Proposed Infrastructure and Transport State Implementation Plan (SIP) Revisions for the 2015 Ozone

On March 7, 2018, the commission will consider the Executive Director’s recommended proposal of two revisions to the Texas SIP for the 2015 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS): the 2015 Ozone NAAQS Infrastructure SIP Revision (Non-Rule Project No. 2017-040-SIP-NR) and the 2015 Ozone NAAQS Transport SIP Revision (Non-Rule Project No. 2017-039-SIP-NR). If approved, the public comment period will open on March 9, 2018 and close on April 10, 2018. A public hearing is scheduled on April 10, 2018 in Austin at TCEQ Headquarters at 2:00 p.m. The documents are available on the Air Pollution from Ozone webpage (https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/sip/criteria-pollutants/sip-ozone).

Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP)

- A second round of grants under the TERP Alternative Fueling Facilities Program is available to eligible individual, 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. Applications will be accepted until 5:00 p.m., March 29, 2018.
- The Texas Clean School Bus (TCSB) Program is now awarding grants statewide for school bus replacements as well as retrofits. Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, to replace or retrofit diesel school buses operating on a regular daily route to and from a school during the regular school year until 5:00 p.m. on April 26, 2019 or until all funding is awarded. Additional information is available on the TERP TCSB Program webpage (https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/terp/school-buses.html).
- Grant funds are available for Electricity Storage Projects under the New Technology Implementation Grant (NTIG) Program. The TERP NTIG Program is offered to eligible entities that intend to build, own, and operate new technologies to reduce emissions and store electricity related to renewable energy. The application deadline is May 1, 2018, 5:00 p.m. A grant application workshop to review the grant requirements and the application process is scheduled on March 28, 2018 at 1:30 p.m. in Austin at TCEQ Headquarters. Reservations are not required. Also, to join TERP staff in a Skype webinar on April 5, 2018 at 1:00 p.m., please RSVP to terp@tceq.texas.gov. For more information on the grant program and to access up-to-date information on the application process, and to download copies of all application forms, visit the NTIG Program webpage (https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/terp/ntig_apps.html) or call 800-919-TERP (8377).
- Keep updated on all programs by visiting the TERP website at www.terpgrants.org.

Volkswagen (VW) Environmental Mitigation Trust

- Texas has been designated as a beneficiary under the VW Trust Agreement. Texas is eligible to receive at least $209 million for projects listed under the Trust Agreement.
- The TCEQ was designated by the Governor as the Lead Agency for administering the funds.
- As a next step, the agency is to develop a State Environmental Mitigation Plan to outline the priorities for use of the funds.
- The agency is currently accepting comments regarding development of the mitigation plan.
- Visit the TCEQ’s VW webpage at www.texasvwfund.org to obtain a copy of the Trust Agreement and for information on how to submit comments.
Emissions Banking and Trading (EBT)

- Reminder: Annual report for 2017 compliance with the Mass Emissions Cap and Trade (MECT) and Highly Reactive Volatile Organic Compound Cap and Trade (HECT) Programs are due March 31, 2018.
- Annual reports must be submitted electronically through the State of Texas Environmental Electronic Reporting System (STEERS), available at https://www3.tceq.texas.gov/steers/. Guidance for using EBT STEERS can be found on the EBT webpage at https://www3.tceq.texas.gov/steers/help/ebt/ebtmain.html. All electronic applications must be certified by the site's Authorized Account Representative (AAR) or alternate AAR. Paper applications will no longer be accepted for current or vintage allowances trades and annual compliance reports.
- Note that if you are the new owner of a site that is subject to the MECT and/or HECT Programs, you will need to request a new EBT account (portfolio). For assistance with a change of ownership, EBT STEERS, or for questions pertaining to the MECT or HECT Programs, contact the EBT Team at https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/banking/contacts or by email at ebt@tceq.texas.gov.

Retirement of TCEQ Executive Director

Richard A. Hyde, P.E., will step down as executive director at the end of March, but will remain at the TCEQ throughout the month of April to allow the agency to transition smoothly.