

# The Advocate



For and about small businesses and local governments affected by environmental regulations

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## Texas Small Public Water System Training Program to Expire August 31

Ending on Aug. 31, the Texas Small Public Water System Training Program (TSPWSTP), an EPA-funded program that operates through the TCEQ, offers FREE water operator training throughout Texas. Eligible participants include community or nontransient/noncommunity public water systems serving 3,300 persons or fewer. The training program also covers water operator exam and

licensing fees, including Customer Service Inspection and Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester training and licensing costs.

The TSPWSTP will continue to enroll eligible systems and operators through the end of the program or until funds run out. Systems and operators currently enrolled in the program should use the vouchers already issued to them. If an operator redeems all of

his or her vouchers and would like to continue training, the TSPWSTP will issue additional vouchers by request, one at a time.

Take advantage of zero-cost licensing and training while it is still available. Please contact 877-822-5349 for more information about the program or visit [www.txsmallwater.org](http://www.txsmallwater.org) for a complete list of training courses that are available in your area. ■

## First Round of Petroleum Storage Tank (PST) Workshops Ending

Are you a PST operator or owner confused about environmental regulations? The Small Business and Local Government Assistance (SBLGA) section of the TCEQ has been hosting free, half-day workshops throughout Texas to explain state and federal PST requirements. The workshop explains how to use the TCEQ's newest tool,

*PST Super Guide: A Comprehensive Guide to Compliance in Texas* (RG-475) and reviews administrative and technical requirements, such as registration and self-certification, financial assurance, release detection, corrosion protection, spill prevention, and suspected releases.

Please note the date of the Laredo workshop has changed to April 23, 2010. If you missed one of the previous workshops, you can attend one of the additional workshops the TCEQ is planning for fall 2010. These workshops will be held in the following regions: Amarillo, Dallas/Fort Worth,

El Paso, Harlingen, Houston, Midland, and San Angelo.

If you are not able to attend one of the workshops, you can download a copy of the PST Super Guide by visiting the TCEQ Publications Catalog at [www.tceq.state.tx.us/publications](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/publications), and searching for Publication Number "475." There are 14 different modules to download. Alternatively, you may call the TCEQ publications department at 512-239-0028 to order a printed copy.

For more information or to register, visit [www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/sblga/pst.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/sblga/pst.html). ■

City	2010 Dates	Location	Time
Sinton	Apr 21	San Patricio County Fairgrounds Conference Room 219 West 5 <sup>th</sup> Street	9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
San Antonio	Apr 22	Alamo Area Council of Governments 8700 Tesoro, Suite 100	8:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
Laredo	Apr 23	City of Laredo Public Works Building 5512 Thomas Avenue	8:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

### Electronic Advocate Available

Are you receiving a paper copy of The Advocate and would rather receive the newsletter via e-mail? Reduce unwanted paper by e-mailing us at [sbap@tceq.state.tx.us](mailto:sbap@tceq.state.tx.us) or call us at 800-447-2827. ■

# TCEQ's Environmental Trade Fair and Conference Coming in May

Make plans now to attend the TCEQ's 2010 Environmental Trade Fair and Conference May 4-5 at the Austin Convention Center in Austin, Texas. This annual event is Texas' premier environmental educational forum, considered by many to be one of the best in the country.

At this event, you can view the latest products and services of exhibitors, earn continuing education credits, and learn about the basics of environmental regulations. You can also attend educational sessions on topics such as: permitting, waste management, remediation, water quality planning, public drinking water, compliance assistance and enforcement, laboratory practices and data reporting, environmental quality along the Texas-Mexico border and binational water quality, ethics for professional engineers, professional geoscientists, and attorneys, underground injection control and radioactive waste management

For more information, visit our Web site at <[www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/events/etfc/etf.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/events/etfc/etf.html)>. ■

## Public Hearing Scheduled for Thermoset Resin Standard Permit

A standard permit will replace the permit-by-rule for thermoset resin facilities. A public hearing will be held this spring or early summer. Check <[www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/air/announcements/advisory/Current/sp\\_thermosesin\\_sg.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/air/announcements/advisory/Current/sp_thermosesin_sg.html)> or <[www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/air/nav/standard.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/air/nav/standard.html)> for updates. ■

# TCEQ Offers Help for Struggling Water Utilities

Many small water and wastewater systems in Texas are in danger of receiving a violation notice from the TCEQ or even in danger of failing completely. In an effort to improve the viability of public drinking water and wastewater systems, the TCEQ offers statewide, contracted assistance at no charge for those systems that need help to solve financial, managerial, or technical (FMT) operational problems.

Over 80 tasks can be performed by the FMT contractors, including tasks related to billing and accounting, loans and grants, customer service agreements, easement compliance, analytical techniques, and many more.

Keep in mind that if the TCEQ has already taken enforcement action against the utility, or the utility is in the process of being referred to enforcement, the utility will not be eligible for FMT assistance except with the prior approval of the TCEQ's enforcement division. Prevention of problems is easier and less expensive than trying to solve them after the fact.

If you are part of a system that could use some help, or if you know of a system in distress, contact your local SBLGA specialist or contact Margot Taunton, Water Supply Division, at 512-239-6403, or e-mail <[mtaunton@tceq.state.tx.us](mailto:mtaunton@tceq.state.tx.us)>. ■

## Expiring Water Quality Permits Can Leave Your Facility All Washed Up

When was the last time you checked the expiration date and time for your facility's Water Quality Permit? Did you know that you are required to submit a renewal application for the permit 180 days before it expires (see 30 TAC 305.63)? If you fail to do so, you may be assessed substantial penalties. In addition, if your renewal application is not received prior to the permit expiration date, you will need to apply for a *new* permit.

It's easy to lose track of your permit's expiration date during the effective period of several years. At least once a year, check the first page of the permit just above the "Issued Date" for a statement similar to this: "This permit shall expire at midnight, September 1, 2020." Note the time of expiration, as well as the date, and mark your calendar well before the 180-day deadline for submitting a renewal application.

Here are a few tips for renewing your facility's Water Quality Permit:

- Review the application forms and instructions a year prior to permit expiration.

- Allow ample time for sampling and analysis. Analytical data for multiple parameters must be submitted in the renewal application.
- Start preparing the application several months or more *prior* to the 180-day due date. The more complex your permit and sampling requirements, the more lead time you will require.
- Factor in time to obtain and label the required maps and diagrams, including the location map (complete, original USGS 7.5 quad-range map or maps).

Your timely submittal of the permit renewal application package demonstrates to the TCEQ that renewal procedures have been properly initiated. As a result, your permit remains in full force and effect and will not expire until the Commission acts on your application for renewal.

For more information, visit the "Water Quality - Wastewater Permits" Topic at <[www.tceq.state.tx.us/nav/main/water\\_main.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/nav/main/water_main.html)> or call the Water Quality division at 512-239-4671. ■

# New Dry Cleaner Guidance Available

Has your dry cleaning facility completed its annual TCEQ dry cleaner registration, paid quarterly fees, complied with solvent-specific air rules, determined if any waste is hazardous, and properly disposed of its wastewater? Along with managing the day-to-day operations of a dry cleaner business, ensuring you comply with all environmental regulations can seem daunting. However, the TCEQ has tools to help you comply with environmental rules. For instance, the Small Business and Local Government Assistance section of TCEQ recently developed, *Compliance Guide for Dry Cleaners*, RG-479. This publication can help small, retail dry cleaners that use petroleum or perchloroethylene (perc) solvents.

*Compliance Guide for Dry Cleaners* provides an overview of state and

federal environmental rules that affect dry cleaners, including information about annual registration, fee payments, and performance standards. Performance standards may require your facility to install secondary containment depending on the type of solvent, the facility's gross sales, and when the machine was installed. The guide also includes the following:

- An easy-to-read chart to help you determine if secondary containment is required around your machines and solvent storage area.
- A description of state and federal air rules for petroleum and perc solvents. Depending on the type and quantity of solvent used, you may be required to notify the TCEQ and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that you are compliant with these air rules.

- Information on waste and wastewater management to ensure you properly dispose of these wastes and maintain appropriate documentation.

You can order or download this publication online at [www.tceq.state.tx.us/publications](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/publications). In the "Publication Number" box enter "479" and hit the "Submit" button. If you have any questions about dry cleaner rules or you would like us to order you a copy of this publication, you can contact the Small Business and Local Government Assistance section on our toll-free number at 800-447-2827. ■

## New Federal Air Regulation Enacted

As the federal government's environmental regulatory agency, the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** enacted a rule, which became effective Jan. 1, 2010, that requires certain businesses to calculate and report to the EPA the amount of greenhouse gases (GHGs) they emit each year. The rule may affect your business. You can find the full text of the Mandatory Greenhouse Gas Reporting rule in Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 98, available online at [www.epa.gov/lawsregs/search/40cfr.html](http://www.epa.gov/lawsregs/search/40cfr.html).

In addition, you can visit an EPA Web site that offers tools to assist businesses in complying with the rule: <http://epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ghgrulemaking.html>. This Web site contains frequently asked questions, an applicability tool, information sheets for each source category, and other information about the reporting rule. You also can call EPA's rule hotline at 877-GHG-1188 (877-444-1188), or e-mail your questions to [GHGMRR@epa.gov](mailto:GHGMRR@epa.gov). ■

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Small Business Advisory Committee (SBAC)

May 19, 2 p.m.–4 p.m., Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce  
777 Taylor Street, Suite 900, Fort Worth  
**Contact: Lynn Owens, 817-588-5927**

May 20, 10 a.m.–noon, North Dallas Chamber of Commerce  
10707 Preston Road, Dallas  
**Contact: Lynn Owens, 817-588-5927**

June 8, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m., Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission  
2210 Eastex Freeway, Beaumont  
**Contact: Lori Palmer, 409-899-8789**

June 9, 10 a.m.–noon, Houston Galveston Area Council,  
Conference Room C  
3555 Timmons Lane, Houston  
**Contact: Matt Boger, 713-767-3693**

### Environmental Trade Fair and Conference

May 4–5, Austin Convention Center  
500 East Cesar Chavez St., Austin  
**Contact: Diane Stallings, 512-239-3143**

### Annual Municipal Storm Water Conference

June 21–25, Santa Fe Convention Center  
Santa Fe, New Mexico  
**Contact: Terry Branch, 214-665-6667**



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Get free, confidential help with questions on air, water, waste, or pollution prevention issues from this special section of the TCEQ. SBLGA works for you by:

- providing local environmental assistance when and where it's needed;
- communicating technical information in plain language; and
- giving small business and local government a voice in TCEQ rule and policy making.

**On the Web at: [www.sblga.info](http://www.sblga.info)**

SBLGA is entirely separate from TCEQ's enforcement program.

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**Disclaimer:** This regulatory guidance publication does not take the place of the full, official TCEQ rules. It is intended only as a general explanation about selected parts of the rules. If you have questions about any information contained in this periodical, contact us at 800-447-2827.

*The Advocate is published quarterly by the Small Business and Local Government Assistance (SBLGA) Program of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).*



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