



Westward Environmental, Inc.

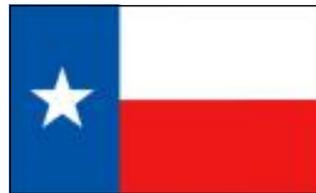
“Solutions for the Preservation of Industry and Environment”

The Coastal Management Program

By *Ethan Ditmanson*

In Texas, the management of the coastal natural resources is known as the Coastal Management Program (CMP). The State of Texas receives federal funding annually to implement projects and programs associated with the CMP. Originally based on the Coastal Coordination Act of 1991 (as amended by the Texas Legislature), the CMP is designed to make coastal decision-making processes more effective and efficient. A networked program, the CMP operates primarily through nine state agencies, including:

- Texas General Land Office (GLO);
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ);
- Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD);
- Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT);
- Texas Historical Commission; Public Utility Commission;
- Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB); and
- Texas Water Development Board.



(Continued on Page 2)

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Inside this issue:

Coastal Management Problem	1
TXG11 Update	1
Direct & Indirect Accident Costs	2
Aggregate Volume Calculations	2
Construction SWP3 (TXR15 Summary)	3
The Probability for Weather	3
Water Safety Reminder	4
Dates to Remember	4
Westward Information	4

TXG110000 Update

TCEQ is currently working on the formal Response to Comments received from the Public Notice (comment period ended June 20th). If significant changes to the permit are made as a result of these comments, the draft permit will have to be re-submitted to EPA. There is a real possibility of this happening.

TCEQ is unable to say when the Response to Comments will be completed. However, it is unlikely that a permit will be issued this year.

The main issues being discussed internally by TCEQ include:

- Industry has requested separate water quality limitations on process water and storm water. While TCEQ understands industry’s standpoint, especially as a facility could operate under an MSGP and a TXG110000 concurrently and have these separate limitations, it is not clear whether the TCEQ will buy into the arrangement for this permit issuance.
- Industry has requested that toxicity testing (WET) be required only on process water discharges. The requirement is driven by EPA and it is unclear whether the TCEQ has the authority to modify the requirements established by EPA.



JULIE MORELLI
Environmental
Specialist & Geologist

At this point, the TCEQ indicates that storm water inspectors are aware that concrete production facilities are in a predicament. The recommendation is to obtain a MSGP for storm water discharges and to reuse, recycle, or haul offsite any wastewater. **DO NOT DISCHARGE** wastewater without an individual permit, which is currently the only recognized authorization for wastewater discharges from concrete production facilities. Furthermore, it is suggested that a copy of the TXG110000 permit be kept at the site and used as operating guidelines (excluding discharging wastewater which is NOT allowed).

NOTE: THERE IS LIABILITY IN OPERATING UNDER THE REQUIREMENTS OF AN EXPIRED PERMIT AND TO MINIMIZE RISK, ALL PERMITTEES SHOULD FOLLOW THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PERMIT AUTHORIZATION THEY HAVE RECEIVED.

A copy of the comments received from the public can be received through a request from the Chief Clerks office. There is likely to be a copy and shipping charge.

Finally, as a general TCEQ staffing update, Chris Linnendoll is the Water Quality Wastewater Permitting Section Manger. David Waterstreet has replaced Steve Ligon as the Storm Water and Pretreatment Team Leader, as Steve has moved on to the Air Division. There are four members of TCEQ staff working storm water general permits under Mr. Waterstreet. Yvonna Pierce is the only person working the wastewater general permits and she is the primary contact for the TXG110000 permit.

Please contact Julie Morelli for more information: jmorelli@westwardenv.com

(The Coastal Management Program - Continued from Page 1)

The GLO, TCEQ, RRC and TPWD are chiefly responsible (pursuant to their authority) for policy implementation regarding coastal development and to protect critical wetlands and aquatic habitats. Water quality standards, Section 401 certifications, submerged lands approval and permits for dredging and mining are some of the programs managed by these agencies.

Nineteen coastal counties: Cameron, Willacy, Kenedy, Kleberg, Nueces, San Patricio, Aransas, Refugio, Calhoun, Victoria, Jackson, Matagorda, Brazoria, Galveston, Harris, Chambers, Liberty, Jefferson, and Orange counties exist within the CMP boundary. The CMP boundary extends into the Gulf of Mexico, to the states territorial limit, approximately 10.3 miles seaward of the Gulf shoreline.

The goal of the CMP is to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance the diversity, quality, quantity, functions, and values of coastal natural resource areas; to ensure sound management of all coastal resources by allowing for compatible economic development and multiple human uses of the coastal zone; to ensure and enhance planned public access to and enjoyment of the coastal zone in a manner that is compatible with private property rights; and to balance these competing interests.

Regulated entities, facilities, or activities (construction, asphalt plants, concrete batch plants, quarries, dredging operations, etc.) are in compliance with the CMP providing they are in compliance with the authoritative networked agencies rules and regulations. For example, if a project area exists within the CMP boundary and the nature of the project requires a permit (waste, water, air, etc.) the regulated entity is in compliance with the CMP provided it obtains the necessary permits from the authoritative networked agency (TCEQ, GLO, RRC, etc.).

If the facility does not obtain the proper and necessary permits, then it is not only out of compliance with the authoritative agency, but also the CMP. By making sure that the proper permits from the nine networked and authoritative agencies are obtained and adhered to, compliance with the CMP can be obtained. If you have questions about your regulation by or compliance with the CMP, please give us a call. Our experienced staff can help answer your questions!

Direct and Indirect Accident Costs

By Daniel Spencer

How much do accidents cost? Can the direct and indirect cost of accidents put your business in the red?

What would be the total cost for *your* company to pay for a \$500 accident? An asphalt paving company would have to lay 900 feet of two-lane road. A contractor would have to pour and finish 3,000 square feet of concrete. A ready-mix company would have to deliver 20 loads of concrete.

The so-called "direct costs" of an accident are your workers' compensation insurance premiums, typically 1 to 2 percent of total payroll, and indemnity payments for the injured or ill worker. These tangible costs are often referred to as the "tip of the iceberg."

"In-direct costs" account for the majority of the money associated with an accident and make up the rest of the iceberg. Studies show the ratio of direct to indirect cost can vary from a high of 1:20 to a low 1:1. Most insurance companies use a ratio of 1:4. These costs may include: legal fees; increased premiums; time spent by employees investigating the accident; time spent processing the compensation forms; settling claims from the accident; uninsured medical cost paid by the company; learning period for new employee to replace injured employee; overtime paid due to loss productivity; unhappy customers due to loss productivity; decreased productivity of injured employee when he/she returns to work; clean-up time after accident; cost to replace or repair damaged equipment; cost to rent equipment; public liability claims; and cost for employees that stopped to watch, assist, or talk about the accident.

It is easy to view safety as a non-revenue generating entity and as the cost of doing business. But a comprehensive safety program that address regulatory requirements, working conditions, and employee culture and behavior can help ensure that your employees return home to their families safely every night and help to keep your company in the black.

Sources: OSHA, Business Roundtable, The National Safety Council.



SERGIO MARTINEZ
Civil Engineer

I'm responsible for preparing site maps, and any other G.I.S. related tasks using Computer Assisted Drafting as well as G.P.S. methodologies, and Civil Engineering related tasks. Please contact me if you need my assistance: smartinez@westwardenv.com



CHRIS DOREMUS
Environmental
Field Specialist



WILLIAM BROWN
Field Technician



LANCE SIMMONS
Exploration
Technician

Aggregate Volume Calculations: A Powerful Tool

By Doug Knell

An orchestrated explosion sends a ripple through the earth. Shot rock tumbles to the quarry floor. Another successful blast and two thousand tons of shot rock now waits anxiously to meet the impact crusher and venture out into the world of infrastructure.

Have you ever wondered how long that quarry face will exist? How many more successful blasts are yet to come?

With the aid of powerful software and geophysical and geologic experience plus a few boreholes to confirm reserves estimates, a mining plan can be created that will help you plan for the future. A reserves analysis is an estimate of the quality and quantity of aggregate material on your site. It can be a powerful tool for the aggregate producer.

If you are interested in a Reserves Analysis, creating a Mining Plan, or have any other volumetric needs or questions please contact us. We will be happy to assist.

Construction SWPPP (TXR150000 Summary)

As you drive down the road you see more and more development. Every time you see the construction of a new subdivision, building, or road, you are watching the installation of infrastructure necessary to accommodate our growing population. The trucks carrying hot-mix asphalt, ready-mix concrete, and aggregates are holding the building blocks necessary to facilitate the growth of our great nation. And the one thing each new construction site has in common is the requirement to manage runoff to prevent pollution in our creeks, lakes, and waterways. In Texas, runoff from construction sites is regulated by the TPDES Construction General Storm Water Permit (TXR150000).

Before construction begins, most site owners or operators are required to submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to discharge runoff from their construction site and develop a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWP3). How do you know if your construction activity needs to be permitted? What do you do once you have a permit? What do you do when you're finished with construction? In the seemingly endless tangle of regulations, here is a general summary.

Small vs Large Construction Activities

At the beginning of any construction project, ask yourself, "Will I be demolishing, constructing, clearing, grading or excavating (land disturbing activities) an area of at least one acre, but less than five acres?" Make sure you include equipment parking areas, materials storage areas, and haul roads. If the answer is yes, then your project is a *small construction activity* that requires a permit. What if you're project is less than an acre, but you are working within a larger area of development. For example, you're building a batch plant on a ¼ acre inside the airport, where another contractor is building the tarmac around your project site. If the total area of land disturbed, including your project site and the adjacent contractor's project site, is at least an acre, but less than five acres, then your small construction activity requires a permit (part of a greater common plan of development).

If you read the paragraph above and your project's total acreage (or the greater common plan of development) is over five acres, then your project is a *large construction activity* that requires a permit. There are differences in the specific requirements for operators of small vs large construction activities, but in all cases, some level of runoff management and regulatory notification is required.

Most construction projects require some level of permitting. Construction activities that are inspected and found to be out of compliance with the requirements of the TPDES program can be shut down! Don't let this happen to you! If you think you need a permit, we can help you:

- Determine the level of permitting that is required for your site (if any);
- Develop a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWP3);
- Submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and other required parties (if any);
- Meet Signage Requirements at your project site;
- Implement the SWP3, including training you and your employees on how to meet the requirements of the rules; and
- Terminate the permit coverage upon final stabilization.

Please contact Matt Bellos for more information: mbellos@westwardenv.com

The Probability for Weather

By David Knollhoff

The probability for weather every day is one hundred percent. It affects us all on a daily basis. People turn on their television, look at the newspaper, listen to the radio or view internet data to access weather information. Weather information is a tool to help us decide what type of clothing should be worn and how to plan the activities for the day or even for the entire week. Essentially people want to know when wet weather will occur and what high and low air temperatures will be observed. Additionally, private industries (i.e. aggregates, construction, paving, etc.) not only need a wide variety of weather information, but they need accurate and precise site-specific weather forecasts to make critical operational decisions, maximize production, save money and at the same time help protect the environment.

Real-time weather data can be found on the internet twenty four hours a day all year long at no cost to the public. Doppler radar and satellite loop images, wind speed measurements, temperature observations, short-term weather forecasts and long-term weather

forecasts can be found on the National Weather Service website (www.srh.noaa.gov) and on the National Center for Atmospheric Research website (www.rap.ucar.edu/weather/). The Westward Environmental Inc., website (www.westwardenv.com) will soon display webpage links to useful weather data.

NOAA weather radio (NWR) is another useful weather information tool. It is a nationwide radio broadcast system that offers continuous weather information from a nearby National Weather Service office twenty four hours a day. All types of weather information is broadcast on the system including hourly meteorological observations, weather forecasts, advisories, watches, warnings, earthquake and volcanic eruption data, environmental spills, AMBER alerts and even Homeland Security announcements.

Accurate weather forecasts of wind speed, temperature, precipitation amount and precipitation start and end times are usually the most important meteorological needs for the aggregates, construction and paving industries. Some of these companies contract out to private weather forecast companies that meet such needs. Additionally, Westward Environmental, Inc. is developing a weather forecast service to meet those needs. We

will soon send out a weather survey to our clients to establish needs and wants.

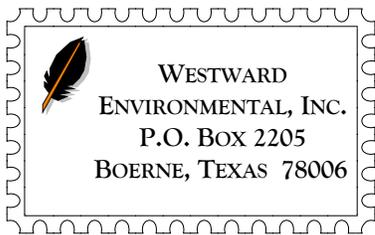
Weather patterns also play an important role on how air pollutants disperse in the lower portion of the atmosphere. Air dispersion modeling is used to calculate maximum predicted concentrations of air pollutants emitted from industrial facilities (i.e., hot mix asphalt plants, concrete batch plants, rock crushing plants, etc.). At Westward Environmental, Inc. we will write your air permit application and perform any air dispersion modeling required for an air permit.

This newsletter article on weather will be followed by upcoming articles related to weather forecasting and air dispersion modeling. Please stay tuned and send comments to: dknollhoff@westwardenv.com



**DAVE
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"Westward
Weatherman"



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DATES TO REMEMBER

Nov. 8 & 9—2005 Highway Letting

Dec. 6 & 7—2005 Highway Letting

??? - When is your SWP3 Annual Compliance Evaluation Due

??? - MSHA facilities, when is your Earth Resistance Test Due

??? - Is your annual refresher training current

*If you need help with any of the above items,
please contact Westward Environmental, Inc.*

Water Safety Reminder

MSHA - 30 CFR 56.15020 Life Jackets and Belts

“Life jackets or belts shall be worn where there is a danger from falling into water.”

If your company has operations on or near water remember:
Never work around water alone.

A boat and life jackets should be provided.

Follow proper lockout/tagout procedures on equipment.

Heavy clothing and tool belts act like an anchor if you should fall into a body of water.

ALWAYS WEAR A LIFE JACKET AROUND WATER

A Balance of the Environment and Industry

Summary of Services

- Air, Water & Groundwater Permitting
- Stormwater Permits and Plans (SWP3)
- Waste Water Discharge Permitting
- Water Resource Management
- Visible Emissions Testing
- Phase I/II Environmental Site Assessments
- Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures Plans (SPCC)
- Facility Specific Overall Compliance Programs & Audits
- Endangered Species and Wetland Programs/Surveys
- Geologic Surveys and Reserves Analysis
- Mine Plan Development
- Quarry Plans
- Mold Surveys
- Safety, Health, and Environmental Training Programs
- Employee Exposure Monitoring

For more information, please contact:

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