

The Advocate



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

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Changes to Public Water Supply Rule Published in Texas Register

On Feb. 6, 2015, a proposed rule was published by the TCEQ in the Texas Register that will address the following issues for public water supplies:

- federal changes to the lead and E.coli thresholds
- desalination of groundwater
- chloramination
- plan review submittal process
- enforceability of exceptions
- other drinking water matters

Several processes that previously required an exception request will now be allowed without an exception. The requirements for these technologies will be part of the rule.

They include:

- use of chloramines,
- use of desalination technology for groundwater, and
- alternative appurtenances for overflow devices.

If these rules apply to you, see the complete rule package at <www.tceq.texas.gov/rules/prop.html>.

Look for Rule Project No. 2013-046-290-OW. The rule appears on Commissioner’s Agenda for Adoption, July 1, 2015. ■

The Advocate Goes Electronic! New Format Will be Timelier and Reduce Paper Use

Following this issue, The Advocate will no longer be available as a paper edition.

Instead of a quarterly newsletter, we will e-mail information when issues of interest come up. These e-mail notices will be archived on our website, and you can still search for them by the name “*The Advocate*.”

Be sure to subscribe to *The Advocate* e-mails at <www.tceq.texas.gov/assistance/resources/e-advocate.html>.

If you are already signed up to receive The Advocate as an electronic publication, you do not need to subscribe again.

When signing up, you may find other subscriptions of interest here: <<https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXTCEQ/subscriber/new>>. ■

“Two Steps, One Sticker” Began in March

The State of Texas will stop issuing inspection stickers and transition to a “Two Steps, One Sticker” vehicle inspection and registration program. Beginning March 1, 2015, vehicles will no longer be issued an inspection sticker. Your registration sticker will serve as a combined proof of registration and inspection.

For more information, please visit the Two Steps, One Sticker website at <www.twostepsonesticker.com>. ■

Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Has Moved

The link to the Texas Administrative Code has changed. You can now access the TAC on the Secretary of State’s website at <[http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.viewtac](http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.viewtac)>. Be sure to update your favorites and bookmarks in your Internet browser to ensure that you are accessing the latest version of the rules. ■

New PST Compliance Tools Coming Soon

Petroleum storage tank compliance-assistance tools are coming soon. The TCEQ is continuing its effort to assist owners of underground storage tanks to comply with rules. Be sure to subscribe to the electronic version of *The Advocate* to learn about details of these tools and workshops that may be held in your area. Sign up at <www.tceq.texas.gov/assistance/resources/e-advocate.html>. ■

Computer-Based Testing Now Available for Occupational Licensing

Many of the exams for individuals seeking an occupational license are available through computer-based testing (CBT), including initial exams and retests. CBT offers:

- Immediate exam score with e-mail option
- Immediate printed exam analysis feedback with e-mail option
- License issued within one week of exam date
- Immediate retesting available with certain conditions
- Daily access and expanded hours for CBT exam sites

To view a list of exams currently offered through CBT and locations, go to <www.tceq.texas.gov/licensing> and click on “Computer-Based Testing.” ■

CALL ON US

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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:

TexasEnviroHelp.org

SBLGA is entirely separate from TCEQ's enforcement program.

Monthly Effluent Report (MER) Forms Available Online

Wastewater reuse and land application facilities are required to report to the TCEQ on monthly effluent report forms. If you do not have a prepared MER form and you need to submit a report, blank MER templates are now available at <TexasEnviroHelp.org> and at <www.tceq.texas.gov/assistance/water/wastewater/reporting-on-monthly-effluent-report-mer-forms>. ■

TCEQ Trade Fair to be Held May 5-6 in Austin

The TCEQ will hold its 2015 Environmental Trade Fair and Conference on May 5-6 at the Austin Convention Center.

The Trade Fair is the TCEQ's largest event, hosting about 4,000 people. More than 100 educational sessions on topics from oil and gas to wastewater permitting will be offered, as well as more than 300 exhibits showcasing the latest environmental information and products. The TCEQ's Environmental Assistance Division will offer a track at this year's conference

as an “Introduction to Environmental Regulations.” This track will include the following sessions:

- Air Permitting Overview
- Stormwater Permitting
- Waste Reduction Policy Act

The Trade Fair is a great opportunity to earn continuing education credits, learn about the latest regulations, and network with TCEQ staff and others in the environmental field.

To register or find additional information, please visit <www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/etfc>. ■

Guidelines Amended for Effluent Limitations for Construction Stormwater Discharges

On Feb. 4, 2015, the TCEQ commissioners approved the adoption of federal revisions to regulations on stormwater discharges from construction activities. The adopted federal regulations became effective on Feb. 26, 2015, and will be incorporated into the Construction General Permit (TXR150000) at its renewal in 2018. The revisions include:

- Clarifying the applicability of best management practices (BMPs) to control erosion caused by stormwater discharges, such as erosion and sediment controls, and the requirements for soil stabilization and pollution prevention measures;
- Providing additional details on areas where buffers are required;
- Withdrawing the numeric limit for turbidity and associated monitoring requirements; and
- Adding a definition for “infeasible.”

For more information please visit the TCEQ website at <<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/rules/adopt.html>>. ■

Pledge to be a Proud Partner Today

The TCEQ's Take Care of Texas program recently launched the Proud Partner <<http://takecareoftexas.org/partners/overview>> program allowing organizations to demonstrate their commitment to the Texas environment. Organizations now have a pledge <<http://takecareoftexas.org/partners/partner-pledge-form>> with optional commitments similar to the individual Texan pledge.

Benefits of the Program:

- Partners can order a digital seal or FREE decals to display on their storefront or vehicles.
- Listing on Proud Partner Web page. <<http://takecareoftexas.org/partners/proud-partners>>
- FREE resources to educate your customers, employees, or members on ways to conserve water and energy, reduce waste, and keep our air and water clean.
- No dues: The program is 100% FREE.

This program is a voluntary and open pledge. TCEQ does not endorse Take Care of Texas proud partners or any goods and services they may offer. The Take Care of Texas logo does not certify compliance with state or federal law. ■

Rule Updates

Find out the status of current TCEQ rule projects including public comment period, adoption dates, effective dates, and rule project managers and contact information from our website at <www1.tceq.texas.gov/rules/>.

Some recent rules include the following:

- LIRAP Rule Revision | *Project No. 2014-027-114-AI*
- Implementation of SB 347 New Environmental Perpetual Care Account | *Project No. 2013-056-037-WS*
- Design Criteria for Sewage Systems | *Project No. 2013-025-317-LS*
- Design Criteria for Domestic Wastewater Systems | *Project No. 2012-040-217-OW*
- Emissions Banking and Trading | *Project No. 2014-007-101-AI*
- NOx RACT Rules for the DFW 2008 Eight-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area | *Project No. 2013-049-117-AI*
- VOC RACT Rules for the DFW 2008 Eight-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area | *Project No. 2013-048-115-AI*
- Removal of Rule Language Requiring Small Source Reporting of Certain Air Emissions | *Project No. 2014-023-101-AI*
- Authorization of Certain Injection Wells into the Edwards Aquifer | *Project No. 2013-053-331-WS*
- PWS Rule Package "De-Sal Plus" | *Project No. 2013-046-290-OW* ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

TAWWA-WEAT Texas Water Conference 2015

April 14-17 | Corpus Christi, Texas
www.texas-water.com



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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.**



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