Emissions Banking and Trading (EBT) Rule Revisions

- On September 20, 2017, the commission adopted revisions to the EBT rules in 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 101, Subchapter H, Divisions 1 and 4, which define several market-based programs that provide sites with additional flexibility for complying with air regulations. Generally, the adopted rules specify the requirements for owners of area and mobile sources to generate emission credits. While this opportunity theoretically existed under current rule language, it has rarely been feasible. In addition to expanding the opportunity for area and mobile sources to generate credits, the adopted rulemaking also includes changes that make the requirements for the use of emission credits from mobile sources consistent with the use of credits from stationary sources. The rule revisions will be effective October 12, 2017 (Rule Project No. 2016-041-101-AI).

- Documents are available on the Rule Adoptions Web page (https://www.tceq.texas.gov/rules/adopt.html). For additional information, contact Guy.Hoffman@tceq.texas.gov or Daphne.McMurrer@tceq.texas.gov.

AirCheckTexas Drive a Clean Machine (DACM) Program

- The DACM program is currently accepting applications for vehicle repair and replacement in the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria (HGB) area.

- Brazoria, Fort Bend, and Galveston Counties in the HGB area have initiated the process to opt out of the Low-income Vehicle Assistance, Retrofit, and Accelerated Vehicle Retirement Program (LIRAP). These counties have requested in writing that collection of the LIRAP fee end at the earliest possible date and that those with vehicles registered in these counties continue to have access to previously appropriated LIRAP funds until August 31, 2019.

Tax Relief for Pollution Control Property

- The Use Determination for Pollution Control Property Application (TCEQ-00611), instructions, and guidance were updated in September 2017. Applicants must either apply electronically using TCEQ’s State of Texas Environmental Electronic Reporting System (STEERS) or submit by U.S. Mail: 1) the current version of the application (Form TCEQ-00611); and 2) the TCEQ Core Data Form (Form TCEQ-10400). Applications filed using previous versions of the application will be returned to the applicant. Applications submitted without a completed Core Data Form will be returned to the applicant. The TCEQ uses the Core Data Form to collect core data about the people, businesses, and organizations that are regulated by or, in the case of the Tax Relief for Pollution Control Property Program, who request a use determination from the TCEQ.

- All documents are available on the Tax Relief for Pollution Control Property Web page (https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/taxrelief/advisory_group.html).

Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP)

- Alternative Fueling Facilities Program (AFFP) grant applications will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. CST, January 16, 2018. Up to $6 million in grants is being made available to eligible individuals, businesses, and governmental entities to continue the development of a network of natural gas and/or other alternative fuel fueling stations to serve as a foundation for a self-sustaining market for alternative fuel vehicles in Texas.

- The AFFP grants are offered to eligible entities that intend to build, own, and operate alternative fuel and/or natural gas fueling stations in the Clean Transportation Zone. Effective September 1, 2017, the Texas Health and Safety Code Chapters 393 and 394 were amended to combine the AFFP and the Clean Transportation Triangle programs. AFFP
grants offset a portion of the cost of either the construction of new facilities dispensing natural gas and/or alternative fuels, or the expansion of existing facilities to provide new services or capabilities.

- Eligible fuels for the AFFP include compressed natural gas and/or liquefied natural gas; biodiesel; hydrogen; methanol; propane; and electricity.
- The TCEQ has scheduled eight AFFP grant application workshops, including one in Houston on November 28, 2017 at the Houston-Galveston Area Council to review the grant requirements and the application process. Please RSVP to Camen Gupta, Program Coordinator, at camen.gupta@tceq.texas.gov.
- Other TERP grant programs will be opened later in the fall and into 2018.
- Keep updated by visiting the TERP website at www.terpgrants.org.