

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING AND A PROPOSED RENEWAL WITH AMENDMENT OF GENERAL PERMIT TXG920000 AUTHORIZING THE DISCHARGE OF WASTES FROM CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ or commission) is proposing to renew and amend Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State General Permit TXG920000. This general permit authorizes the discharge of manure, sludge, and wastewater into or adjacent to water in the state by Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) only during chronic or catastrophic rainfall events, or catastrophic conditions that cause an overflow. This general permit is authorized by Texas Water Code, §26.040 and under provisions of federal Clean Water Act §402.

DRAFT GENERAL PERMIT. The executive director has prepared a draft general permit renewal, with amendments, of an existing general permit that authorizes the discharge of manure, sludge, and wastewater into or adjacent to water in the state by CAFOs properly designed, constructed, operated, and maintained under the provisions of this general permit. Manure, sludge, and wastewater generated by a CAFO shall be retained and used in an appropriate and beneficial manner as provided in this general permit. No significant degradation of high-quality waters is expected and existing uses will be maintained and protected. The executive director requires regulated entities to submit a Notice of Intent, for a large CAFO, and a Nutrient Management Plan to obtain authorization under the general permit.

The executive director has reviewed this action for consistency with the goals and policies of the Texas Coastal Management Program (CMP) according to General Land Office regulations and has determined that the action is consistent with applicable CMP goals and policies.

On the date that this notice is published, a copy of the draft general permit and fact sheet will be available for a minimum of 30 days for viewing and copying at the TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk located at the TCEQ Austin office, at 12100 Park 35 Circle, Building F. These documents will also be available at the TCEQ's 16 regional offices and on the TCEQ website at

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/general/index.html>

PUBLIC COMMENT/PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments about this general permit in writing or orally at the public meeting held by the TCEQ. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide an opportunity to submit comments and to ask questions about the general permit. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing. The public comment period will end at the conclusion of the public meeting.

The public meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m., February 20, 2024, TCEQ, 12100 Park 35 Circle, Building F, Room 2210, Austin, Texas 78753.

Written public comments must be received by the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, TCEQ, PO Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087 or electronically by selecting comment about pending permit applications at <http://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/> by the end of the public comment period on February 20, 2024.

APPROVAL PROCESS. After the comment period, the executive director will consider all the public comments and prepare a written response. The response will be filed with the TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at least 10 days before the scheduled commission meeting when the commission will consider approval of the general permit. The commission will consider all public comments in making its decision and will either adopt the executive director's response or prepare its own response. The commission will issue its written response on the general permit at the same time the commission issues or denies the general permit. A copy of any issued general permit and response to comments will be made available to the public for inspection at the agency's Austin office. A notice of the commissioners' action on the draft general permit and information on how to access the response to comments will be mailed to each person who submitted a comment. Also, a notice of the commission's action on the draft general permit and the text of its response to comments will be published in the *Texas Register*.

MAILING LISTS. In addition to submitting public comments, you may ask to be placed on a mailing list to receive future public notices mailed by the TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk. You may request to be added to: 1) the mailing list for this specific general permit; 2) the permanent mailing list for a specific county; or 3) both. Clearly specify the mailing lists to which you wish to be added and send your request to the TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address previously mentioned. Unless you otherwise specify, you will be included only on the mailing list for this specific general permit.

INFORMATION. If you need more information about this general permit or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, toll free, at 1-800-687-4040. General information about the TCEQ can be found at our website at: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/>.

Further information may also be obtained by calling Ms. Joy Alabi, Water Quality Division, at 512-239-1318.

Si desea información en Español, puede llamar 1-800-687-4040.

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