

# March 26, 2025 Greater Houston Local Emergency Planning Committee Bi-Monthly Meeting Notes

# Logistics

10:00AM – 12:00PM American Red Cross, 2700 Southwest Freeway, Houston, TX 77098

#### Welcome

## **Business**

Welcome & Introductions

- Chair & Vice Chair Reports
- Pipeline Emergency Response Grant (PHMSA PERG 693JK323NF0001) See last page



## **Business**

Tier II Reports

Local Updates

TCEQ Updates

**EPA Updates** 

Member Reports

Potential Fund Raisers

Meeting Notes (available at <a href="https://ghlepc.org/information">https://ghlepc.org/information</a>)

**New Business** 

## **Treasurer Report**

## **PIO Report**

Houston Fire Department Updates

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 4, 2025

2025 Meeting Dates: Jan 29, Mar 26, Jun 4, Jul 30, Sep 24, and Dec 3.



#### **LOCAL UPDATES**

- 1. Chemical Safety Board announces new product to provide the public with more information on serious chemical incidents. On Jan. 14, the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) released Volume 1: Incident reports Events reported to the CSB under the accidental release reporting rule. This volume is part of a new initiative to give the public more details about serious chemical incidents reported to the CSB since the agency's Accidental Release Reporting Rule (ARRR) went into effect in March 2020. Each Incident Report in Volume 1 includes a summary of the event and its probable cause information that has not previously been released to the public. This volume covers 26 accidental release events that occurred between April 2020 and September 2023 in 15 states: California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas. Together, the events resulted in 5 fatalities, 17 serious injuries, and approximately \$700 million in property damage. Learn more in the CSB's Jan. 14 news release.
- 2. 1st Quarter 2025 **Greater Harris County LEPC (GHCLEPC)** meeting on 12 February 2025 from 1:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. at Transtar.
  - a. 2<sup>nd</sup> Q 15 May 2025 @ USCG Sector Houston Galveston, Ellington Air Base (Location Tentative)
- 3. Statement from the Secretary of Homeland Security: On February 4, 2025, the President of the United States announced at a press conference changes to the U.S. posture in the Gaza region... Please let us know if you face challenges. Monitor social media channels, remain vigilant, and let us know how we can best assist. CISA resources that can assist you in preparing for potential civil unrest:
  - a. <u>Protecting Infrastructure During Public Demonstrations</u>: Guidance on options and resources for safeguarding people and property.
  - b. <u>Active Shooter Preparedness Resources</u>: Tools and training available at no cost to enhance threat awareness and incident preparedness.
  - c. **Be Air Aware**: Information on unmanned aircraft systems threats and risk management strategies.
  - d. <u>Awareness and Prevention Against Edged Weapon Attacks</u>: Training measures for venue managers to protect visitors and staff.
  - e. <u>Hostile Vehicle Mitigation Resources</u>: Strategies to reduce risks from vehicle ramming incidents.
  - f. Fire as a Weapon: Identifying indicators of fire-related attacks and recommended response procedures.
  - g. <u>Personal Security Considerations</u>: Enhancements for personal safety and security awareness.
  - h. **Bombing Prevention**: Training and resources aimed at countering improvised explosive device threats.
  - i. **Exercises**: Access to downloadable tabletop exercise packages based on civil unrest scenarios.

## **STATE UPDATES**

# **Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)**

- 1. Upcoming Grants:
  - a. Seaport and Rail Yard Areas Emissions Reduction Program (SPRY), Projected Opening: April 2024
  - b. Rebate Grants Program, Projected Opening: May 2024
  - c. TERP programs. Visit https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/terp/programs
- 2. Rulemaking (https://www.tceq.texas.gov/rules/whatsnew.html)
  - a. Commission Approval for Rulemaking Adoption Chapter 30, Occupational Licenses and Registrations Implementation of Occupational Licensing Legislative Updates and Staff Recommended Updates Rule Project No. 2024-004-030-WS, February 7, 2025



- i. House Bill (HB) 1845 added §37.0045 to Texas Water Code (TWC) Chapter 37. It requires the agency to establish, by rule, a provisional occupational license for Class D wastewater operators and public water system operators for persons without a high school diploma or equivalent.
- **ii.** HB 2453 added Chapter 60 to the Texas Occupations Code (TOC). It allows licensing agencies to issue a digital license or certificate of registration in lieu of a physical paper license.
- iii. Senate Bill 422 amended TOC Chapter 55 to allow military service members to engage in a business or occupation for which a license is required, without a Texas license, provided the military service member holds a current license in good standing from another jurisdiction.
- b. Commission Approval for Rulemaking Adoption Chapter 321, Control of Certain Activities by Rule Chapter 210, Use of Reclaimed Water Domestic Reuse Alternative Disposal Method Rule Project No. 2023-137-321-OW, Approved 2/13/2025
  - i. The rulemaking will implement Senate Bill (SB or bill) 1289, 88th Regular Legislative Session, which amended Texas Water Code (TWC), Chapter 26, Subchapter B, General Powers and Duties, to add §26.02715, Disposal of Reclaimed Water to Wastewater Collection System, by allowing a wastewater treatment facility that treats domestic wastewater for reuse (i.e., a RWPF) to dispose of the treated wastewater (i.e., reclaimed water) without a permit for an alternative means of disposal, if the facility disposes of the treated wastewater through a wastewater collection system.

## 3. TCEQ Pending Enforcement Action – TCEQ Cases

Below are new pending enforcement actions since January 28, 2025 within the GHLEPC jurisdiction. A complete list of all enforcement actions across Texas as well as file an open records request at <a href="https://www2.tceq.texas.gov/oce/penenfac/">https://www2.tceq.texas.gov/oce/penenfac/</a>

Case				Enforcement	Order		
#	RN	RE Name	Respondent	Type	Type	Program	Status
65447	RN100210475	STOLTHAVEN HOUSTON TERMINAL 15602 JACINTOPORT BLVD # A HOUSTON, TX 77015	STOLTHAVEN HOUSTON INC CN600124820	Administrative Order	Findings	AIR QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 02/13/2024
65472	RN101721538	CITY OF BELLAIRE 4401 EDITH ST BELLAIRE, TX 77401	CITY OF BELLAIRE CN600690291	Administrative Order	1660	WATER QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 02/12/2024
65476	RN100536655	THE HURT 3310 ALICE ST HOUSTON, TX 77021	SUN COAST RESOURCES LLC CN606201382	Administrative Order	1660	WATER QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Proposed Agenda – 04/03/2025
65537	RN102075686	AMERI-FORGE HOUSTON 13770 INDUSTRIAL RD HOUSTON, TX 77015	AMERIFORGE CORPORATION CN603201906	Administrative Order	1660	WATER QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 02/15/2024
65622	RN111913703	THE PALMS ON ROLLING CREEK 17100 ROLLING CREEK DR., HOUSTON, TX 77090	GLOBIX PALMS ROLLING LLC CN606230878	COURT ORDER	Final Judgment	WATER QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 02/29/2024
65699	RN102180569	COLONIAL HILLS PLANT 14910 SELLERS RD HOUSTON, TX 77060	AQUA TEXAS INC CN604062463	Administrative Order	1660	WATER QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 03/13/2024
65735	RN102739455	TRAIL OF LAKES MUD 2300 FIRST CITY TOWER 1001 FANNIN STREET HOUSTON TX 77002 - 6760	TRAIL OF THE LAKES MUD CN601356553	Administrative Order	1660	WATER QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 03/19/2024

Chair: Dr. Denise Chatam Walker | Vice Chair: Ms. Karen LaFleur | PIO: Captain Dana Brown, HFD | Treasurer: Ms. Cathy Johnson



Case				Enforcement	Order		
#	RN	RE Name	Respondent	Туре	Type	Program	Status
65763	RN101223634	HOUSTON SUBURBAN HEIGHTS MHP 11426 SUBURBAN RD HOUSTON, TX 77016	WEATHERFORD, EARNEST WAYNE CN600664650	Administrative Order	1660	PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM/ SUPPLY	Initial Screening – 03/26/2024
65888	RN111942330	FRN INVESTMENTS 10311 ALTONBURY LN HOUSTON, TX 77031	FRN INVESTMENTS LLC CN606243905	COURT ORDER	FINAL JUDGME NT	MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 02/07/2024
65892	RN102285269	FAST MART & FUEL 426 E LITTLE YORK RD HOUSTON, TX 77076	SUN & STAR BUSINESS INC CN603775891	Administrative Order	1660	PETROLEUM STORAGE TANK - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Proposed Order Mailed - 10/31/2024
65894	RN101775104	HANDI PLUS 333 8003 ANTOINE DR HOUSTON, TX 77088	ANTOINE CH INVESTMENTS LLC CN604696989	Administrative Order	1660	PETROLEUM STORAGE TANK - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 04/22/2024
65897	RN101979433	SUNMART 457 14049 EASTEX FWY HOUSTON, TX 77032	PETROLEUM WHOLESALE LP CN601542616	Administrative Order	1660	PETROLEUM STORAGE TANK - HIGH LEVEL	Original EDPRP Filed - 12/31/2024
65937	RN102998374	WEST HARRIS COUNTY MUD 11 8665 W Sam Houston Tollway, Houston TX 77040	WEST HARRIS COUNTY MUD 11 CN600740013	Administrative Order	1660	WATER QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 06/19/2024
65941	RN102371093	HEMPSTEAD FOOD MART, 11650 HEMPSTEAD RD HOUSTON, TX 77092	SAIF MALIK ENTERPRISES INC CN603031733	Administrative Order	1660	PETROLEUM STORAGE TANK - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 04/29/2024
66007	RN104215710	BEST CYPRESS FOOD MART, 9811 SPRING CYPRESS RD., HOUSTON, TX 77070	SPRING C-STORE INC CN605908623	Administrative Order	1660	PETROLEUM STORAGE TANK - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Proposed Order Mailed – 12/06/2024
66008	RN106914633	BRAZOS TOWER BAYOU MANOR, 4141 S BRAESWOOD BLVD, HOUSTON, TX 77025	BRAZOS PRESBYTERIAN HOMES INC CN600587182	Administrative Order	1660	PETROLEUM STORAGE TANK - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 05/13/2024
66172	RN102028974	T FOOD MART 11002 TOWER OAKS BLVD, HOUSTON, TX 77065	HOUSTON YZC INC CN605915750	Administrative Order	1660	PETROLEUM STORAGE TANK - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Proposed Order Mailed – 11/26/2024
66220	RN102275591	SUSAN KEHOE STRAKE BLDG 1819 LA BRANCH ST HOUSTON, TX 77002	STEWARD HEALTH CARE SYSTEM LLC CN605774967	Administrative Order	1660	PETROLEUM STORAGE TANK - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Proposed Order Mailed – 11/08/2024
66221	RN101177707	DOGWOOD TREE WATER SYSTEM 14330 DOGWOOD TREE ST, HOUSTON, TX 77060	BLUE BELL MANOR UTILITY CO INC CN600625586	Administrative Order	1660	PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM/ SUPPLY	Signed Order Received From Respondent – 01/28/2025
66222	RN100663996	TEXAS PIPE BENDING 2500 GALVESTON RD HOUSTON, TX 77017	BOCCARD REAL ESTATE LTD CN601674963	Administrative Order	1660	PETROLEUM STORAGE TANK - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 06/11/2024
66231	RN101232288	SUBURBAN MOBILE HOME PARK 2 7638 FAIRVIEW ST HOUSTON, TX 77041	MISSION INDEV LLC CN603548314	Administrative Order	1660	PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM/ SUPPLY	Agenda Held – Order Approved – 04/08/2025

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Case				Enforcement	Order		
#	RN	RE Name	Respondent	Type	Type	Program	Status
66247	RN100685510	OLDS PRESS & KO FORGE 3315 CARR ST HOUSTON, TX 77026	OLDS PRESS & FORGE INC - CN600392393; TEXCON READY MIX INC - CN605770395; TEXAS CONCRETE ENTERPRISE LLC - CN603171026	Court Order	Final Judgment	AIR QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 06/13/2024

## **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. April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month. According to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), there were 484 deaths and over 95,000 crashes in Texas in 2022 that involved distracted driving. (<a href="https://www.txdot.gov/safety/traffic-safety-campaigns/distracted-driving.html">https://www.txdot.gov/safety/traffic-safety-campaigns/distracted-driving.html</a>)
- 2. TDI has amended SFMO rules to allow license and certificate holders to update their addresses online and without a fee. The penalty schedule is also amended for instances when updates to licenses are not submitted timely.

# **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

<u>Upcoming Deadline for Stormwater Multi-Sector General Permit Facilities to Report in NetDMR</u>. Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) facilities must submit electronic Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMR) of all required monitoring results by March 31, 2025.

1. Fifth Ward/Kashmere Gardens UPRR Update. The EPA website for the Fifth Ward/Kashmere Gardens Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) site (Site). Here, community members can find important updates, announcements, and information on progress at the Site. Soil sample results for parks, schools, and recreation areas and Zone 1 are now available. (https://fifth-ward-kashmere-gardens-uprr-epa.hub.arcgis.com/)

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

- 1. ChemLock: Introduction to Chemical Security Training Course, Virtual This course provides an introduction to identifying, assessing, evaluating, and mitigating chemical security risks. This easy-to-understand overview identifies key components and best practices of chemical security awareness and planning to help kickstart chemical security discussions at a facility. This course runs 1-2 hours in length and is appropriate for all personnel regardless of their level of involvement with dangerous chemicals. Register for April 8, 2024 Noon-2 pm ET (<a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/chemlock-introduction-to-chemical-security-training-tickets-464542588387">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/chemlock-introduction-to-chemical-security-training-tickets-464542588387</a>)
- 2. ChemLock: Secure Your Chemicals Security Planning Training Course, Virtual This course teaches how to create a tailored, scalable security plan that meets the business model and unique circumstances of a facility. Participants will learn the key elements of a chemical security plan and benefit from examples, lessons learned, and best practices. The course runs 2-3 hours in length and is designed to help leadership, facility security personnel, and other applicable personnel understand, develop, and



implement a facility security plan. Register for May 6, 2024 – Noon-3 pm ET. Email <a href="mailto:ChemLock@cisa.dhs.gov">ChemLock@cisa.dhs.gov</a> for on-site training.

- 3. Visit <a href="www.ghlepc.org/training">www.ghlepc.org/training</a> for listing of training.
- 4. TCEQ, the State of Texas Environmental Electronic Reporting System (STEERS), Tier II Reporting (TIERII) visit <a href="https://www3.tceq.texas.gov/steers/">https://www3.tceq.texas.gov/steers/</a>
- 5. ONLINE & IN-PERSON HazMat Training. TRANSCAER® (Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response). https://www.transcaer.com/training.
- Texas School Safety Center (TxSSC). Visit <a href="https://txssc.txstate.edu/tools/pipeline-safety/">https://txssc.txstate.edu/tools/pipeline-safety/</a> for details.
- 7. FEMA Virtual Instructor Led Courses

Register on the OBP/CDP Schedule & Registration Page at: <a href="https://cdp.dhs.gov/obp">https://cdp.dhs.gov/obp</a> to receive updates. Note: FEMA Student Identification (SID) number and password are required to apply. To obtain a FEMA SID, go to: <a href="https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid/register">https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid/register</a>.

- 8. Other Training Opportunities:
  - https://preparingtexas.org
  - www.fema.gov
  - www.harriscountycitizencorps.com
  - <a href="https://houstonuasi.com/regional-training-registration-2021/">https://houstonuasi.com/regional-training-registration-2021/</a>
  - Texas Department of Insurance



# **Subject: Update on PHMSA Grant Payment Status**

Date: March 26, 2025

Dear GHLEPC Membership,

We are writing to provide an update on the outstanding payment for the Pipeline Emergency Response Grant (PHMSA PERG 693JK323NF0001) related to the pipeline tabletop exercise and drill conducted on September 25, 2024. As of today, March 25, 2025, despite our comprehensive efforts, the payment remains pending.

## Additional Actions Taken Since January 29, 2025:

- State of Utah and the State of Utah Fire Marshal Office: We have submitted three formal open records requests related to this grant accompanied by follow-ups.
- **PHMSA:** We have escalated the matter to PHMSA, who initially referred us back to the State of Utah. We have received feedback on our requests, and they are gathering data for us. The delay is due, per PHMSA, to the overwhelming requests they have received since the change in administration.
- Request Meeting with Sanders Resources & Utah as recommended by PHMSA (February 2025) No response

#### **Recent Developments:**

On March 18, 2025, we received a response from the State of Utah Fire Marshal Office indicating that they are in the process of compiling the necessary records and anticipate providing them within 10 business days.

We understand the importance of these funds for our operations and assure you that we are diligently pursuing all avenues to expedite the resolution. We will continue to keep you informed of any significant developments.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to reach out.

Sincerely, Dr. Denise Chatam Walker Chair GHLEPC