

January 31, 2024

Greater Houston Local Emergency Planning Committee Bi-Monthly Meeting Agenda

Logistics

10:00AM – 12:00PM

American Red Cross, 2700 Southwest Freeway, Houston, TX 77098

Welcome

Business

Chair/Vice Chair Report

- Pipeline Emergency Response Grant (PHMSA PERG 693JK323NF0001) Status - Approved
- Upcoming Tabletop Exercise June 2024 – to be held at the Houston Emergency Center
- Introductions

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: SHSU Institute of Homeland Security

The Institute for Homeland Security at Sam Houston State University is focused on building strategic partnerships between public and private organizations through education and applied research ventures in the critical infrastructure sectors of Transportation, Energy, Chemical, Healthcare, and Public Health. The Institute is a center for strategic thought with the goal of contributing to the security, resilience and business continuity of these sectors from a Texas Homeland Security perspective. Topics of interest include advanced small nuclear modular reactors, cybersecurity, waste water, etc.

Presenters:

Michael Aspland, Executive Director of the Sam Houston State University, Institute for Homeland Security. Prior to joining the SHSU staff, Mr. Aspland served as Naval Postgraduate School, Deputy Director of Education Operations at the Common Operations Research Environment (CORE) Lab and the Monterey, California Police Department, Assistant Police Chief SF Bay Area Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) and the Santa Barbara Police Department – Lieutenant. Mr. Aspland has served as an adjunct, course developer or instructor at SHSU, Greenville University (IL), Drexel University, Colorado Technical University, Northern Arizona University, and Westmont College (CA).

Reyna Loosmore, Program Manager for Water/Wastewater Critical Infrastructure Sector. Ms. Loosmore joined the Institute in 2023 focusing on security, resiliency, and continuity of the Water/Wastewater Critical Infrastructure Sector. Prior to joining the Institute for Homeland Security, Ms. Loosmore served in the positions of Private Sector: Environmental Scientist – conducting inspections of landfills and transfer stations in Texas and Mississippi; Public Sector: Biosafety and Chemical Manager Sam Houston State University Environmental Health and Safety Department, and Public Sector: Industrial and Hazardous Waste Investigator and later Environmental Crimes Investigator (covering all three media: air, water, and waste) for Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Ms. Loosmore holds a Bachelor of Science in Geology from Sam Houston State University and a Master of Science in Environmental Management from the University of Houston Clear Lake.

Business

Local Updates

- City of Houston Office of Emergency Management
- Amtrak
- Sam Houston State University Institute of Homeland Security

Member Reports

Fund Raisers

Meeting Notes (available at <https://ghlepc.org/information>) – November Notes approved as written
New Business

Treasurer Report

PIO Report

Houston Fire Department Updates
New Battery Center – Jupiter Power
Discussions on EV fires

LOCAL UPDATES

1. New Harris County Industrial Liaison OEM, Brett Conaway. He may be reached at brett.conaway@oem.hctx.net, 832.207.3323, or 832.657.5338.
2. 2024 HOTZONE HazMat Conference, October 24-27, 2024, held at Wyndham Houston near NRG. The Greater Harris County LEPC meeting will be held during the conference on Friday, October 25, 2024.
3. Multiple activation of the City of Houston OEM and Harris County OEM for severe weather, sport events, Mayor Whitmire's Inauguration, MLK parades (rescheduled for February 2024 due to severe weather).

STATE UPDATES

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

1. **There are no pending proposals at this time.**
2. **Grants for Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Conversion Systems.** The Light-Duty Motor Vehicle Purchase or Lease Incentive Program provides grants for purchasing or leasing new vehicles or conversion systems, powered by alternative fuel. Applications accepted for grants through March 22, 2024. (<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/terp/ld.html>)
3. **Grants for Hydrogen Infrastructure, Vehicles, and Equipment.** The Texas Hydrogen Infrastructure, Vehicle, and Equipment Grant Program (THIVE) provides grants in eligible counties for hydrogen vehicles, equipment, and refueling infrastructure. Accepting applications for grants through February 27, 2024. This is a competitive program based on criteria outlined in the Request for Grant Applications document. (<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/terp/thive>)
 - a. **Upcoming Grants:**
 - i. Texas Clean School Bus Program (TCSB), Projected Opening: February 2024
 - ii. Seaport and Rail Yard Areas Emissions Reduction Program (SPRY), Projected Opening: April 2024
 - iii. Rebate Grants Program, Projected Opening: May 2024
4. **Rulemaking** (<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/rules/whatsnew.html>)
 - a. **Items Filed with the Chief Clerk:** Adoption, Amendment of the Underground Storage Tank (UST) Rule to Remove Required Inventory Control Procedures at all Retail Service Stations (Rule Project No. 2023-115-334-CE)
 - b. **Items Submitted for Texas Register Publication:**
 - i. **Proposal**, DFW and HGB 2008 Ozone NAAQS Severe and Bexar County 2015 Ozone NAAQS Moderate VOC Rules (Rule Project No. 2023-116-115-AI). The rule project would revise Chapter 115 to implement rules necessary to meet federal SIP requirements in the ... Houston-Galveston-Brazoria 2008 ozone NAAQS severe nonattainment areas and, as a result of merging 2023-113-115-AI with this project, the Bexar County 2015 ozone NAAQS moderate nonattainment area. (https://www.tceq.texas.gov/downloads/rules/current/23116115_pex.pdf)
 - ii. **Proposal**, NOX Rule Revisions for DFW and HGB Ozone Nonattainment Areas (Rule Project No. 2023-117-117-AI). The rule project would revise Chapter 117 to implement rules necessary to meet federal state implementation plan

requirements in the ... Houston-Galveston-Brazoria 2008 ozone NAAQS severe nonattainment areas and, as a result of merging 2023-114-117-AI with this project, the Bexar County 2015 ozone NAAQS moderate nonattainment area. (https://www.tceq.texas.gov/downloads/rules/current/23117117_pex.pdf)

c. TCEQ Pending Enforcement Action – TCEQ Cases

Below are new pending enforcement actions since September 15, 2023 within the GHLEPC jurisdiction. A complete list of all enforcement actions across Texas as well as file an open records request at <https://www2.tceq.texas.gov/oce/penenfac/>

Case #	RN	RE Name	Respondent	Enforcement Type	Order Type	Program	Status
64825	RN102913043	THE QUEEN READY MIX 8702 LIBERTY RD HOUSTON, TX 77028	RENE D GONZALEZ	Administrative Order	1660	WATER QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 09/18/2023
64804	RN102576063	FLINT HILLS RESOURCES HOUSTON CHEMICAL 9822 LA PORTE FWY HOUSTON, TX 77017	INV PROPYLENE LLC	Administrative Order	1660	AIR QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening 09/13/2023
64775	RN102042512	FLEET FUEL MANAGEMENT 227 MCCARTY ST HOUSTON, TX 77029	MANSFIELD SERVICE PARTNERS SOUTH LLC	Administrative Order	1660	PETROLEUM STORAGE TANK - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 09/14/2023
64763	RN101226728	VFW POST 10352 16035 WAVERLY DR HOUSTON, TX 77032	SPRING ALDINE POST NO 10352 VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES	Administrative Order	1660	Public water system/ supply	Initial Screening – 09/12/2023
64742	RN102444650	SYNOTT FOOD MART 3825 SYNOTT RD HOUSTON, TX 77082	SYNOTT INC	Administrative Order	1660	PETROLEUM STORAGE TANK - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 09/11/2023
64844	RN101279651	THE LAKEVILLE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION BEHIND OFFC BLDG ACROSS LAKE KEY MAP 296X	FRANKS, JOHNNY CN602593212; THE LAKEVILLE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION CN603517251	Administrative Order	1660	PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM/ SUPPLY	Initial Screening – 09/22/2023
64855	RN102186194	VAM USA FACILITY 19210 E HARDY RD HOUSTON, TX 77073	VAM USA LLC CN603275793	Administrative Order	1660	WATER QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 09/15/2023
64888	RN100707769	AMERICAN THERMOPLASTICS 1235 KRESS ST HOUSTON, TX 77020	KRESS STREET PROPERTIES LLC CN605446939	Administrative Order	1660	WATER QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 09/23/2023
64900	RN104920046	YELLOW JACKET READYMIX LLC 2219 HARTWICK RD HOUSTON, TX 77093	YELLOW JACKET READYMIX LLC CN606085066	Administrative Order	1660	AIR QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 10/04/2023
64956	RN103102125	CYPRESS HILL MUD #1 1301 MCKINNEY ST HOUSTON, TX 77010	CYPRESS HILL MUD 1 CN601358278	Administrative Order	1660	WATER QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 10/10/2023
64970	RN101515740	TURK BROS BLDG 15219 STUEBNER AIRLINE RD HOUSTON, TX 77069	TILLES, TINA LEE CN601361413	Administrative Order	1660	WATER QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 10/06/2023

Case #	RN	RE Name	Respondent	Enforcement Type	Order Type	Program	Status
65063	RN109546812	V AND A SERVICES 4230 ALLISON RD HOUSTON, TX 77048	J MARTINEZ TRUCKING INC CN604507434	Administrative Order	1660	WATER QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL AGGREGATE PRODUCTION OPERATION	Initial Screening – 11/21/2023
65142	RN101513240	HARRIS COUNTY MUD 023 7214 WOODLAND WEST DR HOUSTON, TX 77040	HARRIS COUNTY MUD 23 CN600737365	Administrative Order	1660	WATER QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 12/14/2023
65172	RN100218130	HOUSTON REFINING 12000 LAWDALE ST HOUSTON, TX 77017	HOUSTON REFINING LP CN601313083	Administrative Order	1660	AIR QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 12/19/2023
65177	RN101857225	ADELA RIVERA 8201 LA PORTE RD HOUSTON, TX 77012	ADELA RIVERA CN601011661	Administrative Order	1660	PETROLEUM STORAGE TANK - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 12/20/2023
65202	RN108521550	BW GRAYSON BUS. PK 5916 E SAM HOUSTON PKWY S HOUSTON, TX 77034	BW GRAYSON BUSINESS PARK ASSOCIATION INC CN605807718	Administrative Order	Findings	Public water system/ supply	Initial Screening – 12/27/2023
65258	RN103015178	LANGHAM CREEK UD 17350 PATTIGLEN DR HOUSTON, TX 77084	LANGHAM CREEK UTILITY DISTRICT CN601361793	Administrative Order	1660	WATER QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 01/08/2024
65285	RN102390242	JAES ALL SEASON 2 3230 CAMPBELL RD HOUSTON, TX 77080	JAES ALL SEASONS MARKET INC CN602250383	Administrative Order	1660	PETROLEUM STORAGE TANK - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 01/19/2024
65317	RN111856290	JAGUAR FUELING SERVICES HUMBLE 77396	JAGUAR FUELING SERVICES LLC CN605186287	Administrative Order	1660	PETROLEUM STORAGE TANK - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 01/05/2024

Texas Department of Insurance (TDI)

Texas Department of Insurance Updates (effective 9/1/2023) (Visit

<https://www.tdi.texas.gov/fire/rules/index.html> for details):

1. **January - Space heater safety month** (<https://www.tdi.texas.gov/column/space-heater-safety-tips.html>)

FEDERAL

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

1. Dec. 2, 2023, the EPA announced at COP28 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) a final rule used to reduce methane and other harmful air pollutants from the oil and natural gas industry, promote the use of cutting-edge methane detection technologies, and deliver significant economic and public health benefits.
2. Texas Southern University (TSU) has been selected to serve as Regional Grantmaker that will receive \$50,000,000 under EPA's Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking program. This program, which will make it easier for small community-based organizations to access federal environmental justice funding, responds to community feedback about the need to reduce barriers to federal funds

and improve the efficiency of the awards process to ensure communities that have long faced underinvestment can access the benefits of the investment. Communities will be able to apply to TSU Bullard Center for Environmental and Climate Justice for a subgrant to fund a range of different environmental project activities, including small local clean ups, local emergency preparedness and disaster resiliency programs, environmental workforce development programs for local jobs reducing greenhouse gas emissions, fence line air quality and asthma related projects, healthy homes programs, and projects addressing illegal dumping.

(<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-selects-texas-southern-university-receive-50000000-fund>)

3. **Circular Strategies for the Sustainable Management of Scrap Tires**, Part 1 webinar focused on the management of scrap tires by outlining state policies and initiatives, highlighting available resources, and providing a space for discussion to identify gaps, priority issues and opportunities for future work. Thursday, February 15, 2024 9:00 am - 11:00 am PST (<https://www.epa.gov/usmexicoborder/circular-strategies-sustainable-management-scrap-tires>)
4. **Public Notice: Proposal to Reclassify the ... Houston-Galveston-Brazoria Nonattainment Areas from Moderate to Serious for the 2015 Ozone Standard.** The Clean Air Act requires that EPA grant this request to move to a higher classification, which provides additional time for nonattainment areas to attain the 2015 ozone standard and also requires the state to implement more stringent measures in these communities. The proposed action also provides technical requirements and a range of deadlines for the state of Texas to submit changes to the clean air plans for each area. Submit your comments on Docket ID No. EPA-R06-OAR-2023-0536 to the Federal eRulemaking Portal at Regulations.gov. (<https://www.epa.gov/tx/proposal-reclassify-san-antonio-dallas-fort-worth-and-houston-galveston-brazoria-nonattainment>)
5. The **Environmental Justice toolkit** for lead paint enforcement program have been released to use during all stages of environmental enforcement and compliance monitoring activities designed to eliminate harmful exposures to lead paint in housing. (<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-releases-environmental-justice-toolkit-lead-paint-enforcement-programs>)
6. **Fifth Ward/Kashmere Gardens UPRR Update**
EPA is focusing its Superfund Authority (CERCLA) on the source of contamination at the former creosote operation (aka the Houston Wood Preserving Works site). There is existing sampling data which confirms there is creosote related contamination on and near the former creosote operation. There is a ground water plume located on the former creosote site and to the north and west. Agencies involved: US EPA, TCEQ, Department of State Health Services (DSHS), City of Houston, and Harris County.

	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)	Harris County	City of Houston/ Houston Health Department (HHD)	Union Pacific Railroad (UP)
Roles and Responsibilities	Oversee the off-site Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) removal action.	Lead State Agency for the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) corrective action permit and all activities.	Local government stakeholder. Provide review of documents and comment on sampling/ investigation plans.	Lead local health agency and local environmental authority. Advised on investigation plan, assisting with property access and monitoring of testing activities.	EPA identified UP as the site's responsible party for the CERCLA removal action. Will continue to conduct work in accordance with corrective action permit issued by TCEQ and in accordance with RCRA.
Removal Site Investigation	Oversee UP's implementation of the removal action investigation. Review and approve all investigation plans, data, and reports.	Support Agency. Provide review and comments on sampling and investigation plans.	Local pollution control agency. Provide review of documents and comments on sampling and investigation plans.	Assisting with testing access process, monitoring testing activities.	Responsible for performing the removal action investigation, which includes gaining site access, sampling, and providing sampling data to property owners.
Soil Investigation	Find if there is site-related soil contamination in the neighborhood nearby.	No active role.	No active role – did previous testing for soil contamination.	Previous testing for soil contamination. Will monitor new UP testing.	Find if there is site-related soil contamination in the neighborhood nearby.
Vapor Intrusion (VI) Investigation	Find if chemicals in groundwater could impact nearby homes and buildings.	No active role.	No active role.	Will monitor UP new testing.	Find if chemicals in groundwater could impact nearby homes and buildings.
Community Engagement	Develop and implement community involvement plan, conduct investigation-related community meetings, and convene Community Advisory Group (CAG) formation.	Participate in community meetings.	Participate in community meetings and CAG discussions.	Participate in community meetings and CAG discussions. Also, HHD develops and tracks information about the affected neighborhood and local networks.	Support EPA in community involvement. Provide accurate, transparent, and comprehensive information and updates during community meetings. Support CAG activities if requested by EPA and CAG.
Health Concerns	EPA's focus is on the environmental investigation and risk related to contamination. The Texas Department of State Health Services and HHD focus on health-related concerns and questions.	No active role.	No active role.	Local full-service health department. Reach out to HHD with health concerns and questions.	No active role.
Property Damage from Site Work	EPA provided input on the UP access agreement and confirms that property damage is covered under the UP agreement.	No active role.	No active role.	No active role.	Property damage coverage detailed in individual access agreements.

Anticipated Sampling Schedule

Timing	Activity
September 2023	UPRR begins the process to obtain the required access agreements for private property sampling EPA approves UPRR Vapor Intrusion Field Sampling Plan
October 2023	EPA hosts community information meeting about sampling EPA approves UPRR Background Sampling and Onsite Soils Field Sampling Plan EPA approves UPRR Off-Site Residential Soils Field Sampling Plan Preparation for field investigation activities and sampling
Nov 2023-May 2024	Field investigation activities and sampling
Summer 2024	EPA uses sampling data to determine if there is a risk from HWPW site contamination EPA produces human health risk assessment UPRR produces Removal Site Evaluation report EPA determines if cleanup is necessary based on risk to public health

*Updated 9/14/2023

(<https://fifth-ward-kashmere-gardens-uprr-epa.hub.arcgis.com/> and <https://response.epa.gov/sites/15935/files/EPA%20Oct%202024%20Community%20Meeting%20Presentation%20Update%20V5%20Full%20Presentation%2010.17.pdf>)

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

1. Visit www.ghlepc.org/training for listing of training.
2. TCEQ, the State of Texas Environmental Electronic Reporting System (STEERS), Tier II Reporting (TIERII) visit <https://www3.tceq.texas.gov/steers/>
3. ONLINE & IN-PERSON HazMat Training. TRANSCAER® (Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response). <https://www.transcaer.com/training>.
4. Texas School Safety Center (TxSSC). Visit <https://txssc.txstate.edu/tools/pipeline-safety/> for details.
5. FEMA Virtual Instructor Led Courses
Register on the OBP/CDP Schedule & Registration Page at: <https://cdp.dhs.gov/obp> to receive

updates. Note: FEMA Student Identification (SID) number and password are required to apply. To obtain a FEMA SID, go to: <https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid/register>.

6. Other Training Opportunities:

- a. <https://preparingtexas.org>
- b. www.fema.gov
- c. www.harriscountycitizencorps.com
- d. <https://houstonuasi.com/regional-training-registration-2021/>
- e. Texas Department of Insurance

Next Meeting: **Wednesday, March 27, 2024**
Tabletop Exercise June 2024