

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



## NOTICE OF PROPOSED NEW GENERAL PERMIT WQG280000 AUTHORIZING THE DISCHARGE OF WASTES INTO SURFACE WATERS IN THE STATE

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ or commission) is proposing to issue new TCEQ General Permit WQG280000. This new TCEQ general permit proposes to authorize the discharge of, as well as prohibit the discharge of, a variety of waste streams from oil and gas extraction activities defined in the draft general permit as Outer Continental Shelf facilities. The purpose of this new TCEQ general permit is to replace the need for Outer Continental Shelf facilities to obtain individual Texas Railroad Commission permits. The draft general permit applies to offshore oil and gas extraction operations located in the Gulf of Mexico between 3.0 and 10.2 statute miles from the Texas coastline as established in the draft general permit. This is a state-only general permit, and Outer Continental Shelf facilities are required to obtain separate authorization to discharge from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System in addition to obtaining TCEQ authorization to discharge. In addition to any other comments desired to be submitted on the terms and conditions of the draft general permit, TCEQ is specifically seeking public comment on the potential to reduce permitted produced wastewater flows from 7000 barrels per day (0.294 million gallons per day) to 6000 barrels per day (0.252 million gallons per day) which may result in the increase in or removal of certain water quality-based effluent limitations but overall reducing the mass loading of pollutants from produced wastewater discharges as well as establishing compliance schedules for whole effluent toxicity (WET) limitations. General permits are authorized by Texas Water Code, §26.040.

**DRAFT GENERAL PERMIT.** The executive director has prepared a new draft general permit that proposes to authorize the discharge of, as well as prohibit the discharge of, a variety of waste streams from oil and gas extraction activities defined in the draft general permit as Outer Continental Shelf facilities. No significant degradation of high quality waters is expected and existing uses will be maintained and protected. The executive director proposes to require all dischargers 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>.

**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 comments 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>.

Persons with disabilities who need special accommodations at the meeting should call the Office of the Chief Clerk at (512) 239-3300 or 1-800-RELAY-TX (TDD) at least one week prior to the meeting.

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

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

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