



H₂O LINE

City of Grand Prairie

Volume 5, Issue 4

2011

Environmental Compliance Meeting

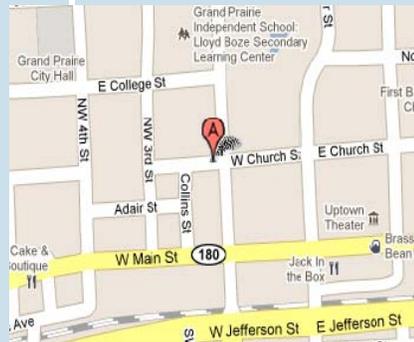
The Environmental Compliance meeting for this quarter will be **Wednesday, December 7, 2011** from 9:30 - 11:00 am at the Environmental Service Department office located in the **Development Center at 206 W. Church Street**. The Development Center is located across from City Hall at the intersection of Church and NW 2nd St. Take either of the outside staircases located on the east side of the building to the second floor. An elevator is also available.

The meeting topic will be **Environmental Compliance in the Real World: Strategies for**

Avoiding Liability. Craig Pritzlaff, Environmental Attorney with Curran Tomko Tarski LLP, will address the liabilities and risks companies face when dealing with environmental agencies or complying with environmental laws and some strategies entities can rely upon to avoid such risks and liabilities. The discussion will include case examples where well-managed entities with established environmental compliance programs found themselves facing costly government enforcement actions or pri-

vate lawsuits and the lessons learned from those matters.

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



Inside this issue:

Safe Pharmaceutical Disposal	2
P2 and Facility Energy Reduction	2
TCEQ Levies Fines	3
MSGP Monitoring Requirements	3
Yellowstone Oil Spill	3
Partner of the Year	4



North Texas Companies for Clean Air

North Texas companies are doing their part to improve air quality and our environment. From big efforts to small, every idea and every choice makes a difference. Perhaps their actions will inspire an idea that you can apply to your workplace.

DFW Airport

DFW Airport knows that air quality is an important environmental issue. They strive to reduce emissions by reducing mobile and stationary sources of emissions, using renewable sources of energy, and increasing energy efficiency.

In 2008, TCEQ recognized DFW Airport by accepting them into the Clean Texas Program - Platinum Level. They were the first Texas airport to receive this recognition and one of 12 organizations to have achieved TCEQ's highest award since the program's inception in 1992.

DFW Airport has reduced criteria air pollutant emissions by 87 percent since 1996. The following are just a few of the sustainable measures the airport follows or has implemented:

- Maintains a fleet of clean vehicles
- Has centralized bus opera-

tions which reduce the number of vehicles at the airport

- Improves Parking Control Plazas which reduces delays and vehicle idling
- Retrofits old or energy inefficient facilities
- Incorporates energy efficient techniques into new construction
- Sorts material from waste streams that can be recycled or reused
- Reuses excavated soil, concrete debris, and roof insulation in major construction projects

Learn more at Air-NorthTexas.org.

We're online!!!
www.gptx.org/
Environmental Quality



Creating raving fans by delivering world class service.





Safe Pharmaceutical Disposal

Improper pharmaceutical disposal has resulted in the detection of drugs in the drinking water supplies of 24 major metropolitan areas, according to a 2008 Associated Press report. Current water treatment systems are not specifically engineered to remove pharmaceuticals. High temperature incineration (i.e. above 1200 °C) is the preferred method for the disposal of unwanted or expired medication.

On October 12, 2010, President Obama signed the "Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010" into law.

This law authorizes pharmacies to take back controlled substances in addition to over-the-counter and prescription medicines. Prior to this, only law-enforcement agencies were authorized

to do so. In 2010, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) introduced the National Take Back Initiative for the Disposal of Prescription Drugs in which law enforcement agencies throughout the country accept unwanted medication. The most recent event was held on October 29, 2011. The Grand Prairie Police Department also participates in these events.



the Safe Medication Disposal Program, a customer can either buy a prepaid envelope to mail unwanted medications directly to the processing facility or they can drop it in boxes at participating pharmacies for free. The prepaid envelopes containing unwanted medications remain unopened and are locked in a DEA cage before being incinerated. Puncture proof containers for disposal of needles and syringes are also available under this program.

123,000 pounds of medications have been collected since the launch of this program. Pharmaceuticals collected are sent to the Sharps Compliance's Carthage, Texas facility where it is incinerated. Ash waste from incineration is used to make concrete pellets.

"123,000 pounds of medications have been collected since the launch of this program. "

Major pharmacies like Walgreens, Kroger, Rite-Aid, and CVS have partnered with Sharps Compliance Inc. to collect and safely dispose of unwanted medication. Sharps Compliance Inc. has also partnered with the Texas Pharmacy Association for the Texas Takeaway program. Under

compliance Inc. to collect and safely dispose of unwanted medication. Sharps Compliance Inc. has also partnered with the Texas Pharmacy Association for the Texas Takeaway program. Under

P2 and Facility Energy Reduction



- Institute an energy management program with risk management, cost control, quality assurance, employee recognition, and training.
- "Right-size" energy systems for the facility as a whole, e.g. upsizing cooling towers, while downsizing certain other components,

especially heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems.

- Design and operate redundant air handlers, scrubbers, and cooling tower units in parallel to reduce pressure drop and power requirements, yet provide backup capacity when needed.
- Sequence chillers for maximum efficiency.
- Install variable-frequency drives on fan motors (supply and exhaust) and other motors across the plant.
- Size the boiler plant to minimize energy use

while idle and eliminate boiler reheat requirements through heat recovery. (Different sized boilers - with integrated seasonal switchover - minimizes idle energy use during low-load periods).

- Minimize pressure drop in air delivery system with low-pressure-drop filters and lower face velocity unit coils.
- If vending machines are provided, install vendor misers and pull the lamps and ballasts from the machines.
- Instill a company policy to unplug cell phone/blackberry/radio chargers when batteries or devices are not being charged.
- Implement leak detection for compressed air, vacuums, and any specialty gas delivery systems.



LEAVE A GREEN IMPRESSION™

"Instill a company policy to unplug cell phone/blackberry/radio chargers..."



TCEQ Levies Fines



On November 2, 2011, the TCEQ announced penalties totaling \$934,026 against 66

regulated entities for violations of state environmental regulations.

Agreed orders were issued for the following enforcement categories: one agriculture, nine air quality, one Ed-

wards Aquifer, three field citations, one industrial hazardous waste, two industrial waste discharge, one multimedia, four municipal solid waste, eight municipal waste discharge, 18 petroleum storage tank, eight public water system, one utility, one wastewater operator, and one water quality.

In addition, default orders were issued for the following categories: one multimedia, three petroleum storage tank, and one public water system. Two addi-

tional petroleum storage tank cases were default and shutdown.

MSGP Monitoring Requirements

The reissued Multi-Sector General Permit for industries went into effect on August, 14, 2011. **Numeric effluent limits** for metals must be collected annually before December 31st of each year beginning with the calendar year that includes the first full quarter following submittal of an NOI and **quarterly visual observations** must be performed beginning with the first full

quarter following submission of an NOI. For those sectors required to conduct **benchmark monitoring**, semi-annual sampling must be initiated during the first monitoring period (January through June) in the first full calendar year following submittal of an NOI and then once during each semiannual monitoring period (i.e., January through June and July through December) dur-

Give the gift that won't keep on giving.



Get vaccinated this holiday season.

ing the next four years (note: a waiver is available for the third and fourth year). Results of analyses for sampling must be submitted to the TCEQ before March 31st of each year. See the permit for other possible **sector specific sampling requirements** which are due annually before December 31st of each year.

Yellowstone Oil Spill

On July 1, 2011, an ExxonMobil oil pipeline ruptured beneath the legendary Yellowstone River sending 1,000 barrels, or 42,000 gallons,



of crude oil downstream. The break near Billings in south-central Montana fouled the riverbank and forced temporary evacuations and irrigation districts to close intakes. The river has no dams on its way to its confluence with the Missouri River just across the Montana border in North Dakota.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) directed the response in close coordination with Exxon Mobil, the State of Montana, and other federal

agencies. Cleanup efforts were concentrated within 20 miles of the rupture, though oil was reported as far as 240 miles away.

At its peak more than 1,000 people were deployed to clean up the spilled oil along the banks of the Yellowstone River. Initial cleanup efforts included the following actions: daily aerial flights to identify monitor and direct clean up activity, deployment of small crews to walk shoreline areas to identify and clean up oil patches, and reconnaissance using boats and kayaks. In addition to clean up efforts, the EPA and ExxonMobil performed ongoing air, water, soil, and sediment monitoring.

ExxonMobil has not yet released the cost of the cleanup, but a preliminary estimate was \$42.5 million. The cost estimate includes \$40 million for emergency response work and \$2.5 million for damage to public and private property. The company valued the lost oil at \$100,000. Only about 420 gallons of the oil was recovered according to federal officials.

In September, oil resumed flowing through a new section of the pipeline, which ExxonMobil buried 60 to 70 feet beneath the riverbed. That change makes it far less likely that the pipeline will fail a second time. Exxon Mobil will continue monitoring daily stream flow conditions and institute shut down and isolation procedures if flow conditions exceed agreed upon thresholds.

City of Grand Prairie

Environmental Services Department
Environmental Quality Division
206 W. Church Street, 2nd Floor
Grand Prairie, TX 75050
Phone: 972.237.8055
Fax: 972.237.8228

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



Registration Form
Environmental Compliance Meeting
Environmental Services Department
City of Grand Prairie Development Center
206 W. Church, 2nd Floor

*Environmental Compliance in the Real World:
Strategies for Avoiding Liability*

December 7, 2011

9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

(Continental Breakfast 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



On November 10, 2011, the City of Grand Prairie was named Partner of the Year by Air North Texas. Air North Texas is a regional clean air partnership and campaign to:

- Provide a comprehensive air quality resource.
- Promote a consistent, regional air quality message.
- Leverage existing resources and program strengths in a collaborative effort.
- Increase public awareness of specific opportunities for residents to reduce emissions.
- Motivate residents to make clean air choices.

Learn more about this campaign at www.AirNorthTexas.org.