallas	Aug. 25
Dry Cleaner Workshop — League City	Aug. 27
North American Die Casting Association (NADCA) — San Antonio	Sept. 16-18
National Pollution Prevention Week	Sept. 21-27
Pollution Prevention and Recycling Workshops — Houston	Sept. 23-24
Pollution Prevention and Recycling Workshops — Arlington	Oct. 6-7
For more information, call: 239-3152	
Non-Ferrous Foundry Society's Annual Meeting — San Antonio	Oct. 5
Small Business Compliance Advisory Panel Meeting — Austin	Nov. 6

For details, call SBAP at 1-800-447-2827

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