

Summer 2010  
Volume 4, Issue 3

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EnvironmentalQuality



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delivering world class  
service.

“This incident should definitely be an eye opener to every industry to conduct a detailed review of the potential risks in their processes.”

City of Grand Prairie



*Congratulations for 100% Compliance*

Congratulations to the following Grand Prairie industries for achieving 100% compliance during the 2009-2010 pretreatment year. These companies are recognized for compliance with effluent limits, reporting requirements, storm water discharge regulations, and cross connection requirements. Your commitment is appreciated!

- ABC Compounding
- American Eurocopter

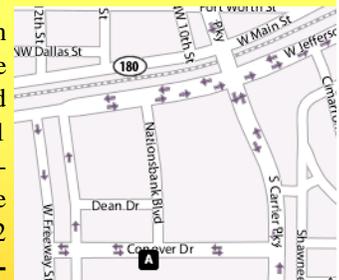
- DeLaval Manufacturing
- International Paper Box Plant
- Lockheed Martin Missiles & Fire Control – LOSAT
- Neos Therapeutics
- Pepsico
- Pratt & Whitney Inc. - 1174



- Pratt & Whitney Inc. - 1177
- Siemens Industry, Inc.
- Smurfit-Stone
- Specialty Adhesives
- Strayer-Voigt
- Triumph Accessory Services - Grand Prairie
- Turbomeca-USA and Microturbo, Inc.

*Annual Awards Luncheon*

Please join us on August 25, 2010, for the annual award luncheon recognizing Grand Prairie industries achieving 100% compliance and pollution prevention award winners. The luncheon will be held from 11:30 – 1:00 at the City’s Memorial Library, located at 901 Conover. Conover intersects Carrier one stoplight south of Jefferson Street, and the library is right next to the old Police Station. The meeting will include a short presentation by the winners of the P2 award. **(There’s still time if you have not submitted your application – P2 nominations are due August 4.)** We will also have a time for attendees to give a short overview of their company. If you or your staff is interested in attending this meeting, please contact Cheri Hebison at 972-237-8070, or register by fax to 972-237-8228 or email to [chebison@gptx.org](mailto:chebison@gptx.org). Please indicate if you would like to participate in the company overview portion of the meeting.



*Gulf Oil Spill Recap*

April 22, 2010

The ‘Deepwater Horizon’ platform was drilling an exploratory well about 50 miles from the Louisiana Coast in nearly 5,000 feet of water just before the explosion occurred. The crew had completed the drill-

ing and was sealing the steel casing at the time of the explosion. The resultant fire destroyed the rig which sank on April 22, 2010. The sinking



rig damaged the oil well causing an on going massive oil spill resulting from the failure of the blow out preventer. The exact cause of the

*Continued on Page 2*

## Power Washing Best Management Practices

Many businesses maintain their facility's property through power washing soiled or stained outdoor areas. However, did you know that the wastewater created during power washing contains pollutants such as heavy metals, chemicals, oil and grease? When wastewater from power washing is allowed to discharge to the storm drain system, these pollutants go directly into lakes, rivers, and streams. As a result, these pollutants will contaminate drinking water supplies, harm wildlife, fish, and aquatic organisms, and create unsafe swimming conditions. For these reasons, it is illegal to discharge wastewater to the storm drain system in Grand Prairie.



appearance of your facility, but can help improve the quality of our waters as well! When pollutants are removed from power washed surfaces, there is less chance for those pollutants to end up in our waterways. To prevent stormwater pollution and potentially costly stormwater violations, follow these Best Management Practices to collect and dispose of power wash water.

### Plan Ahead

- Identify locations of all storm drains and points where wastewater from your activities could enter the storm drain system.
- Specifically determine how to contain and collect wastewater from each.
- Locate the property's high and low spots and deter-

mine the appropriate area for wastewater pooling/collection.

- Identify proper disposal options for the types of wastewater and waste.

### Clean Properly

- Pre-sweep and use dry spot cleaning methods to pre-clean whenever possible (e.g., pre-clean oily deposits with absorbent). Don't allow any pre-cleaning debris/material to enter the storm drain system—remove it before power washing.
- Block and/or protect storm drains that could potentially be impacted by your activities.
- Minimize water usage while cleaning. Utilize water regulating nozzles and/or high pressure delivery systems.
- Use bio-friendly cleaners that are less toxic or that do not contain hazardous

substances, such as hydrofluoric acid, muriatic acid, sodium hydroxide, bleach, etc.

- Contain and collect wastewater using appropriate containment measures and equipment.
- Dispose of waste using an authorized waste collector.

“When wastewater from power washing is allowed to discharge to the storm drain system, these pollutants go directly into lakes, rivers, and streams...For these reasons, it is illegal to discharge wastewater to the storm drain system in Grand Prairie.”

The good news is power washing activities, *when done properly*, can not only help improve the

## Gulf Oil Spill (continued)

failure is still under investigation.

Based on Government estimates, more than 140 million gallons of crude have now been released into the gulf and this now ranks as the biggest oil spill in the US history. The spill has caused an extensive environmental impact on marine and wild life habitats, fishing, and tourism industries. The US Government has named BP as the responsible party accountable for all clean

up costs and damages. BP has since set up an escrow fund of \$20 billion to pay for damages. A variety of efforts are underway to manage the damages.

As of July 19, 2010, a 70 ton temporary containment cap was placed on the sea bed and is being pressure tested for leaks. Two relief wells are being drilled to intercept the damaged well, way below the sea bed. BP is planning to pump heavy liquids to stop the leaks at the reservoir level and

seal the well permanently with cement.

This incident should definitely be an eye opener to every industry to conduct a detailed review of the potential risks in their processes. Periodic mock

incident response drills are valuable tools to field test procedures and correct any deficiencies.

Are you ready to deal with all catastrophic incidents?



# Trouble

## Texas Trouble

An organic chemical manufacturer in Calhoun County was assessed \$34,999 for failing to provide a hazardous waste tank with a built in leak detector system, failing to conduct required inspections at the frequency detailed in the permit, failing to keep a container storing hazardous waste closed during storage, and failing to prevent an unauthorized discharge into or adjacent to water in the state.

A recycling facility in Travis County was assessed \$5,000 for failing to properly notify the executive director prior to the commencement of recycling operations and by failing to prevent dust emissions from impacting off property receptors and creating traffic hazards.

A sandblasting business in Travis County was assessed \$9,000 for failing to prevent the disposal of municipal hazardous waste in a manner which endangers human health and the environment and by failing to prevent the release of air contaminants which interfered with the normal use and

enjoyment of the property.

A scrap metal recycling plant in Webb County was assessed \$990 for failing to notify the TCEQ within 24 hours of an excess opacity event and failing to prevent unauthorized emissions and by failing to ensure that all emission control equipment is maintained in good condition and operating properly.

## Other Trouble

An iron foundry in Alabama that manufactures cast iron pipes, fittings, valves and hydrants from ferrous scrap metal to make the castings has been fined \$4 million dollars and a five-year probationary period and has to fund a local environmental project. The company was charged with discharging wastewater from the manufacturing process containing oil, grease, and zinc into a nearby tributary. In addition to Clean Water Act violations, two officials were also indicted and must pay fines



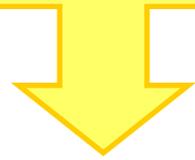
and serve between 24 and 36 months of probation.

## OSHA Trouble

A Fort Worth based company has been charged with 3 willful and 38 serious violations of OSHA standards. The willful violations include: 1) Failing to conduct noise monitoring for employees who were exposed to noise levels at or above a time weighted average of 120 dBA; 2) failing to provide a carbon monoxide monitor for employees utilizing compressed air from an oil lubricated compressor as breathing air during blasting operations; and 3) failing to identify and evaluate respiratory hazards associated with methylene diphenyl diisocyanate. The proposed penalty for all violations is \$293,400.



Know the **Air Quality Index** to better understand the severity of pollution and related health impacts. The **AQI** is an index used for reporting daily levels. **Colors** indicate how polluted the air is and how to protect your health.



AQI & Color	Protect Your Health
<b>Good</b>	No action necessary.
<b>Moderate</b>	Unusually sensitive people should consider limiting prolonged out-
<b>Unhealthy for sensitive groups</b>	Active children/adults and people with respiratory disease or asthma should <b>limit</b> prolonged
<b>Unhealthy</b>	Active children/adults and people with respiratory disease or asthma should <b>avoid</b> prolonged outdoor exertion; everyone else, especially children, should <b>limit</b>
<b>Very Unhealthy</b>	Active children/adults and people with respiratory disease or asthma should <b>avoid all</b> prolonged outdoor exertion; everyone else, especially children, should <b>limit</b> prolonged

Source: EPA

# EPA Says No to Texas

On June 30, 2010, the EPA announced final disapproval of the flexible permit program that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) had submitted for inclusion in its clean-air implementation plan. EPA has determined that this program does not meet several national Clean Air Act requirements that help to assure the protection of health and the environment.

mit program after determining that it allows companies to avoid certain federal clean air requirements by lumping emissions from multiple units under a single "cap" rather than setting specific emission limits for individual pollution sources at their plants.



flexible permits program and invited public comment. EPA has carefully reviewed comments

and decided to finalize its proposed disapproval of the program.

To insure no disruptions for facilities, EPA has reached out to industry, the environmental community and TCEQ to dis-

EPA is disapproving the per-

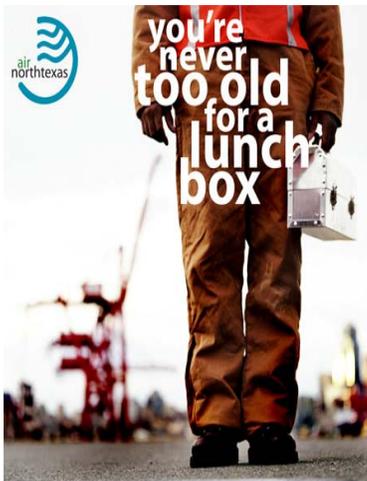
In September 2009, EPA proposed to disapprove the state's

Discuss how to convert flexible permits into more detailed permits that comply with the Clean Air Act. One tool proposed by EPA is encouraging flexible permit holders to participate in a voluntary compliance audit program.

## City of Grand Prairie

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**“Along with cost savings of applied water-efficiency measures of up to 30 percent, significant savings in energy, chemical and maintenance expenses are also possible.”**

## Water Conservation

Fresh water is a finite resource and requires care from the corporate bathroom to the front lawn sprinkler to the washing system on the assembly line. Water conservation practices, such as efficient appliances and fixtures, behavioral changes, and changes in irrigation practices, can reduce water consumption by as much as a third.

Many firms have implemented general water-saving devices and practices, such as low-flow toilets, encouraging employees to turn off the water while washing hands, and creating water-saving landscaping. Along with cost savings of applied water-efficiency measures of up to 30 percent, significant

savings in energy, chemical and maintenance expenses are also possible. The typical payback period is three to seven years

Industries will need to research and develop an appropriate action plan to change the water usage and needs of individual operations. Some action plan steps may include but are not limited to the following:

- Employee education such as turning water off while washing hands and dishes
- Monitor and meter the water system to deter-



mine the largest water consumption areas

- Plant native plants adapted to the local climate and rainfall
- Install rain detectors in irrigation systems
- Reuse wastewater or reclaimed water for other industrial uses, fountains, and fire protection

Changing water-use practice requires employee education, but requires little financial investment. Changes to infrastructure, manufacturing process, landscaping and irrigation, and other engineering changes may require an initial capital investment.

### Registration Form

Environmental Services Department  
City of Grand Prairie  
Environmental Compliance Workshop  
Annual Awards Luncheon

Memorial Library

901 Conover Dr.

August 25, 2010

11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

(Lunch Provided)

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Attendees: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN BY MAIL OR FAX TO:**

Environmental Services Department

P.O. Box 534045

Grand Prairie, TX 75053-4045

Fax to: 972.237.8228