

Bastrop Air Pollutant Watch List Area Q & A

What is the Air Pollutant Watch List?

The Air Pollutant Watch List (APWL) is a list of areas in Texas where ambient air monitoring indicates persistent pollutant concentrations at levels of potential concern to human health and welfare.

What is the purpose of the APWL?

The purpose of the APWL is to reduce emissions that affect ambient concentrations by focusing TCEQ enforcement, permitting, pollution prevention, and monitoring resources and heightening awareness for interested parties in areas of concern.

Why is Bastrop listed on the APWL?

The TCEQ listed Bastrop on the APWL after it had conducted mobile monitoring downwind of Griffin Industries, LLC (Griffin Industries), in February 2006 and March 2007. The TCEQ determined that the 30-minute net average concentrations of hydrogen sulfide exceeded the state standard of 0.08 parts per million by volume (ppmv).

Why is the TCEQ proposing to delist Bastrop from the APWL?

In March 2007, Griffin Industries installed a cover and on-demand flare system to control hydrogen sulfide emissions from the primary anaerobic lagoon. Monitoring was subsequently conducted in December 2008 and August 2010 and indicated that concentrations were below the state hydrogen sulfide standard. The TCEQ does not expect hydrogen sulfide concentrations to exceed the state standard with the continued use of the control equipment. The TCEQ acknowledges that a potential for nuisance odor from the site remains. The TCEQ Region 11 Office will continue to respond to any odor complaints submitted regarding Griffin Industries.

What should you do if you have an odor complaint?

The TCEQ is available 24 hours every day to receive complaints under its jurisdiction. Persons may call the TCEQ toll-free at 1-888-777-3186 or may visit the TCEQ [environmental complaint](#) Web site and submit the on-line complaint form. Once you contact the TCEQ to report a problem, someone from the TCEQ Regional Office will talk with you about the details of your complaint.

What do you need to know to make an odor complaint?

The TCEQ cannot confirm a nuisance violation without knowing your identity. However, if you want to remain anonymous, the TCEQ can still conduct an investigation to determine if there is a violation of operational rules or standards.

When investigating a nuisance complaint, the TCEQ will gather evidence to help evaluate the four primary characteristics of odors—frequency, intensity, duration, and offensiveness (FIDO)—so any information you can provide concerning these characteristics will assist the TCEQ in the investigation. The TCEQ will also need information regarding the alleged source of the odor.

The presence of any of these four factors alone at a very high level can result in a nuisance violation, but usually it is a combination of the factors that results in a determination that a nuisance exists.

As with all complaints, if the situation appears to be an imminent threat to your health or to the environment, the TCEQ will respond within 24 hours—usually much sooner.