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Grand Prairie

TEXAS

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Celebrate Earth Day

EVERY DAY

H₂O LINE

NEWSLETTER

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MEETING NOTICE


Come celebrate Earth Day as we enjoy a unique, exquisitely beautiful, and jaw-dropping documentary about birds in flight in their natural world. We will be meeting at the Uptown Theater located at 120 E Main St. on Tuesday, April 27th from 2-4 p.m. This documentary presents an epic portrait of winter bird migration. Filmed on all seven continents over four years, the footage is brought together into one portrait of a journey that's uniformly arduous for all kinds of different birds. Snacks and refreshments will be provided.

There is limited social distancing seating, so please register by faxing your registration to 972-237-8228 or emailing to jcason@gptx.org.

EARTH DAY QUIZ

- 

What year did the United States EPA declare greenhouse gasses a threat to public health?

 - a. 2009
 - b. 1972
 - c. 1985
 - d. 1994
- 

How much of air pollution comes from motor vehicles, like cars and trucks?

 - a. 80%
 - b. 50%
 - c. 30%
 - d. 20%

EVERY DAY

Save energy by doing a quick “one-minute scan” before you leave the house: Are all lights off? Are there any unused appliances you can unplug? Even small steps like this make a big impact over time.

ONCE A WEEK

Reduce pollution one day a week: Instead of driving your car: walk, bike, carpool, or take pubic transportation. You'll get great exercise as well as keep your carbon footprint as small as possible.

EVERY MONTH

Take a walk outside - bring a garbage bag and a napkin or gloves with you. While walking, pick up any trash you see (with the napkin or wearing gloves) and place it in your bag. When you arrive home, put all in a trash can or a recycle bin.

ONCE PER YEAR

Choose a day every year to gather your family, friends, co-workers or a group of people in your neighborhood to give back to the Earth. Do a service project that focuses on conservation rather than consumption.

OSHA RECORD KEEPING REQUIREMENTS

Employers with more than ten employees are required by OSHA to maintain a record of serious work-related injuries and illnesses, with certain low-risk industries exempted. However, all employers, with no exception, must report any worker fatality within 8 hours and any amputation, loss of an eye, or hospitalization of a worker within 24 hours. Within 7 calendar days after an employer receives information about a case, they must decide if the case is recordable under the OSHA recordkeeping requirements.

What is considered a recordable injury or illness? Any work-related injury or illness that results in loss of consciousness, days away from work, restricted work, transfer to another job, or requiring medical treatment beyond first aid. Any significant work-related injury or illness that is diagnosed by a physician or other licensed health care professional must be recorded. Additionally, COVID-19 is a recordable illness, and thus employers are responsible for recording cases of COVID-19 if there is a confirmed case that is work-related. Employers must establish whether the case was work related. Work-relatedness is presumed for injuries and illnesses resulting from events or exposures occurring in the workplace.



If the case is recordable, the employer will fill out an injury and illness incident report on OSHA's 301: Injury and Illness Incident Report or an equivalent form. All records must be maintained on-site for a minimum of five years. Additionally, every February through April, employers must post a summary of the injuries and illnesses recorded the previous year. Current and former employees may also request copies of the records.

For more information, visit OSHA's recordkeeping and reporting requirements webpage here: www.osha.gov/recordkeeping

THE STATE OF RECYCLING

After a challenging 2020, 2021 promises to be a year in flux for the Waste/Recycling sector. Factors driving the industry this year include increased pressure on consumer brands to increase recycling efforts and boost recycled content, competitive rearrangement due to numerous mergers and acquisitions in 2020, and the change in policy from the new federal administration.

The increasing attention being given to how brands manage their environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) goals could drive a marked increase in new fleet technology, enhanced emissions management systems, and new equipment to give industrial companies more organics processing capabilities. The new administrations outlook on antitrust policy will help decide whether the wave of mergers and acquisitions started in 2020 continue into the current year. Some areas and states will face less competition, while other areas will likely see an increase as newly merged companies move into new territory.

PFAS is also a large concern for the industry as it had to work out how to deal with the problematic substances while it awaits a stable regulatory framework to work around. The EPA has released draft disposal guidelines but more action is expected from the current administration.



Another driver for the industry is how to ramp up domestic capabilities for paper and plastic waste that used to go to foreign countries before import bans were put into place. Work at materials recovery facilities (MRF) seeks to better utilize plastic films, plastic bags and polypropylene, North American paper mills have announced 28 projects since 2018 to boost increased recycled paper capacity.



Electrification of fleets is likely to move forward this year, while the industry is hopeful technology improvements can help deal with the large safety and efficiency issues within the industry. The industry is also grappling with how to increase diversity and deal with issues such as hazard pay for the frontline workforce.



MULTI-SECTOR GENERAL PERMIT (MSGP)

The 2016 Texas Pollution Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Multi Sector Generator Permit (MSGP) – TXR050000 **expires on August 14, 2021** and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is currently reviewing the proposed permit as a part of renewal process. The MSGP authorizes point source stormwater discharges associated with industrial activities and certain non-stormwater discharges to surface waters in the state.

EPA has approved the proposed 2021 MSGP on August 18, 2020 and the 30-day public comment period has been closed since January 14, 2021. The TCEQ plans to prepare response to public comments by March 2021. The 90-day permit renewal period is scheduled to end on November 12, 2021.

The principal changes in the proposed permit are as follows:

- North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes are added for consistency with the EPA's MSGP, and SIC code descriptions are updated to be consistent with Occupational Health and Safety Administration's (OSHA's) descriptions.
- Provisional coverage after the postmark date for paper applications is changed from 7 days to 48 hours.
- Delegation of Signatories Letters needs to be submitted through STEERS.
- Additional items are added to the Notice of Intent, including sector-specific activities with Numeric Effluent Limitation Guidelines, discharging a pollutant of concern, and active/inactive facility status.
- A Notice of Change is required for new items such as changing status of a facility, changing outfall locations, requesting permission to stop benchmark monitoring after two years, and requesting waiver from hazardous metals monitoring.
- Facilities eligible to waive Benchmark monitoring in Years 3 & 4 must submit an NOC for approval.
- Permittees are required to post a sign or other notice of permit coverage in a location where it is safely and readily available for viewing by the general public, local, state, and federal authorities.
- Facilities that handle pre-production plastic must include activities in the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWP3) that will be implemented to ensure that areas of the facility that can contribute plastic pollutants to stormwater discharges are maintained in a clean and orderly manner.
- Sector Y operators shall prevent the possibility of discharging plastic materials, including at a minimum virgin and recycled plastic resin pellets, powders, flakes, powdered additives, regrind, scrap, waste, and recycling material, in stormwater discharges from the facility by implementing control measures (or their equivalents).
- SWP3 must include documentation of the criteria used to claim a waiver from monitoring hazardous metals.
- Sector J (Mineral Mining and Processing Facilities) facilities must implement BMPs to control off-site vehicle tracking of sediments, generation of dust, dewatering of trenches and excavations, and pumping or dewatering of standing water.
- Made clarifications to Sector L (Landfills) to be consistent with regulations for solid waste. Added a definition for "Final" and "Intermediate" Cover; replaced "trenches" with "units" and added that the site map also needs to depict inactive solid waste landfill cells or units.
- Adjusted benchmark values based on data collected during the 2017-2019 permit years:
 - Sector T (Treatment works): Benchmark value for biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) is now 15 mg/L.
 - Sector U (Food and Kindred Products) (SIC codes 2074-2079): Benchmark value for Total suspended solids is now 50 mg/L
- Changes to Monitoring and Reporting Requirements, including clarification of how to report sampling and monitoring results under eReporting/NetDMR (benchmark, sector-specific numeric effluent limitations, hazardous metals, and pollutants of concern).

For more information about the MSGP Renewal and updates, visit the following webpages:

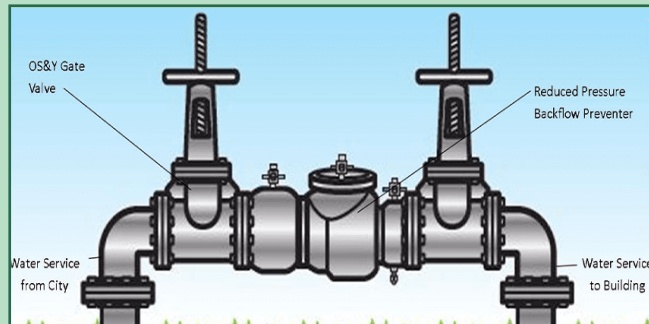
<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/stormwater/industrial/index>

https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/stormwater/stormwater_stakeholders_group.html

STAYING COMPLIANT WITH BACKFLOW ASSEMBLIES

The City of Grand Prairie's Code of Ordinances Chapter 13 Article X – Cross Connection Control and Prevention outlines the requirements of testing of all backflow assemblies.

- Your facility is required to test backflow assemblies annually during the same month every year.
- A notice is sent 30 days in advance with a list of your current assemblies.
- A notice of violation will be sent after the month your assemblies are due if any assemblies have not been tested.
- Failed assemblies need to be repaired or replaced and retested immediately and within 3 weeks of notice of violation.
- Failure to comply with these notices will result in increased enforcement actions including fines, judicial proceedings and/or termination of water services.



If you are worried about being in compliance or have any questions call 972-237-8055 or email backflow@gptx.org for all questions.

JOIN UTA FOR EARTH DAY

*You're invited to join UTA in celebrating their
Annual Earth Day event
with FREE training, networking, and professional
development!*

Thursday | April 22, 2021 from 8:00 AM – 3:15 PM

Link to the event:

<https://web.cvent.com/event/d62b06eb-4737-4a5a-b94f-ff41b41e901e/summary>

Environmental Compliance Meeting
Registration Form

"Winged Migration" at Uptown Theatre

Uptown Theatre
120 E. Main Street
Tuesday, April 27, 2021,
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Attendees: _____

PLEASE RETURN TO:
Environmental Services Department
P.O. Box 534045
Grand Prairie, TX 7503-4045
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ANSWERS TO EARTH DAY QUIZ:

2. Correct Answer: B

1. Correct Answer: A

This newsletter is a publication of:
Environmental Services Department
Environmental Quality Division
Submit your comments and suggestions to:

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