

# Harris County Storm Water Inspections

## Abrasive Cleaning and Coating Facilities

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## A FEW DEFINITIONS:

- **Activity Code** - an alphabetic code that describes a particular industrial activity (e.g. HZ = Hazardous Waste Storage, LF = Landfills and Land Applications)
- **Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)** – the system of man-made conveyances owned or operated by a municipality that is designed or used for collecting or conveying storm water and is not used for collecting or conveying sewage



## DEFINITIONS - CONTINUED

- **Pollutant - Dredged soil, solid waste, incinerator residue, sewage, garbage, sewage sludge, filter backwash, munitions, chemical wastes, biological materials, radioactive materials, heat, wrecked or discarded equipment, rock, sand, cellar dirt, industrial, municipal and agricultural waste discharged into the MS4 or any waters in the state, or waters of the United States**
- **Standard Industrial Classification Code (SIC Code) – is a 4 - digit numbering system used by the federal government to classify businesses. It will be replaced at some point in the future by a 6 - digit North American Industry Classification System Code (NAICS Code).**

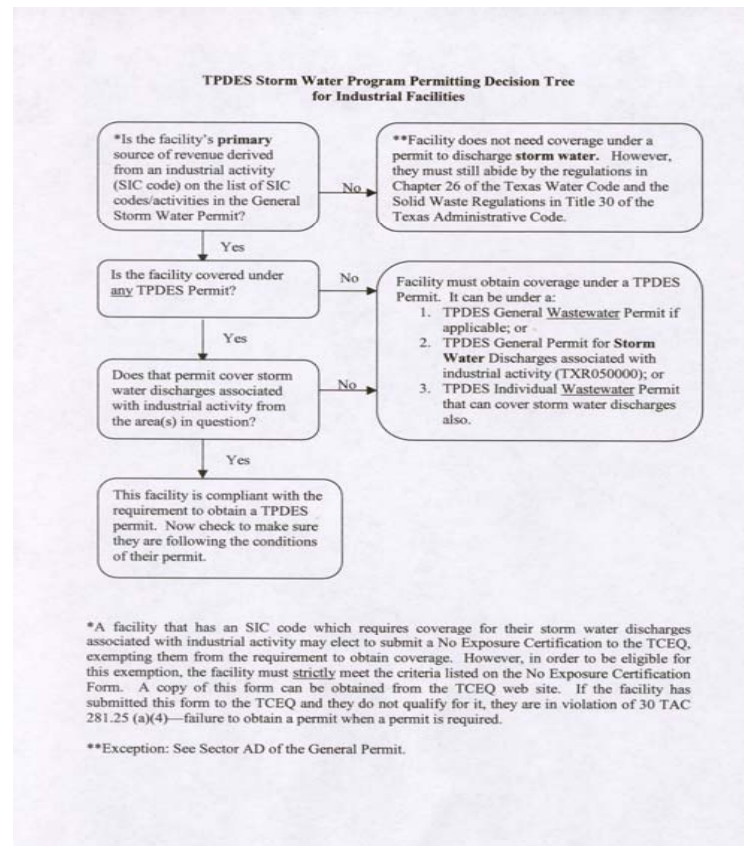


## DEFINITIONS - CONTINUED

- **Structural Control** – a structure or vegetative practice that is generally designed to reduce pollutant levels in storm water runoff
- **Water in the State** – Groundwater, percolating or otherwise, lakes, bays, ponds, impounding reservoirs, springs, rivers, streams, creeks, estuaries, marshes, inlets, canals, the Gulf of Mexico, inside the territorial limits of the state, and all other bodies of surface water, natural or artificial, inland or coastal, fresh or salt, navigable or non-navigable, and including the beds and banks of all watercourses and bodies of surface water, that are wholly or partially inside or bordering the state or inside the jurisdiction of the State.



# STORM WATER PERMITTING DECISION TREE







# TYPES OF WATER QUALITY PERMITS

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### **STORM WATER GENERAL PERMITS:**

- Industrial – TPDES Permit #TXRO50000 (aka Industrial Storm Water Multi-Sector General Permit)
- Construction – TPDES Permit #TXRI50000

### **WASTEWATER GENERAL PERMITS:**

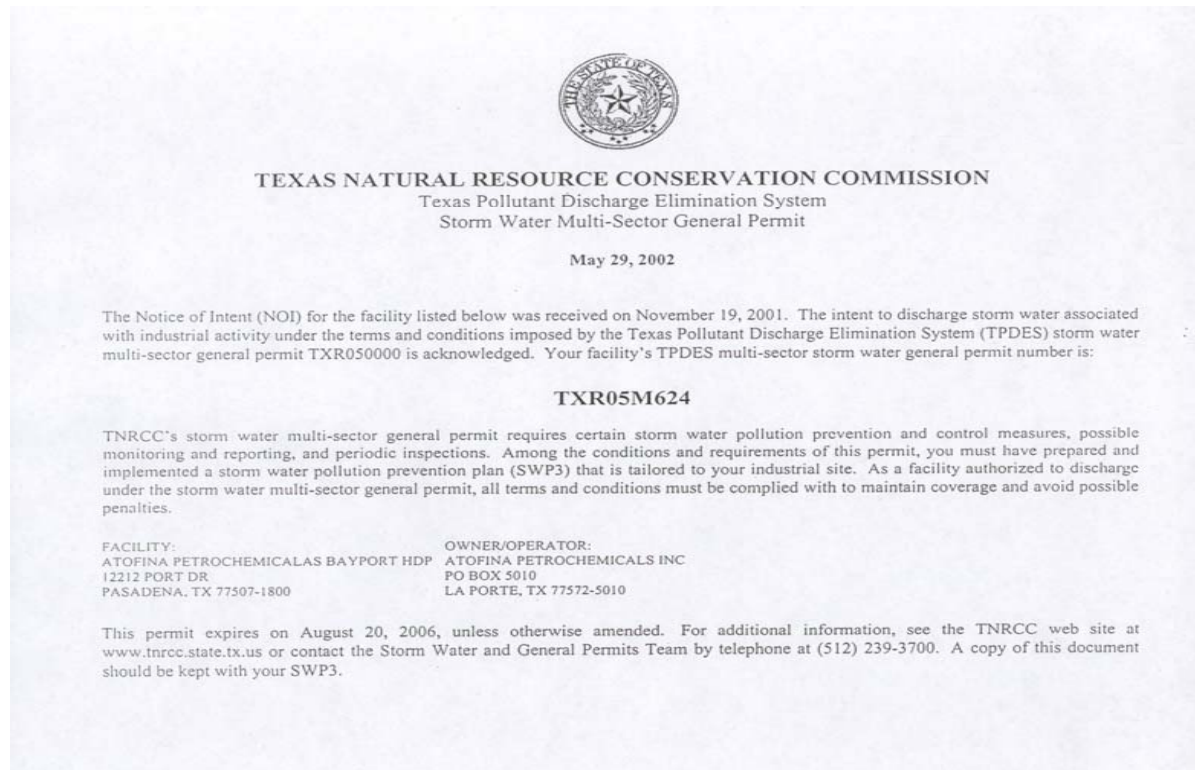
- Concrete Production Facilities Water Quality General Permit  
#TXG110000 Note: Facilities with only contact storm water may seek coverage under the Industrial General Permit
- Petroleum Bulk Stations and Terminals Water Quality General Permit  
#TXG340000
- Petroleum-Contaminated Wastewater General Permit #TXG830000
- Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) Water Quality General Permit #TXG920000

### **WASTEWATER/STORM WATER INDIVIDUAL PERMITS**

These are permits issued by the TCEQ to facilities for wastewater and/or storm water discharges. The difference between these permits and general permits is they are issued based on unique conditions at the facility as described in a lengthy application submitted by the facility. **IMPORTANT!** Even though a facility has coverage under an individual permit for wastewater and/or storm water discharges, they may have storm water discharges from areas of industrial activity within their facility that are not covered on their individual permit, thereby requiring coverage under a general permit, requiring an amendment to their individual permit or requiring capture of that water. In this case, they would have an unpermitted discharge (TWC 26.121).



# GENERAL STORM WATER PERMIT



## No Placement Designation





## TYPICAL PROBLEMS

- Improper management of spent blast media
- Improper management of metal waste (e.g. tailings, turnings, fines)
- Improper management of liquids associated with fabrication and coating (e.g. cutting oil, solvents and other fluids)

*Note: Sandblasting and coating may be auxiliary to the primary business. Examples: Cleaning hulls on barges and ships, pipeyards, metal fabricators, etc.*





## TYPICAL PROBLEMS



**Blast Media**



## TYPICAL PROBLEMS



**Metal Waste**





## TYPICAL PROBLEMS





Ask questions about the drains and pipes on site! The management of the facility should know where every pipe originates, what flows through it and where it terminates or leaves the property. Don't forget about floor drains!









## SAMPLING

- It would be a good idea to get set up with an approved lab before you begin collecting samples (i.e. blanket Purchase Order, correct bottles, etc.)
- Carry a small ice chest in you car—it is preferable to put most samples on ice so if you suspect you will be collecting samples take ice with you; if you do not have ice with you, collect your samples at the end of your investigation and put them on ice as soon as possible
- Carry a few pair of latex gloves, some pH strips, sample bottles and a flashlight in your car...a pair of rubber boots would be a good idea too!



## RESOURCES

- TCEQ Industrial Storm Water Permitting Program:  
<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/waterperm/wwperm/industry.html>
- TCEQ Small Business and Local Government Assistance Division  
713-767-3582
- A good way to check what environmental permits a facility has is to look them up in the TCEQ Central Registry Query:  
<http://www4.tceq.state.tx.us/crpub/>
- Obtain the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) book  
– it has SIC Codes cross-referenced with NAICS numbers in the back



[www.cleanwaterclearchoice.org](http://www.cleanwaterclearchoice.org)

