

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

NOTICE OF A PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF GENERAL PERMIT TXG670000
AUTHORIZING THE DISCHARGE OF WASTEWATER

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ or commission) is proposing to amend (without renewal) Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit TXG670000. This general permit authorizes the discharge of hydrostatic test water from new vessels; existing vessels which contained raw water, potable water, or elemental gases; or existing vessels which contained petroleum substances or waste related to petroleum substances. The draft general permit applies to the entire state of Texas. General permits are authorized by Texas Water Code, §26.040.

DRAFT GENERAL PERMIT. The executive director has prepared a draft general permit amendment of the existing general permit. The permit amendments will allow discharges of hydrostatic test water from new and existing vessels into water in the state from crude oil and natural gas exploration, development, and production operations to be eligible for authorization under the general permit upon the TCEQ receiving approval from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to regulate these activities under the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. Until such time, these entities would continue to be required to obtain authorization to discharge from both the EPA and RRC. No significant degradation of high quality waters is expected and existing uses will be maintained and protected. The executive director proposes to require certain dischargers, including discharges of hydrostatic test water from crude oil and natural gas exploration, development, and production operations, to submit a Notice of Intent to obtain authorization to discharge.

The executive director has reviewed this action for consistency with the goals and policies of the Texas Coastal Management Program (CMP) according to General Land Office regulations and has determined that the action is consistent with applicable CMP goals and policies.

On the date that this notice is published, a copy of the draft general permit and fact sheet will be available for a minimum of 30 days for viewing and copying at the TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk located at the TCEQ Austin office, at 12100 Park 35 Circle, Building F. These documents will also be available at the TCEQ's 16 regional offices and on the TCEQ website at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/general/index.html>. Alternately, you may request a copy of the draft general permit and fact sheet by contacting the TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk by phone at 512-239-3300 or by mail at TCEQ OCC, Notice Team MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711.

PUBLIC COMMENT/PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting about this draft general permit. The purpose of a public meeting is to

provide the opportunity to submit written or oral comment or to ask questions about the draft general permit. Generally, the TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the executive director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the draft general permit or if requested by a state legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

Written public comments must be received by the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, TCEQ, PO Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087 or electronically at <https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/> within 30 days from the date this notice is published.

APPROVAL PROCESS. After the comment period, the executive director will consider all the public comments and prepare a written response. The response will be filed with the TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at least 10 days before the scheduled commission meeting when the commission will consider approval of the general permit. The commission will consider all public comment in making its decision and will either adopt the executive director's response or prepare its own response. The commission will issue its written response on the general permit at the same time the commission issues or denies the general permit. A copy of any issued general permit and response to comments will be made available to the public for inspection at the agency's Austin office. A notice of the commissioners' action on the draft general permit and a copy of its response to comments will be mailed to each person who submitted a comment. Also, a notice of the commission's action on the draft general permit and the text of its response to comments will be published in the *Texas Register*.

MAILING LISTS. In addition to submitting public comments, you may ask to be placed on a mailing list to receive future public notices mailed by the TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk. You may request to be added to: 1) the mailing list for this specific general permit; 2) the permanent mailing list for a specific county; or 3) both. Clearly specify the mailing lists to which you wish to be added and send your request to the TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address previously mentioned. Unless you otherwise specify, you will be included only on the mailing list for this specific general permit.

INFORMATION. If you need more information about this general permit or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, toll free, at 1-800-687-4040. General information about the TCEQ can be found at our website at: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov>.

Further information may also be obtained by calling Chris Linendoll, TCEQ Water Quality Division, at 254-761-3025.

Si desea información en Español, puede llamar 1-800-687-4040.

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