

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION FOR SEWAGE SLUDGE PROCESSING PERMIT NEW

PERMIT NO. WQ0005189000

APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION. Sprint Waste Services LP, P.O. Box 940820, Houston, Texas 77094, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for new Texas Pollution Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Sludge Permit No. WQ0005189000 (EPA I.D. No. TXL005025) to authorize the processing of municipal wastewater treatment plant sludge products from numerous facilities in the Houston area. The West Bellfort Road Sludge Processing Facility blends sludge from numerous facilities, then dewateres the combined sludge at an average of 64,000 gallons per day with a polymer. The sludge mixture is then pumped into dewatering boxes or a belt press prior to transporting to a TCEQ permitted landfill. This permit will not authorize a discharge of pollutants into water in the State. This application was submitted to the TCEQ on December 15, 2015.

The sludge processing facility will be located at 16215 West Bellfort Street, Sugar Land, in Fort Bend County, Texas 77498. The sludge processing facility will be located in the drainage area of Red Gully in Segment No. 1245 of the Brazos River Basin.

The TCEQ Executive Director has completed the technical review of the application and prepared a draft permit. The draft permit, if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The Executive Director has made a preliminary decision that this permit, if issued, meets all statutory and regulatory requirements. The permit application, technical summary and Executive Director's preliminary decision, and draft permit are available for viewing and copying at the Sugar Land Branch Library, 550 Eldridge Road, Sugar Land, Texas. This link to an electronic map of the facility's location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application.

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/hb610/index.html?lat=29.665&lng=-95.671111&zoom=13&type=r>

CHANGE IN LAW: The Texas Legislature enacted Senate Bill 709, effective September 1, 2015, amending the requirements for comments and contested case hearings. This application is subject to those changes in law.

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting about this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit written or oral comment or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ holds a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

Written public comments and requests for a public meeting should be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087 within 30 days of the date of newspaper publication of the notice.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for public comments, the Executive Director will consider the comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting a contested case hearing or reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision. A person who may be affected by the facility may request a contested case hearing from the Commission.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in a state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name; address, phone; applicant's name and permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; and the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are germane to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission will only grant a contested case hearing on disputed issues of fact that are relevant and material to the Commission's decision on the application. Further, the Commission will only grant a hearing on issues that were raised in timely filed comments that were not subsequently withdrawn.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTION. The Executive Director may issue final approval of the application unless a timely contested case hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed. If a timely hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed, the Executive Director will not issue final approval of the permit and will forward the application and request to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

All written public comments and public meeting requests must be submitted within 30 days from the date of newspaper publication of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. If you need more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Office of Public Assistance, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040. General information about the TCEQ can be found at our web site at www.TCEQ.state.tx.us.

Further information may also be obtained from Sprint Waste Services LP at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Jonathan Hill at 713-316-5050.

Issued: July 27, 2016