

Texas Groundwater Protection Committee
Groundwater Issues Subcommittee
Fiscal Year 2020 – 2021 *Activity Plan*

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1. Introduction

This Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Groundwater Issues (GWI) Subcommittee *Activity Plan* will be in effect on September 1, 2019. It will then be reviewed, updated, and replaced by a new edition of the *Activity Plan* to be in effect on September 1, 2021. *Activity Plans* approved by the TGPC will be posted on the TGPC GWI Subcommittee webpage¹.

2. Accomplishments Under the Previous *Activity Plan*

In Fiscal Year 2018 – 2019, the TGPC GWI Subcommittee approved:

- A proposed update of the *Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy* document;
- *How is Groundwater Quality Affected by Failing On-Site Sewage Facilities (OSSFs)?* white paper;
- *How is Groundwater Quality Affected by Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)?* white paper; and,
- *Transboundary Groundwater Resources along the Texas-Mexico Border* white paper.

3. White Papers

Using the outline posted on the TGPC GWI Subcommittee webpage, develop white papers on one or more of the following topics:

- Hydraulic Fracturing;
- Oil & Gas Produced Water;
- Emerging Contaminants;
- Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR);
- Abandoned Water Wells;
- Wellhead Impacts After Natural Disasters;
- Brackish Groundwater;
- Desalination;
- Endangered Species;
- Coal Ash from Power Plants;
- Anthropogenic Mixing of Groundwater; and,

- Others.

White papers will:

- Summarize and review the best available scientific data;
- Identify areas where there is insufficient scientific data to thoroughly assess groundwater contaminant fate and transport;
- Evaluate regulatory effectiveness and develop recommendations for regulatory programs; and,
- Provide recommendations regarding potential contaminants or constituents of concern.

White papers approved by the TGPC will be posted on the TGPC GWI Subcommittee webpage. Recommendations and/or policy options (including the pros and cons for each option) in approved TGPC GWI Subcommittee white papers may be included in future TGPC legislative reports and/or issued by the TGPC as policy statements. The TGPC GWI Subcommittee may request assistance from the TGPC Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee in disseminating white paper information to the public.

4. Status Reports

At every TGPC GWI Subcommittee quarterly meeting, report and discuss the status of:

- The TGPC GWI Subcommittee Agricultural Chemicals Task Force; and,
- TGPC publications.

The current version of each status report will be posted on the TGPC GWI Subcommittee webpage.

The TGPC GWI Subcommittee Agricultural Chemicals Task Force Status Report will include updates on:

- Groundwater monitoring for pesticides;
- The Interagency Pesticide Database (IPD)²;
- Public outreach and education related to pesticides;
- Pesticide management plans³;
- The Pesticides of INterest Tracking System (POINTS) pesticide assessment database; and,

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) meetings and conferences related to pesticides.

The TGPC Publications Status Report will include updates on the:

- Biennial Groundwater Assessment for the *Texas Integrated Report for Clean Water Act Sections 305(b) and 303(d)* (“*Texas Integrated Report*”) ⁴;
- Annual *Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report – 20nn* (“*Joint Report*”), Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) publication number SFR-056 ⁵;
- Biennial *Activities and Recommendations of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee: Report to the nnth Legislature* (“*Legislative Report*”), TCEQ SFR-047 ⁶;
- *Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy* (“*Strategy*”), TCEQ AS-188 ⁷;
- *Landowner’s Guide to Plugging Abandoned Water Wells* (“*Plugging document*”), TCEQ RG-347 ⁸; and,
- *Texas Groundwater Protection Committee* (TGPC trifold brochure), TCEQ GI-088 ⁹.

5. *Annual Report*

Review the TGPC GWI Subcommittee *Annual Report* at the First Quarter meeting of each Fiscal Year. After any proposed updates to the *Annual Report* are approved by the Subcommittee, the *Annual Report* will be presented to the TGPC at their next meeting. *Annual Reports* will be posted on the TGPC GWI Subcommittee webpage.

6. Subcommittee *Charge*

Review the TGPC GWI Subcommittee *Charge*¹⁰ at the Fourth Quarter meeting of each Fiscal Year. After any proposed updates to the *Charge* are approved by the Subcommittee, they will be presented to the TGPC for approval at their next meeting. For example, Co-Chairs serve for the biennium, and the TGPC may elect to rotate Co-Chairs among member agencies in order to appropriately focus on changing groundwater issues.

7. *Activity Plan* Update

Begin work on the next edition of the *Activity Plan* at the Second Quarter meeting of Fiscal Year 2021 so that it will be in effect as of September 1, 2021. After the updated *Activity Plan* is approved by the Subcommittee at their Fourth Quarter meeting of Fiscal Year 2021, it will be presented to the TGPC for approval at their next meeting.

8. Schedule

	1QFY 2020	2QFY 2020	3QFY 2020	4QFY 2020	1QFY 2021	2QFY 2021	3QFY 2021	4QFY 2021
	Sept 2019	Dec 2019	Mar 2020	June 2020	Sept 2020	Dec 2020	Mar 2021	June 2021
GWI Subcommittee Activity								
Develop and approve white papers to be presented to the TGPC for approval at their next meeting	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Report and discuss the status of the TGPC Agricultural Chemicals Task Force and TGPC publications	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Review and approve the <i>Annual Report</i> to be presented to the TGPC at their next meeting	X				X			
Review and approve any proposed updates to the <i>Charge</i> to be presented to the TGPC for approval at their next meeting				X				X
Develop the next edition of the <i>Activity Plan</i>						X	X	
Review and approve the next edition of the <i>Activity Plan</i> to be presented to the TGPC for approval at their next meeting								X

9. References

- ¹ TGPC GWI Subcommittee webpage, <https://tgpc.texas.gov/tgpc-subcommittees/tgpc-groundwater-issues-subcommittee/>
- ² IPD, <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/groundwater/pesticides.html>
- ³ *Texas State Management Plan for Prevention of Pesticide Contamination of Groundwater*, TCEQ SFR-070, https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/comm_exec/pubs/sfr/070_01.pdf
- ⁴ *Current Texas Integrated Report*, <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/assessment>
- ⁵ *Current Joint Report*, <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/sfr/056>
- ⁶ *Current Legislative Report*, https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/comm_exec/pubs/sfr/047-18.pdf
- ⁷ *Strategy*, https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/comm_exec/pubs/as/188.pdf
- ⁸ Plugging document, https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/comm_exec/pubs/rg/rg-347.pdf
- ⁹ TGPC trifold brochure, https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/comm_exec/pubs/gi/gi-088.pdf
- ¹⁰ TGPC GWI Subcommittee *Charge*, https://tgpc.texas.gov/wp-content/themes/responsive/subcommittees/gwissues/GWI_SubComm_Charge10Jul2019.pdf