

H20 LINE

Winter 2011 Volume 5, Issue 1

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Environmental Compliance Meeting

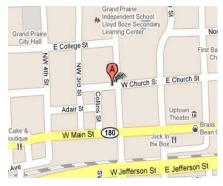
Environmental The Compliance meeting for this quarter will be held on Thursday, February **3, 2011** from 9:30 – 11:00 am at the Environmental Service Department's new offices in the **Development Center at** 206 W. Church Street, 2nd Floor. The Development Center is located across from City Hall at the intersection of Church and NW 2nd St. Take either of the outside staircases located on the east side of the building to the second floor.

The topic will be storm

water discharge regulations. All existing storm water discharge permits and No Exposure Certifications (NECs) will expire August 11, 2011. John Aquilino, Compliance Assistance Specialist with the TCEQ Small

Business and Local Government Assistance Program, will be speaking compliance issues, frequent violations, and procedures for renewing your discharge permit or NEC.

To register for the meeting or for more information contact Cheri Hebison at (972) 237-8070 or chebison@gptx.org, or fax your registration form to (972) 237-8228.





OSHA FY10 Significant Cases

During 2010, OSHA announces that it issued citations in 164 significant cases where penalties reached \$100,000 or more. 20 of these cases were for egregious violations where an employer exhibited deliberate violative conduct or indifference to employee

safety and health. One of these facilities is here in Texas. BP Products North America Inc. will pay a full penalty of \$50.6 million stemming from the 2005 explosion at its Texas City, Texas, refinery that killed 15 workers and injured 170 others. The agreement resolves failure-to-abate citations issued after a 2009 follow-up investigation. In addition to paying the record fine, BP has agreed to take immediate steps to protect those now working at the refinery, allocating a minimum of \$500 million to that effort.

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Texas Stream Team

Texas Stream Team is a network of trained volunteers and supportive partners working together to gather information about the surface water quality of Texas. Partners collect critical information about water quality that supports local and state resource managers in scientifically sound decision making. Once trained, volunteers need to dedicate only one hour a month to monitor a stream of their choice.

Contact Echo Rexroad at ERexroad@gptx.org or call (972) 237-8082 for more information.



EPA Region 6 Compliance & Enforcement for 2010

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regional office announced that enforcement actions in fiscal year 2010 resulted in \$887 million in pollution controls by companies, governments, and other regulated entities. The region estimates a total of 83 million pounds of pollutants will be reduced, treated or eliminated as well as 1.9 billion pounds of hazardous waste from five states. In addition, over \$14 million will be used to pay environmental penalties. The Dallas office is responsible for federal environmental programs in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. In 2010, EPA brought to conclusion over 500 enforcement actions against environmental violators in the five state region.

Texas by the numbers:

Investments in Actions & Equipment to Reduce Pollution & Protect the Environment (Injunctive Relief)	\$450,302,000	
Investments in Projects that Benefit the Environment & Public Health (Supplemental Environmental Projects)	\$850,600	
Civil Penalties Assessed	\$9,253,000	
Civil Enforcement and Compliance Activities		
Civil Judicial Enforcement Case Conclusions	6	
Final Administrative Penalty Orders	128	
Administrative Compliance Orders	36	

Tanks Storing or Treating Hazardous Waste

If your facility operates hazardous waste storage tanks, you are required to comply with tank system standards set forth in 40 CFR Part 265 subpart J. Wastewater holding tanks are regulated as hazardous waste storage tanks if the wastewater is disposed of as hazardous Tanks operated as part of a wastewater treatment system are exempt from Subpart J. Drums and totes are considered containers, not tanks, and are exempt from Subpart J.

Subpart J requires secondary containment for tank systems used to store hazardous waste. Secondary containment may be in the form of an external liner, a vault (containment area), or a double-walled tank. Liner and vault systems must be able to contain 100% of the capacity

of the largest tank within their boundary. They must also prevent runon or infiltra-

tion of rainwater, or have additional capacity to contain precipitation from a 25 year, 24-hour rainfall event. Additionally, vault systems must have an impermeable coating or lining that is compatible with the waste stored and that will prevent migration of waste into the concrete. Double-walled tanks must have corrosion protection and have a built-in, continuous leak detection system.

Hazardous waste tanks must have spill and overfill protection as detailed in 40 CFR 265.194. Uncovered tanks must have sufficient freeboard to prevent overtopping.



Unless the tank system meets the requirements for w e e k l y o r monthly inspections, operators must conduct and

document daily inspections.

Operators of hazardous waste tanks must comply with the requirements for response to leaks or spills detailed in 40 CFR 265.196. This includes immediate removal from service, containment and cleanup actions, and reporting the release to the EPA Regional Administrator within 24 hours of detection. A followup report must be submitted to the Regional Administrator with 30 days of detection. Releases that do not exceed one pound and are immediately contained and cleaned up are exempt from the notification requirement.

Texas Trouble

OSHA cited a Dallas plastics company and is proposing \$125,000 in penalties. The company has been cited for failing to develop, document, and utilize procedures to control potentially hazardous energy, using flexible cords and cables as a substitute for fixed wiring, preventing exposure to lead at concentrations greater than 50 micrograms per cubic meter of air over an eight hour period, and failing to implement engineering and work practice controls to reduce and maintain employee exposure to lead.

A plastics company in Calhoun County has been assessed \$67,675 for failing to prevent the storage of industrial solid waste in such a manner that would cause the discharge or imminent threat of discharge into or adjacent to waters in the state, failing to provide written notification for all waste management units, and failing to comply with tank require-

ments for storing or treating hazardous waste.

A metal coater in Harris County was assessed \$6,469 for failing to prevent

the disposal of hazardous waste at an unauthorized facility and for failing to update the facility's Notice of Registration.

A window blind manufacturer in Hidalgo County was assessed \$11,550 for failing to comply with the one year accumulation time limitation for storage of universal wastes, failing to conduct proper hazardous waste determinations and maintain them for at least three years on solid wastes stored at the facility, and for failing to manage industrial solid waste in a manner to prevent the discharge into or adjacent to waters in the state.

A dry abrasive cleaning facility in Ector County was as-



sessed \$950 for failing to obtain authorization prior to conducting dry abrasive blasting outdoors.

A sludge transporter in Victoria County was assessed \$3,080 for failing to deposit waste at a facility designated by or acceptable to the generators where the owner or operator of the facility agrees to receive the wastes and by failing to maintain records of collection and deposit.

A chemical manufacturer in Dallas County was assessed \$14,169 for failing to submit monthly effluent reports, failing to comply with permit requirements for a pretreatment permit, failing to complete a storm water pollution plan, and failing to comply with schedules of activities for attainment of water quality effluent limitations.

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The City of Grand Prairie is a proud partner of



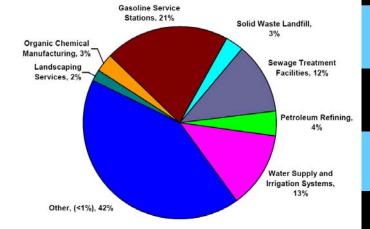
TCEQ FY2010 Enforcement Report

The TCEQ reports that its enforcement efforts resulted in 1,640 administrative orders issued with over \$11.3 million to be paid as penalties and over \$3.5 million to be expended for Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs). 27 civil judicial orders resulted in over \$2.1 million to be paid and more than \$1.3 million in SEPs.

TCEQ conducted over 111,000 routine investigations and nearly 5,000 complaints. More than 13,000

Notices of Violations were issued. The voluntary environmental self audit program resulted in response for 576 notices of intent to audit and 209 disclosures of violation. In criminal enforcement, there were 12 cases that resulted in convictions against 11 individuals and four corporations. The finalized cases included 30 felony charges and 11 misdemeanor charges.

Percent of Industry Types with Orders Issued



City of Grand Prairie

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This newsletter is a publication of: Environmental Services Department, Environmental Quality Division

Submit your comments / suggestions to:

Editor: Cindy Mendez Phone: 972.237.8225 Fax: 972.237.8228 Email: cmendez@gptx.org

Free E-Waste Recycling Event for Grand Prairie

Businesses and Residents



April 23, 2011, Saturday from 9 am to 2 pm For more information, contact Keep Grand Prairie Beautiful at 972-237-

8152. Please visit www.gptx.org/KGPB to learn more about the Clean Company Program.

Registration Form
Environmental Services Department
City of Grand Prairie
Environmental Compliance Workshop
"Stormwater Discharge Regulations"
Development Center
206 W. Church Street, 2nd Floor
February 3, 2011
9:30 am – 11:00 am

Company Name:	
Address:	
Telephone:	
Attendees:	

(Continental Breakfast Provided)

PLEASE RETURN BY MAIL OR FAX TO:

Environmental Services Department P.O. Box 534045 Grand Prairie, TX 75053-4045 Fax to: 972.237.8228

Fax to: 9/2.23/.0220

Waste Items Accepted: Computers and Laptops, Keyboards & Accessories, Printers, Copiers & Faxes, Hard Drives & Media Drives, All Cables, Wires, & Adapters, All Types of Consumer Electronics including VCR's, DVD's, CD's, etc., LCD Monitors, CRT Monitors, TVs, Telecom Equipment, Cell Phones & PDAs, Small Appliances

Waste Items NOT Accepted: Any Hazardous Material, Liquids, Broken Monitor Tubes, Ferrous Metals, Wood, Non-computer Plastic, Cars, Furniture, Car Batteries, Appliances with Refrigerant

Growing a Green Corporate Culture

Many of us are learning to be green at home. It's a natural extension to take similar measures at work, both to save energy and to create a healthier work environment. Green improvements at the workplace not only positively benefit air quality and our planet, but also have a huge impact on employee productivity. There are limitless possibilities to greening your work space. Here are some simple, basic improvements to consider:



Maximize computer efficiency - For many people, a computer is the central tool at work, but they also unnecessarily deplete \$1 billion worth of electricity a year. Which is

why optimizing the energy settings for computers and other devices can be more than a modest energy saver.

Think before you print - The average American office worker goes through 10,000 sheets of copy paper a year, which stacks up to 4 feet! It is rather ironic that in the digital age, we are still consuming large quantities of paper. The greenest paper is no paper at all so keep things digital and electronically.

Lights out! - Artificial lighting accounts for 44 percent of the electricity use in office buildings. The energy savings from 10 million office workers turning off unneeded lights for 30 minutes a day is enough to illuminate 4 million square meters of office space.

Clear the air - It's bad enough that we have to worry about air pollution every time we step outside. Indoor air pollution can be equally damaging to our health, and if you work in an office, cube or workshop, chances are you are being exposed to harmful air for long durations of time. Thankfully, there are ways to maintain healthy air flow inside

Office digs - Going green isn't only about buying recycled products. It's also about buying products that are made to last longer or reusing items you already have to keep them out of landfills.

For more information, visit airnorthtexas.org.