



H₂O Line

City of Grand Prairie

Volume 8, Issue 2

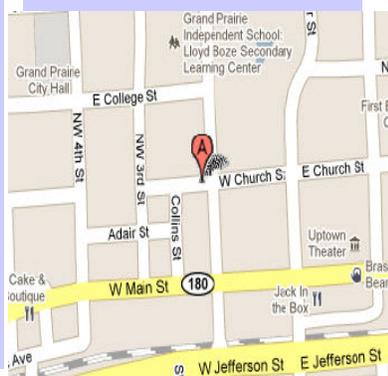
Spring 2014

Environmental Compliance Meeting Notice

Please join us on **Thursday April 24, 2014** for the next Environmental Compliance meeting. The meeting will be held 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.

Scott Deatherage, Attorney at Law with Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP, will be speaking on Current Issues in Air Permitting. Mr. Deatherage has practiced law in Texas for 25 years. His practice focuses on permitting, compliance, administrative law and judicial litigation, including air emissions, wetlands, wastewater discharges, hazardous waste, water rights and supply, hazardous substances, toxic substances, endangered species and environmental disclosure.

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



We're online!!!
www.gptx.org/EnvironmentalQuality

**Creating raving fans
by delivering
world class service.**

City Hosts Guys Night Out at AirHogs Baseball Game

Hey guys! The City of Grand Prairie is hosting a "Guys Night Out" at a AirHogs baseball game on June 17 at 7:05pm. Come out and increase your awareness of preventable health problems and encourage ear-



ly detection and treatment of diseases among men and boys. Learn how to maintain a healthy lifestyle and receive healthy eating tips and important information regarding men's health. Bring your friends, family and/or coworkers.

To attend the game and participate in the Get Fit activities, a general admission ticket of \$8 must be purchased at the AirHogs stadium. For tickets please go to www.airhogsbaseball.com. For additional information please go to www.gptx.org/getfitgp.

Inside this issue:

Pack a Waste-Free Lunch	2
Toxics Release Inventory	2
Texas Trouble	3
Don't Be a Mosquito Breeder	3
Water Rights Lawsuit against New Mexico	4
E3: Economy – Energy – Environment	4

EPA FY 2013 Enforcement & Compliance Numbers

In 2013, \$1.1 Billion in federal administrative and civil judicial penalties were collected (\$1 Billion came from Transocean for its liability for the Deepwater Horizon Gulf of Mexico Spill).

Of this amount, Walmart paid more than \$80 million to the EPA in fines and penalties for mishandling pesticides and hazardous waste.

Criminal fines and restitution for cases other than the Deepwater Horizon totaled \$187 million. The number of civil cases was 2,418.

In 2013, EPA Conducted 18,000 inspections/evaluations. Throughout the year, EPA enforcement actions:

- Resulted in more than \$7 Billion in actions and equipment to control pollution;
- Required companies to reduce pol-

lution by an estimated 1.3 billion pounds per year;

- Resulted in more than \$22 million in Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs); and
- Required companies to commit to treat, minimize, or properly dispose of 148 million pounds of hazardous waste





In the Break Room: Pack a Waste-Free Lunch

Save fuel: pack your lunch. By eliminating the drive to your local eatery, you can help reduce air-pollutant emissions. When packing your lunch, try using a reusable container that allows you to take home your leftovers. To save money and reduce waste, consider buying items in larger quantities, avoiding individually packaged items. Pack your lunch with realistic expectations of your hunger to prevent throwing out part of it.



ties.

Try Composting

Try setting up a bin in the break room to collect coffee grounds, vegetable scraps, and fruit scraps. Instead of throwing out those scraps and leftovers with the garbage, recycle them by composting. Compost serves as a soil conditioner that can help improve landscaping and reduce water usage.

Start the Day with Energy-Efficient Appliances

Set your coffeepots and other small appliances to use their built-in timers. Timers can start and stop coffee brewing at specific times. This helps save energy and keeps your coffee fresh. When replacing break-room appliances, consider energy-efficient models. To ensure you get the best product and environmental savings

to suit your needs, look for the ENERGY STAR symbol to compare water and energy usage.

Check for Leaks

Fix any leaks you find in office faucets and toilets. A faucet leaking one drop per second can waste up to 3,000 gallons of water each year. Toilets account for most of the water lost to leaks, and 25% of all toilets leak. Use a leak-detection dye tablet to check toilets; otherwise, you could waste about 200 gallons of water per toilet every day.

- See more at: <http://takecareoftexas.org/do-your-part/break-room#sthash.DizFTriB.dpuf>

Use Reusable Dishes

Stock your office kitchen or break rooms with reusable glasses, plates, and flatware instead of disposables. Encourage employees to reuse coffee mugs and dishes daily by washing and drying them on a dish rack. To further reduce waste, invite employees to bring their own tableware and napkins to office luncheons and par-



Toxics Release Inventory



The Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) is a mandatory EPA program tracking the management of certain toxic chemicals that may pose a concern to human health or the environment. US facilities in different industry sectors must report annually how much of each chemical is re-

leased to the environment and/or managed through recycling, energy recovery and treatment.

As of January 21, 2014, all facilities must submit TRI forms using the electronic reporting method via the EPA's website. Paper forms and CD-ROMs are no longer valid submission methods. Ensure your facility is TRI compliant to prevent violations and fines. Recently, facilities in Wyoming, Pennsylvania and Nevada respectively paid \$49,000, \$79,000 and \$278,000 for violations

associated with the use of hazardous chemicals, the failure to appropriately report chemicals used on site and improper waste management practices. The EPA makes available a variety of TRI access and analysis online tools for free to help industries track progress toward corporate sustainability goals and identify opportunities for cost savings. For more information, go to the EPA's website at www.epa.gov/tri.





Texas Trouble

An oil and gas service provider in Jim Wells County was assessed \$8,625 for failing to keep records of all hazardous and industrial solid waste activities regarding the quantities generated, stored, processed, and disposed of on-site or shipped off-site, failing to develop a complete drainage area site map for the TPDES Multi-Sector permit, failing to implement all pollution prevention practices determined necessary, reasonable, and effective by the storm water pollution prevention team and to prevent the discharge of industrial waste into or adjacent to water in the state, failing to document routine facility inspections, failing to inspect the rain gauge a minimum of once per week and once per day during storm events, failing to conduct the hazardous metals monitoring prior to December 31st, and failing to conduct a hazardous



waste determination on the solid waste generated at the facility.

A scrap metals processing facility in Harris County was assessed \$7,500 for failing to maintain authorization for the discharge of wastewater.

An unregistered sludge transporter in Montgomery County was assessed \$11,359 for failing to maintain authorization to transport septic tank waste and failing to submit an annual summary to the director.

An unregistered sludge transporter in Montgomery County was assessed \$11,359 ...

A scrap metal recycling and salvage facility in Nacogdoches County was assessed \$1,049 for failing to perform cleanup actions upon detection of a release of used oil and by failing to

monitor tires stored outside for vectors and utilize appropriate vector control at the facility at least once every two weeks.

A steel fabrication plant in Tom Green County was assessed \$1,125 for failing to obtain a permit or to meet the conditions of a permit by rule prior to conducting outdoor surface coating operations.

A powder coating facility in McLennan County was assessed \$1,500 for failing to obtain the proper authorization prior to conducting non-enclosed abrasive blasting.

A sandblasting and powder coating facility in Kerr County was assessed \$1,337 for failing to prevent nuisance dust conditions.

Don't Be a Mosquito Breeder

Mosquitoes live part of their lives in aquatic environments and breed in almost any body of water. By eliminating sites with stagnant water the potential for mosquito breeding and transmission is significantly reduced.

What you can do to help:

- Keep rain gutters free of debris and leaves
- Employees working outside should use an insect repellent containing DEET
- Repair leaky pipes, outdoor faucets, and ensure proper opera-

tion of sprinklers

- Cover or turn upside down any container that may collect water
- Old tires must be properly discarded or maintained covered
- Fill in or drain any low places (puddles, ruts) around your facility
- Cover trash containers to keep out rain water
- Keep drains, ditches, and culverts clean of weeds and trash, so water will drain properly
- Fill in any tree rot holes and hollow stumps that hold wa-

ter with sand or concrete

- Keep grass cut short and shrubbery well-trimmed around the facility, so adult mosquitoes don't have a place to hide

For additional information contact the Environmental Quality Division at 972-237-8056 or visit us on-line at www.gptx.org/fightthebite



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

Water Rights Lawsuit against New Mexico

On January 27, 2014, the US Supreme Court ruled that Texas can proceed with a lawsuit against New Mexico alleging that the state has violated the Rio Grande Compact. The Compact is an agreement between Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas, which was approved by Congress in 1938. The Compact regulates management of the water of the Rio Grande Basin. According to Texas, New Mexico is illegally depleting the Rio Grande's flow before it reaches the Texas/New Mexico state line. Texas charges that New Mexico has allowed increased groundwater pumping near the river and diversion of surface water from the river in violation of the Compact. However, New Mexico claims that according to the Compact, its only obligation is to deliver water to the Elephant Butte Reservoir, and that water usage between the Reservoir and the Texas state line is not governed by the Compact but by New Mexico law. Texas has allocated \$5 million for the legal battle in its fiscal 2014 budget.

Registration Form

Environmental Compliance Meeting

Environmental Services Department

City of Grand Prairie Development Center

206 W. Church, 2nd Floor

Air Permitting Issues

Thursday, April 24, 2014

9:30 a.m. 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

Email: ccuellar@gptx.org

E3: Economy – Energy – Environment

To compete in a green, global marketplace, manufacturers need to be smart, innovative and sustainable. E3 is a federal technical assistance framework helping manufacturers in this regard. In a rare unified move for federal agencies, EPA and five other agencies have pooled their resources together, supporting small and medium sized manufacturers with customized assessments. The Green Suppliers Network (GSN) of the Department of Commerce joining the E3 pool, provides new exciting opportunities to include the supply chains in this matrix, taking a great leap forward to enhance the program. An individual manufacturing facility undergoing a Green Suppliers Network assessment can:

1) Achieve additional savings and efficiencies beyond traditional lean tech-

niques by expert assessment of energy efficiency and environmental performance

2) Find customized solutions by identifying the root causes of waste and inefficiency.

A number of Grand Prairie industries have presented case studies demonstrating innovative ways to conserve energy and reduce waste during our quarterly meetings and annual awards programs. The E3 program promises to take it even further.

For more information: <http://www2.epa.gov/e3>

