



38th Texas Environmental Superconference

August 6, 2026

Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES)

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is federally delegated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to implement the TPDES program to control discharges of pollutants to surface waters of the United States.

TPDES permits are developed under Chapter 26 of the Texas Water Code, which authorizes TCEQ to set requirements in a permit before an entity discharges wastewater into the surface waters of the State.

TCEQ prepares TPDES permits that comply with state and federal water quality rules and regulations:

- **Individual authorizations**
- **General permits**

Texas Land Application Permit (TLAP)

Discharges adjacent to waters in the state (commonly referred to as land application) are authorized by Texas Land Application Permits under Texas Water Code (TWC) Chapter 26. TLAPs are developed to ensure groundwater protection and to prevent discharge to surface water.

TCEQ prepares TPDES permits that comply with water quality rules and regulations:

- **Individual authorizations**
- **General permits**

Types of Disposal Systems:

- **Surface irrigation**
- **Subsurface irrigation**
- **Subsurface area drip dispersal system (SADDs)**
- **Total evaporation**

Individual vs. General Permit Options

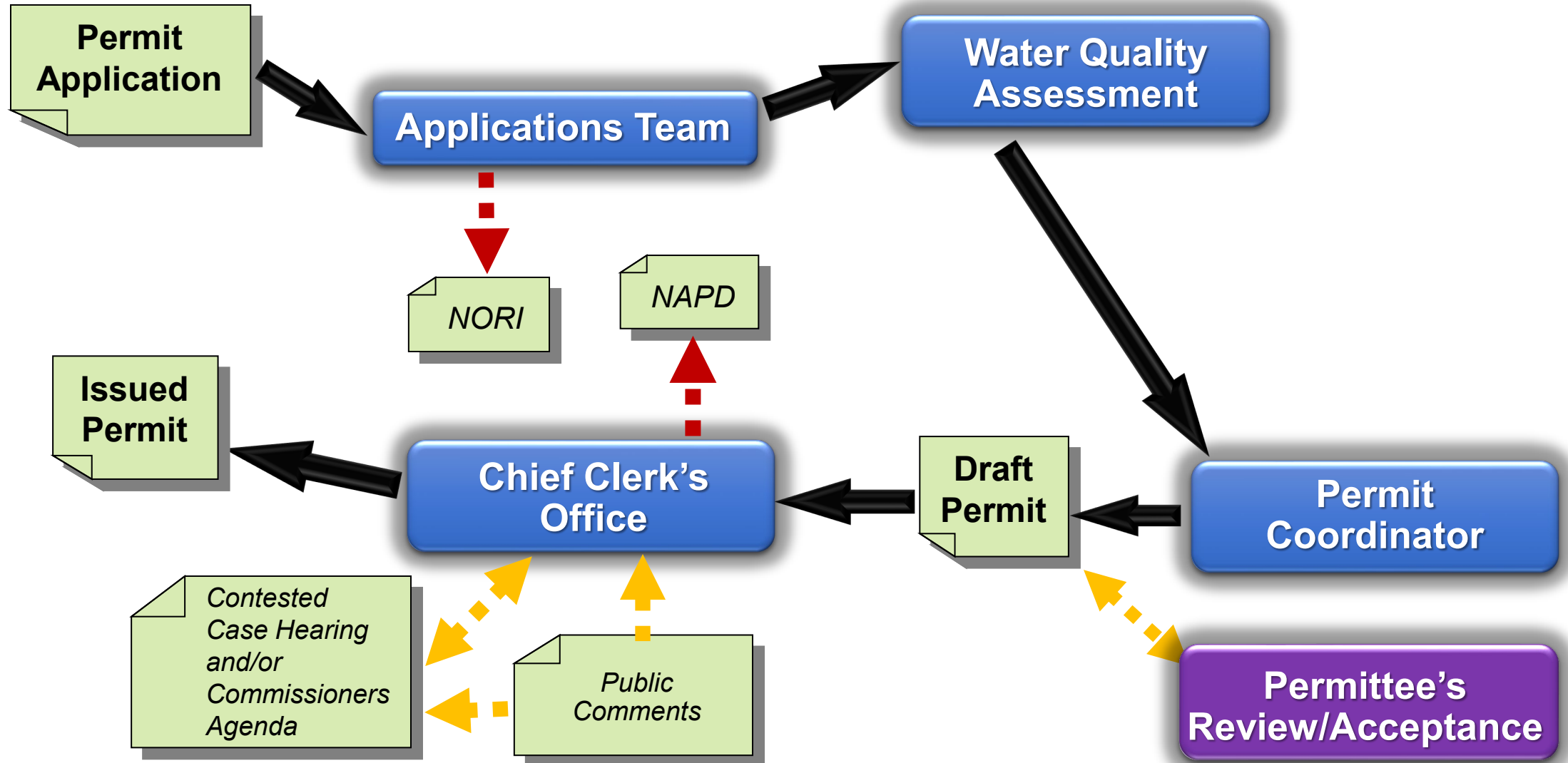
Individual Permit

- Unique to reflect site-specific conditions of a single regulated activity
- Expanded public participation
- Extended technical review
- Permit limits vary

General Permit (GP)

- Regional or statewide to cover multiple regulated entities with similar operations
- Public participation
- Streamlined application review
- Standard permit conditions
- Eligibility limited

Individual Wastewater Permit Process



TCEQ Oil and Gas Permit Timelines

2019 – Jan 2021: Transfer permitting authority to TCEQ for produced water, hydrostatic test water, and gas plant effluent (HB 2771, 86th)

- 2020 – Jan 2024: TPDES Oil and Gas GP TXG310000 (new)
- 2020 – Jan 2024: State Oil and Gas Outer Continental Shelf GP WQG280000
- 2021 – Mar 2024: 1st TPDES Individual Produced Water Permit (transfer)
- 2023 – Ongoing: TPDES Individual Produced Water Application (new)
- April 2025: TPDES Hydrostatic Test GP TXG670000 (amendment)

2025 – Ongoing: Transfer permitting authority to TCEQ for land application of produced water treated for beneficial use (SB 1145, 89th)

- 2025 – Dec 2025: RRC Pilot Projects transferred
- 2025 – Ongoing : Rulemaking for RRC-TCEQ MOU Amendment
- 2025 – Ongoing : Rulemaking to establish applicability in TAC
- 2026 – Ongoing: TLAP Individual Produced Water Application (transfer and new)

Oil and Gas Individual Permits

- Processing TPDES applications for discharge permits for produced water under 40 CFR Part 435 Subpart E (§ 435.50)

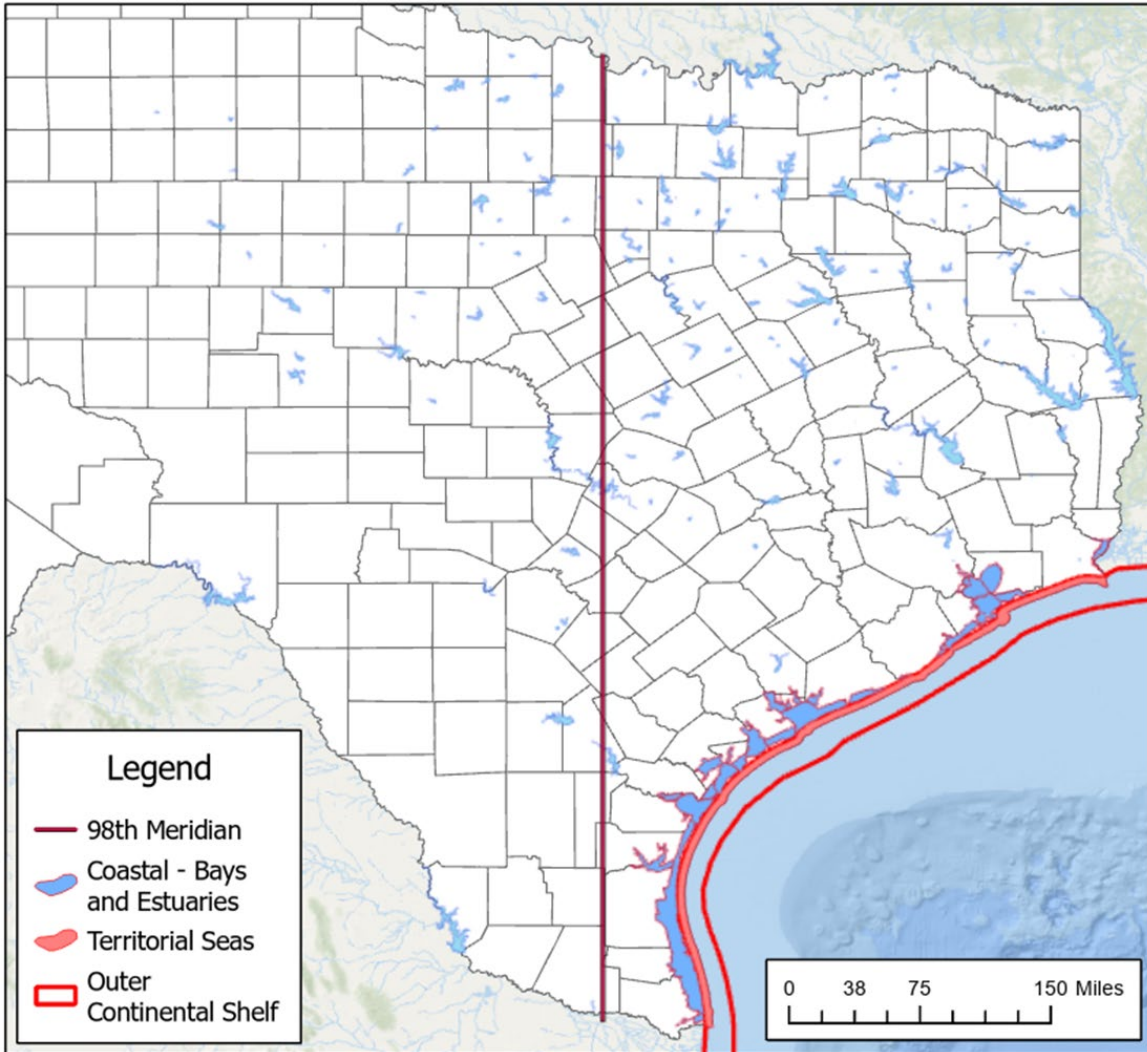
The provisions of this subpart are applicable to those onshore facilities located in the continental United States and west of the 98th meridian for which the produced water has a use in agriculture or wildlife propagation when discharged into navigable waters. These facilities are engaged in the production, drilling, well completion, and well treatment in the oil and gas extraction industry.

- Processing TLAP applications for land application of produced water

TCEQ LNG Permit Timelines

2025 – Ongoing: Develop an expedited permit application review process for a project to construct or modify a liquified natural gas (LNG) export terminal, with unique triggers and procedures for contested case hearings (CCH). (SB 2037, 89th)

- 2025 – Ongoing: TCEQ is expediting TPDES applications received on or after September 1, 2025
 - 2025 – Ongoing : Rulemaking to establish expedited permit application review process
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- Processing TPDES gas plant applications statewide
 - Processing TPDES LNG export terminal applications statewide



TPDES O&G GP - TXG310000

Authorize discharge to surface waters east of 98th meridian for certain facilities based on location and activity:

- stripper well
- coastal
- territorial seas

O&G Outer Continental Shelf GP – WQG280000

Regulates discharge to into Gulf of America between 3.0 and 10.357 statute miles from Texas coast

Permitting Stakeholder Group

Water Quality Advisory Work Group (WQAWG)

tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/WQ_advisory_group.html

- Open-participation group which meets quarterly to discuss the development and implementation of water quality rules and regulations.
- Next hybrid meeting scheduled for October 13, 2026

Questions?

Water Quality Division

Main Line: 512-239-4671

- Robert Sadlier, Deputy Director
 - Robert.Sadlier@tceq.texas.gov
 - 512-239-7047
- Dania Grundmann, Assistant Deputy Director
 - Dania.Grundmann@tceq.Texas.gov
 - 512-239-3449
- Matthew Udenenwu, Section Manager – Industrial Wastewater Permits
 - Matthew.Udenenwu@tceq.Texas.gov
 - 512-239-6922