

Water Quality

[The Clean Rivers Program](#) of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is a state fee-funded program for water quality monitoring, assessment, and public outreach. It provides citizens the opportunity to approach water quality issues within a watershed or river basin at the local and regional level. River basin authorities in our region include the [Sulphur River Basin Authority](#), [Red River Authority](#), [Riverbend Water Resources District](#), and the [Northeast Texas Municipal Water District](#).

TCEQ lists disposal methods for [household hazardous waste](#) such as pesticides, paints, cleaners and batteries. Information on how to dispose of [used motor oil and oil filters](#) is also available through the TCEQ website. [Pet waste](#) can also cause water pollution when it is not disposed of properly. Yard waste and grass clippings can also pollute our waters. These materials can be used as [compost](#).

TCEQ Water Quality Information

- [Texas Commission on Environmental Quality \(TCEQ\) homepage](#)
- [TCEQ Water Quality Publications](#)
- [TCEQ's Nonpoint Source \(NPS\) Education](#)
- [TCEQ's NPS Home Page](#)
- [Managing Small Domestic Wastewater Systems](#)
- [Report to the Governor: 2017 Public Water System Capacity Development Program](#)

Regulatory Guidance

Listed below are TCEQ publications either new or revised from July thru September 2023. You can find them online at www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/search-pubs.

- **RG-640, Seawater Desalination for Public Water Systems (JUL,2023)**
This guidance explains how seawater desalination for public drinking water is regulated in Texas, and what is required for a public water system to receive approval of a seawater desalination project.
- **RG-590, Guidance for Public Water System Water Haulers (AUG,2023)**
Rules, approvals, and operations for new and existing potable water haulers.
- **RG-631, Public Water Systems - Temporary Conversions to Free Chlorine (SEP,2023)**
This guidance explains how to perform a successful free chlorine conversion to address nitrification in a distribution system. The publication is intended for public water systems that normally carry a chloramine residual through distribution.
- **RG-637, Guidance for Resiliency Training Requirements for Water Operators (SEP,2023)**
Severe Winter Storm, Uri, caused widespread water outages and equipment failures, disrupting drinking water systems. Senate Bill 3, relating to preparing for, preventing, and responding to weather emergencies passed. As a result, resiliency training was developed for all water operators.

- **GI-433, How to Sample Your Well Water and Understand the Results (JUL,2023)**
How to properly collect a water sample from your well, send it to an approved lab for testing, and review the results.
- **GI-433/ESP, Como Muestrear Su Agua para Contaminantes Bacteriologicos y Entender los Resultados (How to Sample Your Well Water and Understand the Results) (JUL,2023)**
Como correctamente recolectar una muestra de agua de su pozo, enviarla a un laboratorio aprobado para pruebas y revisar los resultados.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Links and Resources

- [Environmental Protection Agency](#)
- [Septic Systems General Information](#)
- [EPA Homeowner's Guide to Septic Systems \(long guide\) .pdf](#)
- [EPA Homeowner's Guide to Septic Systems \(short guide\) .pdf](#)
- [EPA Septic System Checklist](#)
- [Surf Your Watershed](#)
- [Region 6 Water Programs](#)
- [EPA's NPS Outreach Toolbox](#)
- [Guidance for Resiliency Training Requirements for Water Operators](#)
- [Release Detection and Inventory Control for Underground Storage Tanks](#)
- [Pharmaceutical Waste Management for Very Small Quantity Generators](#)
- [Texas Groundwater Protection Committee: Report to the 88th Legislature](#)
- [Priority Groundwater Management Areas and Groundwater Conservation Districts: Report to the 88th Legislature](#)
- [Managing Nonpoint Source Pollution in Texas: 2022 Annual Report](#)

Grow Green Materials

- Available in print from ATCOG offices. Please contact 903.832.8636.

Other Water Quality Links

- [Natural Resource Conservation Service \(NRCS\) in Texas](#)
- [Texas Water Resources Institute Watershed Planning](#)
- [Texas Water Development Board](#)
- [USGS Water Watch](#)
- [Direct Potable Reuse for Public Water Systems](#)

Water Quality Resources for Students and Teachers

- [EPA Water Curriculum](#)
- [EnviroLink Water Quality](#)
- [Water Quality Theme Page](#)

Water Quality Management Planning

[Region D Planning Group](#)

Texas Stream Team Support

In 2006 the Ark-Tex Council of Governments received a grant from International Paper Company in the amount of \$1,000.00 through the I.P. Giving Program for the purpose of supporting local volunteer water quality monitoring efforts. The funds were utilized to purchase water testing kits and supplies for the local chapter of the Texas Watch, now officially known as the Texas Stream Team, based at Texarkana College and coordinated by Delores McCright, Professor of Biology. All data collected by the volunteers is submitted to Texas State University to be compiled and ultimately provided to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, in an effort to more effectively monitor the waterbodies within the State of Texas.

In 2013 and 2015, the Ark-Tex Council of Governments received a total of \$4,000.00 from the I.P. Giving Grant Program to further enhance our ability to support and expand the Texas Stream Team Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring activities. As a result, Delores McCright has been able to expand the TST Monitoring Program to include two additional counties within the ATCOG Region and has recruited and trained dozens of additional monitors. These activities are essential in maintaining the quality of our regional waterbodies for future generations.

American Recovery Reinvestment Act Project

This is a water stimulus grant through Texas Commission on Environmental Quality under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The goal of this project is to strengthen the existing and build new volunteer surface water quality monitoring efforts in the nine-county ATCOG region. The training in water quality monitoring will build on local knowledge, thereby strengthening the ability of ATCOG-area residents to participate in the protection of their water resources. ATCOG will partner with the local chapter of the Texas Stream Team at Texarkana College in this effort. The ARRA 604B funds will allow ATCOG to provide a range of programmatic support tailored to meet the needs of the different groups.

The grant time period is November 2009 through August 2011.