

The Advocate



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

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Stage 2 Disinfection Byproduct Testing Begins!

Compliance monitoring for the Stage 2 Disinfection Byproduct (DBP2) rule began April 1. The DBP2 rule improves drinking water quality and protects customers from disinfection byproducts in their water. Disinfectants can react with naturally occurring materials in the water to form disinfection byproducts, which may pose health risks. All Community and Nontransient Noncommunity Public Water Systems (PWS) are affected by the rule but the testing schedule differs (please see table).

Although the number of DBP2 sample-collection sites is based on the water source and the population of your PWS, the schedule to begin testing is based on the population of the largest interconnected system. For example, if your PWS serves a population of 500 people but interconnects with a PWS serving 150,000 people, your PWS is con-

Group Number	Population	Start DBP2 Compliance Monitoring
Group 1	100,000 or more	Apr 2012
Group 2	50,000-99,999	Oct 2012
Group 3	10,000-49,999	Oct 2013
Group 4	Less than 10,000	Oct 2013 <i>(Systems required to monitor for Cryptosporidium 2014)</i>

sidered a Group 1 system and started DBP2 testing in April.

The TCEQ will notify your PWS with details concerning your monitoring schedule, number of sample sites, and the approximate cost for sampling. Although a TCEQ contractor will collect the samples, the PWS is responsible for paying the costs to test the samples.

For complete information on the DBP2 rule, please visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's website at water.epa.gov/lawsregs/rulesregs/sdwa/stage2/compliance.cfm, call the TCEQ's Drinking Water Section at 512-239-4691, or e-mail your questions to PWSCHEM@tceq.texas.gov. ■

Find Required Operator Training for Underground Storage Tanks

The TCEQ finalized federally mandated rules on operator training for underground storage tanks (USTs), which require training people responsible for the on-site operation and maintenance of underground storage tank systems.

There are three types of certifications required:

1. Class A – for those responsible for proper operation of USTs and who manage resources and personnel to

achieve compliance with all UST regulations.

2. Class B – for those who ensure day-to-day implementation of all applicable requirements of the UST regulations.
3. Class C – for those who typically control dispensing of fuel and are responsible for responding to alarms, releases, spills, overfill, or threats to the public or the environment.

Class A & B operator training must be obtained through a TCEQ-approved training course. The rule requires people responsible for the on-site operation and maintenance of UST systems to be trained by Aug 8, 2012, and then complete additional training within every three years from the last training date. To find a TCEQ-approved training provider, please visit www.tceq.texas.gov/assistance/industry/pst/pst.html and select "approved training providers." ■

Save the Date: EPA Annual Stormwater Conference

The EPA, in partnership with the South Central Chapter of the International Erosion Control Association (SCIECA), the City of Fort Worth, the Tarrant Regional Water District, the Texas Department of Transportation-Forth Worth district, and the states of EPA Region 6, is hosting the 14th Annual EPA Region 6 Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS₄) Operators Conference June 24–June 29 at the Worthington Renaissance Hotel in Fort Worth.

The conference speakers will address new rules and various issues and challenges of managing municipal stormwater. Educational sessions and field trips will make this an exceptional conference that helps stormwater professionals learn how to comply with state and federal regulations and reduce pollutants in stormwater discharges to surface water. Several half-day classes will offer:

- detailed instruction on the sampling and monitoring of discharges,

- concepts of low-impact development,
- the use of polymers and other treatment processes, and
- the design of Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWP3) and selection of appropriate controls.

Pre-conference activities include SCIECA certification courses and exams June 24–25 and an EPA industrial stormwater course on June 25, that includes a site inspection.

Visit <www.scieca.org> for registration and more information. ■

Television Equipment Recycling Rules Effective May 1

On May 1, rules for the television equipment recycling program take effect. The new program requires TV-equipment manufacturers to offer consumers free collection, transport, and recycling of TVs. (TV equipment includes any TV nine inches or larger and display devices—generally computer monitors—that include a TV tuner.)

Beginning Jan. 31, 2013, manufacturers must register annually with the TCEQ. Manufacturers that do not participate in a Recycling Leadership Program (RLP) face additional annual requirements, including paying a fee and reporting on their collection and recycling efforts. Participation in an RLP exempts manufacturers from some requirements.

An RLP must submit annual information to the TCEQ about its TV collection and recycling plans. An RLP

also must start public education programs on available collection, reuse, and recycling options for TVs.

Beginning April 1, 2013, retailers in Texas may only sell televisions from manufacturers that are on the TCEQ's online list of manufacturers, indicating they are authorized to sell TVs in Texas. The list will be posted on <www.TexasRecyclesTVs.org>. Retailers also will be required to offer consumers written information on how to legally and properly dispose of and recycle television equipment.

Recyclers must follow specific standards for recycling televisions and complete annual registration and reporting. For current information on how to recycle covered television equipment, visit <www.TexasRecyclesTVs.org>. ■

Compliance Commitment (C2) Program available for Electronics Recyclers

Texas law requires computer manufacturers selling new computer equipment in Texas to offer consumers free recycling of used computer equipment. To help electronic recyclers comply with the Texas Computer Equipment Recycling Program and other TCEQ rules, the Small Business and Local Government Assistance Section (SBLGA) includes assistance on electronics recycling as part of its Site Visit program.

The program offers free, confidential, on-site, compliance assessments

of various types of small businesses or local government facilities.

Those who successfully complete the program receive a C2 certificate and can earn up to a two-year exemption from routine investigations from the TCEQ. For more information about the C2 program and electronics recycling rules, contact your local SBLGA Compliance Assistance Specialist, or visit the website at <www.TexasEnviroHelp.org>. ■

Local Compliance Assistance Specialists are Ready to Help You!

You have free, confidential help right in your backyard.

Region 1 - Amarillo

Patty Avery,
806-468-0505

Region 2 - Lubbock

Celeste Hoehne,
806-796-7642

Region 3 - Abilene

John Aquilino,
817-588-5836

Lynn Owens
817-588-5927

Region 4 - Dallas-Ft. Worth

Tasha Burns,
817-588-5868

Lynn Owens,
817-588-5927

John Aquilino,
817-588-5836

Region 5 - Tyler

Jack Holsomback,
903-535-5158

Region 6 - El Paso

Pamela Aguirre,
915-834-4974

Region 7 - Midland

Celeste Hoehne,
806-796-7642

Region 8 - San Angelo

Colin Barth,
512-239-7015

Nathan Weiss,
210-403-4092

Region 9 - Waco

Polly Porter,
254-761-3039

Region 10 - Beaumont

Charlie Adams,
409-899-8788

Lori Palmer,
409-899-8789

Region 11 - Austin

Colin Barth,
512-239-7015

Region 12 - Houston

Danielle Doss,
713-767-3693

Cynthia Williams,
713-767-3549

Region 13 - San Antonio

Asma Vahora,
210-403-4039

Nathan Weiss,
210-403-4092

Region 14 - Corpus Christi

Glenda Swierc,
361-825-3421

Region 15 - Harlingen

Imelda Peña,
956-389-7427

Region 16 - Laredo

Carmen Ramirez,
956-721-8457

New Permit by Rule for the Disposal of Nuisance and Abandoned Buildings

A new statute allows the TCEQ to develop a permit by rule to authorize counties or municipalities with 10,000 or fewer people to dispose of demolition waste from nuisance or abandoned buildings. The new rule (allowed under the Texas Health and Safety Code Section 361.024) applies to buildings that have been acquired by the county or municipality by means of bankruptcy, tax delinquency, or condemnation on land that is owned or controlled by the county or municipality. Disposal can only occur on land owned or controlled by the municipality or county, and the land must qualify for an arid exemption under the TCEQ's rules.

The anticipated rule-adoption date is July 2012. For more information, call the SBLGA at 800-447-2827, or the TCEQ's Municipal Solid Waste section at 512-239-2335. ■

Landscape Irrigation: Installing without a License

A new state law allows municipal and justice of the peace courts to penalize unlicensed irrigators who install irrigation systems with a Class C misdemeanor and a fine up to \$500, plus related costs. Unlicensed irrigators installing irrigation systems risk contaminating the public water supply. Licensed irrigators receive proper training to prevent contamination of the public water supply by ensuring that nonpotable water from lawn-irrigation pipes does not flow into the water-supply.

The new bill (HB 2507), established to protect public health, went into effect Sept. 1, 2011. You can file complaints against an unlicensed irrigator with the local municipality or water district, citing a violation of Texas Occupation Code, Sec. 1903.256. If the complaint is not resolved, or for more information, you can call the TCEQ Landscape Irrigation Program at 512-239-LAWN (5296), or visit <www.tceq.texas.gov/licensing/irrigation/landscape.html>. ■



U P C O M I N G E V E N T S

EnviroMentor Annual Meeting

TCEQ, April 30, 2–5 p.m., TCEQ Campus,
12100 Park 35 Circle, Bldg F, Room 2210, Austin 78753
Contact: Jane Scheidler, 512-239-3545

Small Business Advisory Committee (SBAC)

Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce
Aug. 8, 2–4 p.m.
777 Taylor St., Suite 900, Fort Worth 76102
Contact: Lynn Owens, 817-588-5927

North Dallas Chamber of Commerce
August 9, 10 a.m.–noon
1070 Preston Rd., Dallas 75230
Contact: John Aquilino, 817-588-5836

Houston Galveston Area Council
June 21, 10 a.m.–noon
3555 Timmons Lane, Conference Room C, Houston 77027
Contact: Danielle Doss, 713-767-3693

Environmental Trade Fair and Conference

May 1–2, Austin Convention Center
500 East Cesar Chavez St., Austin 78701
Contact: Kim Ferraro, 512-239-3115

Annual Municipal Stormwater Conference

June 24–29, Worthington Renaissance Hotel
200 Main Street, Fort Worth 76102
Contact: Terry Branch, 214-665-6667

Drinking Water Advisory Work Group

April 24, 9 a.m.–noon, TCEQ Campus,
12100 Park 35 Circle, Bldg E, Room 2015, Austin 78753
Contact: James Beauchamp, 512-239-6174

Water Quality Advisory Work Group

April 24, 1:15–3:30 p.m., TCEQ Campus,
12100 Park 35 Circle, Bldg E, Room 2015, Austin 78753
Contact: Korey Sykes, 512-239-6060

Dam Safety Workshop

June 9, 9 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Fremaux's Metropolitan Catering,
932 West University Drive, Denton 76201
Contact: Kim Ferraro, 512-239-3115

June 15, 9 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Holiday Inn South Broadway,
5701 South Broadway, Tyler 75703
Contact: Kim Ferraro, 512-239-3115



SMALL BUSINESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSISTANCE DIVISION, MC 106
TEXAS COMMISSION ON
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
PO BOX 13087
AUSTIN TX 78711-3087

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How is our customer service? Fill out our online customer-satisfaction survey at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/customersurvey.

CALL ON US Toll Free & Confidential: 1-800-447-2827

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.TexasEnviroHelp.org

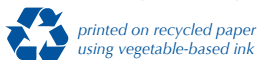
SBLGA is entirely separate from TCEQ's enforcement program.

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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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