



REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202-2733

NPDES Permit No TX0133990

**AUTHORIZATION TO DISCHARGE UNDER THE
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM**

In compliance with the provisions of the Clean Water Act, as amended, (33 U.S.C. 1251 et. seq; the "Act"),

Rickaway Energy, Corporation
205 Los Robles Dr.
Pleasanton, TX 78064

is authorized to discharge from a facility located at 205 Los Robles Drive, CR 136, Pleasanton, Wilson County, Texas.

from Outfall 001: Latitude 29° 2' 2" N; Longitude 98° 17' 59" W which discharge into Borrego Creek, an intermittent stream, then to Atascosa River in Water Body Segment No. 2107 of the Nueces River Basin.

in accordance with this cover page and the effluent limitations, monitoring requirements, and other conditions set forth in Part I, Part II and Part III hereof.

This permit shall become effective on

This permit and the authorization to discharge shall expire at midnight,

Issued on

Prepared by

William K. Honker, P.E.
Director
Water Quality Protection Division (6WQ)

Maria E. Okpala
Environmental Engineer
Permits & Technical Section (6WQ-PP)

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PART I – REQUIREMENTS FOR NPDES PERMITS

SECTION A. LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

1. Outfall 001 – Produced Water – 0.024 MGD Average Flow (750 bbls/day)

During the period beginning on the effective date of the permit and lasting through the expiration date, the permittee is authorized to discharge produced water from Outfall 001, thence to Borrego Creek, an intermittent stream, then to Atascosa River in Water Body Segment No. 2107 of the Nueces River Basin. Such discharges shall be limited and monitored by the permittee as specified below:

EFFLUENT CHARACTERISTICS		DISCHARGE LIMITATIONS		MONITORING REQUIREMENTS	
	STORET CODE	Standard Units		MEASUREMENT FREQUENCY	SAMPLE TYPE
POLLUTANT		MINIMUM	MAXIMUM		
pH	00400	6.5	9.0	Twice/month (*1)	Grab

EFFLUENT CHARACTERISTICS		DISCHARGE LIMITATIONS				MONITORING REQUIREMENTS	
	STORET CODE	lbs/day, unless noted		mg/l, unless noted		MEASUREMENT FREQUENCY	SAMPLE TYPE
POLLUTANT		MON AVG	DAY MAX	MON AVG	DAY MAX		
Flow	50050	Report MGD	Report MGD	N/A	N/A	Weekly	Record
Oil & Grease	00556	Report	Report	10	15	Twice/month (*1)	Grab
Total Dissolved Solids	70295	2381.62	3613.42	3555.93	7523.09	Twice/month (*1)	Grab
Dissolved Oxygen *2	00300	N/A	N/A	5.0	N/A	Twice/month (*1)	Grab
Dissolved Oxygen, Spring *3	00300	N/A	N/A	5.5	N/A	Twice/month (*1)	Grab
Total Sulfate	00945	1036.73	1572.93	1547.91	3274.83	Twice/month (*1)	Grab
Total Chloride	00940	1248.41	1894.09	1863.96	3943.48	Twice/month (*1)	Grab
Total Cadmium	01027	0.001	0.002	5.57 ug/l	11.78 ug/l	Twice/month (*1)	Grab
Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon	82181	N/A	N/A	N/A	Report	Once/three months (*1)	Grab
Total Benzene	34030	N/A	N/A	N/A	Report	Once/three months (*1)	Grab
Total BETX *4	30383	N/A	N/A	N/A	Report	Once/three months (*1)	Grab
Total Radium 226, pCi/l	0950	N/A	N/A	N/A	Report	Once/three months (*1)	Grab
Total Radium 228, pCi/l	11501	N/A	N/A	N/A	Report	Once/three months (*1)	Grab
Ra 226+Ra 228, pCi/l	11503	N/A	N/A	N/A	Report	Once/three months (*1)	Grab
Adjusted Gross Alpha, pCi/l	80029	N/A	N/A	N/A	Report	Once/three months (*1)	Grab

EFFLUENT CHARACTERISTICS	DISCHARGE MONITORING		MONITORING REQUIREMENTS	
	30-Day AVG MINIMUM	7-Day MINIMUM	MEASUREMENT FREQUENCY	SAMPLE TYPE
WHOLE EFFLUENT TOXICITY (7day, Static Renewal) (*5)				
Menidia beryllina	Report	Report	Once/Quarter	24-Hr Composite
Mysidopsis bahia	Report	Report	Once/Quarter	24-Hr Composite

EFFLUENT CHARACTERISTICS	DISCHARGE MONITORING		MONITORING REQUIREMENTS	
	30-DAY AVG MINIMUM	24-HR MINIMUM	MEASUREMENT FREQUENCY	SAMPLE TYPE
WHOLE EFFLUENT TOXICITY (Texas 24-Hour Acute LC50) (*5)				
Daphnia pulex	Report	Report	Once/6-months	Grab

Footnotes:

- *1 For any monitoring period, samples shall be taken at least seven (7) days from the first sample of the previous monitoring period.
- *2 The minimum dissolved Oxygen limit shall be 3.0 mg/l , with a mean DO of 5.0 mg/l.
- *3 In the spring, the minimum dissolved oxygen limit shall be 4.5 mg/l, with a mean DO of 5.5 mg/l. Spring is from March 21 to June 20.
- *4 BTEX is the sum of benzene, ethyl benzene, toluene and xylene.
- *5 Monitoring and reporting requirements begin on the effective date of this permit. See Part II, Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing Requirements for additional WET monitoring and reporting conditions.

SAMPLING LOCATION(S) AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Samples taken in compliance with the monitoring requirements specified above shall be taken at the discharge from the final treatment unit prior to the receiving stream from the following approximate location:

Outfall 001: Latitude 29° 2' 2" N; Longitude 98° 17' 59" W

FLOATING SOLIDS, VISIBLE FOAM AND/OR OILS

There shall be no discharge of floating solids or visible foam in other than trace amounts. There shall be no discharge of visible films of oil, globules of oil, grease or solids in or on the water, or coatings on stream banks.

SECTION B. SCHEDULE OF COMPLIANCE

NONE

SECTION C. MONITORING AND REPORTING (MINOR DISCHARGERS)

1. Monitoring results must be reported to EPA on either the electronic or paper Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) approved formats. Monitoring results can be submitted electronically in lieu of the paper DMR Form. To submit electronically, access the NetDMR website at www.epa.gov/netdmr and contact the R6NetDMR@epa.gov in-box for further instructions. Until you are approved for Net DMR, you must report on the Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) Form EPA No. 3320-1 in accordance with the "General Instructions" provided on the form. No additional copies are needed if reporting electronically, however when submitting paper form EPA No. 3320-1, the permittee shall submit the original DMR signed and certified as required by Part III.D.11 and all other reports required by Part III.D. to the EPA and other agencies as required. (See Part III.D.IV of the permit.)

Discharge Monitoring Report Form(s) shall be submitted quarterly. Each quarterly submittal shall include separate forms for each month of the reporting period.

2. Reporting periods shall end on the last day of the months March, June, September, and December.

3. The first Discharge Monitoring Report(s) shall represent facility operations from the effective date of the permit through the last day of the current reporting period.

4. Thereafter, the permittee is required to submit regular quarterly reports as described above and shall submit those reports postmarked no later than the 28th day of the month following each reporting period.

5. NO DISCHARGE REPORTING - If there is no discharge from any outfall during the sampling month, place an "X" in the NO DISCHARGE box located in the upper right corner of the Discharge Monitoring Report.

6. If any daily maximum or monthly average value exceeds the effluent limitations specified in Part I. A, the permittee shall report the excursion in accordance with the requirements of Part III. D.

7. Any daily maximum or monthly average value reported in the required Discharge Monitoring Report which is in excess of the effluent limitation specified in Part I. A shall constitute evidence of violation of such effluent limitation and of this permit.

The permittee shall effectively monitor the operation and efficiency of all treatment and control facilities and the quantity and quality of the treated discharge.

All reports shall be sent both to EPA and the Texas Railroad Commission at the addresses shown in Part III of the permit.

C. WATER TREATMENT CHEMICAL PROHIBITION

Products containing chromium and zinc will be prohibited from use as additives to the utility waters.

PART II - OTHER REQUIREMENTS

A. MINIMUM QUANTIFICATION LEVEL (MQL)

See list of MQL's at Appendix A of Part II below. For pollutants listed on Appendix A of Part II with MQL's, analyses must be performed to the listed MQL. If any individual analytical test result is less than the MQL listed, a value of zero (0) may be used for that pollutant result for the Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) calculations and reporting requirements.

In addition, any additional pollutant sampling for purposes of this permit, including renewal applications or any other reporting, shall be tested to the MQL shown on the attached Appendix A of Part II. Results of analyses that are less than the listed MQL may be reported as "non detect" (ND).

B. 24-HOUR ORAL REPORTING: DAILY MAXIMUM LIMITATION VIOLATIONS

Under the provisions of Part III.D.7.b.(3) of this permit, violations of daily maximum limitations for the following pollutants shall be reported orally to EPA Region 6, Compliance and Assurance Division, Water Enforcement Branch (6EN-W), Dallas, Texas, at (214) 665-6595, and concurrently to Railroad Commission of Texas, at (512) 463-6804, within 24 hours from the time the permittee becomes aware of the violation followed by a written report in five days.

Total Cadmium, Total Sulfate, Total Chloride and Total dissolved solids

C. 40 CFR PART 136 ANALYTICAL REQUIREMENTS

Unless otherwise specified in this permit, monitoring shall be conducted according to the analytical, apparatus and materials, sample collection, preservation, handling, etc., procedures listed at 40 CFR Part 136 in effect on the effective date of this permit. Appendices A, B, and C to 40 CFR Part 136 are specifically referenced as part of this requirement. Amendments to 40 CFR Part 136 promulgated after the effective date of this permit shall supersede these requirements as applicable.

D. REOPENER

The permit may be reopened and modified during the life of the permit if relevant portions of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Water Quality Standards for Interstate and Intrastate Streams are revised or remanded. In addition, the permit may be reopened and modified during the life of the permit if relevant procedures implementing the Water Quality Standards are either revised or promulgated by the TCEQ. Should the State adopt a State water quality standard, this permit may be reopened to establish effluent limitations for the parameter(s) to be consistent with that approved State standard in accordance with 40CFR122.44 (d). Modification of the permit is subject to the provisions of 40CFR124.5.

If a new or revised TMDL is determined for the receiving stream, the permit may be reopened, and new limitations based on the TMDL may be incorporated into the permit. Additionally, in accordance with 40 CFR Part 122.62 (a) (2), the permit may be reopened and modified if new information is received that was not available at the time of permit issuance that would have justified the application of different permit conditions at the time of permit issuance. Permit modifications shall reflect the results of any of these actions and shall follow regulations listed at 40 CFR Part 124.5.

E. WHOLE EFFLUENT TOXICITY TESTING (7-DAY CHRONIC NOEC MARINE)

It is unlawful and a violation of this permit for a permittee or his designated agent, to manipulate test samples in any manner, to delay sample shipment, or to terminate or to cause to terminate a toxicity test. Once initiated, all toxicity tests must be completed unless specific authority has been granted by EPA Region 6 or the State NPDES permitting authority.

1. SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

a. The permittee shall test the effluent for toxicity in accordance with the provisions in this section.

APPLICABLE TO FINAL OUTFALL(S): 001

REPORTED ON DMR AS FINAL OUTFALL: 001

CRITICAL DILUTION (%): 100 %

EFFLUENT DILUTION SERIES (%): 32%, 42%, 56%, 75%, and 100%.

COMPOSITE SAMPLE TYPE: Defined at PART I

TEST SPECIES/METHODS: 40 CFR Part 136

Mysidopsis bahia (Mysid shrimp) chronic static renewal 7-day survival and growth test using Method 1007.0, EPA-821-R-02-014, or the most recent update thereof.

Menidia beryllina (Inland Silverside minnow) chronic static renewal 7-day larval survival and growth test, Method 1006.0, EPA-821-R-02-014, or the most recent update thereof. A minimum of five (5) replicates with eight (8) organisms per replicate must be used in the control and in each effluent dilution of this test.

b. The NOEC (No Observed Effect Concentration) is herein defined as the greatest effluent dilution at and below which toxicity that is statistically different from the control (0% effluent) at the 95% confidence level does not occur. Chronic lethal test failure is defined as a demonstration of a statistically significant lethal effect at test

completion to a test species at or below the critical dilution. Chronic sub-lethal test failure is defined as a demonstration of a statistically significant sub-lethal effect (i.e., growth or reproduction) at test completion to a test species at or below the critical dilution.

c. This permit may be reopened to require whole effluent toxicity limits, chemical specific effluent limits, additional testing, and/or other appropriate actions to address toxicity.

2. PERSISTENT LETHAL and/or SUB-LETHAL EFFECTS

The requirements of this subsection apply only when a toxicity test demonstrates significant lethal and/or sub-lethal effects at or below the critical dilution. The purpose of additional tests (also referred to as 'retests' or confirmation tests) is to determine the duration of a toxic event. A test that meets all test acceptability criteria and demonstrates significant toxic effects does not need additional confirmation. Such testing cannot confirm or disprove a previous test result.

If any valid test demonstrates significant lethal or sublethal effects to a test species at or below the critical dilution, the frequency of testing for that species is automatically increased to once per quarter for the life of the permit.

a. Part I Testing Frequency Other Than Monthly

i. The permittee shall conduct a total of three (3) additional tests for any species that demonstrates significant toxic effects at or below the critical dilution. The additional tests shall be conducted monthly during the next three consecutive months. If testing on a quarterly basis, the permittee may substitute one of the additional tests in lieu of one routine toxicity test. A full report shall be prepared for each test required by this section in accordance with procedures outlined in Item 4 of this section and submitted with the period discharge monitoring report (DMR) to the permitting authority for review.

ii. **IF LETHAL EFFECTS HAVE BEEN DEMONSTRATED** If any of the additional tests demonstrates significant lethal effects at or below the critical dilution, the permittee shall initiate the Toxicity Reduction Evaluation (TRE) requirements as specified in Item 5 of this section. The permittee shall notify EPA in writing within 5 days of the failure of any retest, and the TRE initiation date will be the test completion date of the first failed retest. A TRE may also be required due to a demonstration of intermittent lethal effects at or below the critical dilution, or for failure to perform the required retests.

iii. **IF ONLY SUB-LETHAL EFFECTS HAVE BEEN DEMONSTRATED** If any two of the three additional tests demonstrates significant sub-lethal effects at 75% effluent or lower, the permittee shall initiate the Sub-Lethal Toxicity Reduction Evaluation (TRE_{SL}) requirements as specified in Item 5 of this section. The permittee shall notify EPA in writing within 5 days of the failure of any retest, and the Sub-Lethal Effects TRE

initiation date will be the test completion date of the first failed retest. A TRE may be also be required for failure to perform the required retests.

iv. The provisions of Item 2.a.i. are suspended upon submittal of the TRE Action Plan.

b. Part I Testing Frequency of Monthly

The permittee shall initiate the Toxicity Reduction Evaluation (TRE) requirements as specified in Item 5 of this section when any two of three consecutive monthly toxicity tests exhibit significant lethal effects at or below the critical dilution. A TRE may also be required due to a demonstration of intermittent lethal and/or sub-lethal effects at or below the critical dilution, or for failure to perform the required retests.

3. REQUIRED TOXICITY TESTING CONDITIONS

a. Test Acceptance

The permittee shall repeat a test, including the control and all effluent dilutions, if the procedures and quality assurance requirements defined in the test methods or in this permit are not satisfied, including the following additional criteria:

i. The toxicity test control (0% effluent) must have survival equal to or greater than 80%.

ii. The mean dry weight of surviving Mysid shrimp at the end of the 7 days in the control (0% effluent) must be 0.20 mg per mysid or greater. Should the mean dry weight in the control be less than 0.20 mg per mysid, the toxicity test, including the control and all effluent dilutions shall be repeated.

iii. The mean dry weight of surviving unpreserved Inland Silverside minnow larvae at the end of the 7 days in the control (0% effluent) must be 0.50 mg per larva or greater. The mean dry weight of surviving preserved Inland Silverside minnow larvae at the end of the 7 days in the control (0% effluent) must be 0.43 mg per larva or greater.

iv. The percent coefficient of variation between replicates shall be 40% or less in the control (0% effluent) for: the growth and survival endpoints in the Mysid shrimp test; and the growth and survival endpoints of the Inland Silverside minnow test.

v. The percent coefficient of variation between replicates shall be 40% or less in the critical dilution, unless significant lethal or nonlethal effects are exhibited for: the growth and survival endpoints in the Mysid shrimp test; and the growth and survival endpoints of the Inland Silverside minnow test.

vi. A Percent Minimum Significant Difference (PMSD) range of 11 - 37 for *Mysidopsis bahia* growth;

vii. A PMSD range of 11 - 28 for Silverside minnow growth.

Test failure may not be construed or reported as invalid due to a coefficient of variation value of greater than 40%. A repeat test shall be conducted within the required reporting period of any test determined to be invalid.

b. Statistical Interpretation

For the Mysid shrimp and the Inland Silverside minnow larval survival and growth test, the statistical analyses used to determine if there is a significant difference between the control and the critical dilution shall be in accordance with the methods for determining the No Observed Effect Concentration (NOEC) as described in EPA-821-R-02-014 or the most recent update thereof.

If the conditions of Test Acceptability are met in Item 3.a above and the percent survival of the test organism is equal to or greater than 80% in the critical dilution concentration and all lower dilution concentrations, the test shall be considered to be a passing test, and the permittee shall report ~~an~~ a survival NOEC of not less than the critical dilution for the DMR reporting requirements found in Item 4 below.

c. Dilution Water

i. Dilution water used in the toxicity tests will be receiving water collected as close to the point of discharge as possible but unaffected by the discharge. The permittee shall substitute synthetic dilution water of similar pH, hardness, and salinity to the closest downstream perennial water for;

(A) toxicity tests conducted on effluent discharges to receiving water classified as intermittent streams; and

(B) toxicity tests conducted on effluent discharges where no receiving water is available due to zero flow conditions.

ii. If the receiving water is unsatisfactory as a result of instream toxicity (fails to fulfill the test acceptance criteria of Item 3.a), the permittee may substitute synthetic dilution water for the receiving water in all subsequent tests provided the unacceptable receiving water test met the following stipulations:

(A) a synthetic dilution water control which fulfills the test acceptance requirements of Item 3.a was run concurrently with the receiving water control;

(B) the test indicating receiving water toxicity has been carried out to completion (i.e., 7 days);

(C) the permittee includes all test results indicating receiving water toxicity with the full report and information required by Item 4 below; and

(D) the synthetic dilution water shall have a pH, hardness, and salinity similar to that of the receiving water or closest downstream perennial water not adversely affected by the discharge, provided the magnitude of these parameters will not cause toxicity in the synthetic dilution water.

d. Samples and Composites

i. The permittee shall collect a minimum of three flow-weighted composite samples from the outfall(s) listed at Item 1.a above.

ii. The permittee shall collect second and third composite samples for use during 24-hour renewals of each dilution concentration for each test. The permittee must collect the composite samples such that the effluent samples are representative of any periodic episode of chlorination, biocide usage or other potentially toxic substance discharged on an intermittent basis.

iii. The permittee must collect the composite samples so that the maximum holding time for any effluent sample shall not exceed 72 hours. The permittee must have initiated the toxicity test within 36 hours after the collection of the last portion of the first composite sample. Samples shall be chilled to 6 degrees Centigrade during collection, shipping, and/or storage.

iv. If the flow from the outfall(s) being tested ceases during the collection of effluent samples, the requirements for the minimum number of effluent samples, the minimum number of effluent portions and the sample holding time are waived during that sampling period. However, the permittee must collect an effluent composite sample volume during the period of discharge that is sufficient to complete the required toxicity tests with daily renewal of effluent. When possible, the effluent samples used for the toxicity tests shall be collected on separate days if the discharge occurs over multiple days. The effluent composite sample collection duration and the static renewal protocol associated with the abbreviated sample collection must be documented in the full report required in Item 4 of this section.

v. MULTIPLE OUTFALLS: If the provisions of this section are applicable to multiple outfalls, the permittee shall combine the composite effluent samples in proportion to the average flow from the outfalls listed in Item 1.a above for the day the sample was collected. The permittee shall perform the toxicity test on the flow-weighted composite of the outfall samples.

4. REPORTING

a. The permittee shall prepare a full report of the results of all tests conducted pursuant to this section in accordance with the Report Preparation Section of

EPA-821-R-02-014, or the most current publication, for every valid or invalid toxicity test initiated whether carried to completion or not. The permittee shall retain each full report pursuant to the provisions of PART III.C.3 of this permit. The permittee shall submit full reports upon the specific request of the Agency. For any test which fails, is considered invalid or which is terminated early for any reason, the full report must be submitted for agency review.

b. A valid test for each species must be reported on the DMR during each reporting period specified in PART I of this permit unless the permittee is performing a TRE which may increase the frequency of testing and reporting. Only ONE set of biomonitoring data for each species is to be recorded on the DMR for each reporting period. The data submitted should reflect the LOWEST lethal and sub-lethal results for each species during the reporting period. All invalid tests, repeat tests (for invalid tests), and retests (for tests previously failed) performed during the reporting period must be attached to the DMR for EPA review.

c. The permittee shall submit the results of each valid toxicity test on the subsequent monthly DMR for that reporting period in accordance with PART III.D.4 of this permit, as follows below. Submit retest information clearly marked as such with the following month's DMR. Only results of valid tests are to be reported on the DMR.

i. Menidia beryllina (Inland Silverside minnow)

A. If the No Observed Effect Concentration (NOEC) for survival is less than the critical dilution, enter a "1"; otherwise, enter a "0". Parameter No. TLP6B

B. Report the NOEC value for survival, Parameter No. TOP6B

C. Report the Lowest Observed Effect Concentration (LOEC) value for survival, Parameter No. TXP6B

D. Report the NOEC value for growth, Parameter No. TPP6B

E. Report the LOEC value for growth, Parameter No. TYP6B

F. If the No Observed Effect Concentration (NOEC) for growth is less than the critical dilution, enter a "1"; otherwise, enter a "0" for Parameter No. TGP6B

G. Report the highest (critical dilution or control) Coefficient of Variation, Parameter No. TQP6B

ii. Mysidopsis bahia (Mysid shrimp)

A. If the NOEC for survival is less than the critical dilution, enter a "1"; otherwise, enter a "0". Parameter No. TLP3E

- B. Report the NOEC value for survival, Parameter No. TOP3E
 - C. Report the LOEC value for survival, Parameter No. TXP3E
 - D. Report the NOEC value for growth, Parameter No. TPP3E
 - E. Report the LOEC value for growth, Parameter No. TYP3E
 - F. If the No Observed Effect Concentration (NOEC) for growth is less than the critical dilution, enter a "1"; otherwise, enter a "0" for Parameter No. TGP3E
 - G. Report the highest (critical dilution or control) Coefficient of Variation, Parameter No. TQP3E
- d. Enter the following codes on the DMR for retests only:
- i. For retest number 1, Parameter 22415, enter a "1" if the NOEC for survival and/or sub-lethal effects is less than the critical dilution; otherwise, enter a "0."
 - ii. For retest number 2, Parameter 22416, enter a "1" if the NOEC for survival and/or sub-lethal effects is less than the critical dilution; otherwise, enter a "0."
 - iii. For retest number 3, Parameter 51443, enter a '1' if the NOEC for survival and/or sub-lethal effects is less than the critical dilution; otherwise, enter a '0'

5. TOXICITY REDUCTION EVALUATIONS (TREs)

TREs for lethal and sub-lethal effects are performed in a very similar manner. EPA Region 6 is currently addressing TREs as follows: a sub-lethal TRE (TRE_{SL}) is triggered based on three sub-lethal test failures while a lethal effects TRE (TRE_L) is triggered based on only two test failures for lethality. In addition, EPA Region 6 will consider the magnitude of toxicity and use flexibility when considering a TRE_{SL} where there are no effects at effluent dilutions of less than 76% effluent.

- a. Within ninety (90) days of confirming persistent toxicity, the permittee shall submit a Toxicity Reduction Evaluation (TRE) Action Plan and Schedule for conducting a TRE. The TRE Action Plan shall specify the approach and methodology to be used in performing the TRE. A Toxicity Reduction Evaluation is an investigation intended to determine those actions necessary to achieve compliance with water quality-based effluent limits by reducing an effluent's toxicity to an acceptable level. A TRE is defined as a step-wise process which combines toxicity testing and analyses of the physical and chemical characteristics of a toxic effluent to identify the constituents causing effluent toxicity and/or treatment methods which will reduce the effluent toxicity.-The goal of the TRE is to maximally reduce the toxic effects of effluent at the critical dilution and include the following:

- i. **Specific Activities.** The plan shall detail the specific approach the permittee intends to utilize in conducting the TRE. The approach may include toxicity characterizations, identifications and confirmation activities, source evaluation, treatability studies, or alternative approaches. When the permittee conducts Toxicity Characterization Procedures the permittee shall perform multiple characterizations and follow the procedures specified in the documents "Methods for Aquatic Toxicity Identification Evaluations: Phase I Toxicity Characterization Procedures" (EPA-600/6-91/003) and "Toxicity Identification Evaluation: Characterization of Chronically Toxic Effluents, Phase I" (EPA-600/6-91/005F), or alternate procedures. When the permittee conducts Toxicity Identification Evaluations and Confirmations, the permittee shall perform multiple identifications and follow the methods specified in the documents "Methods for Aquatic Toxicity Identification Evaluations, Phase II Toxicity Identification Procedures for Samples Exhibiting Acute and Chronic Toxicity" (EPA/600/R-92/080) and "Methods for Aquatic Toxicity Identification Evaluations, Phase III Toxicity Confirmation Procedures for Samples Exhibiting Acute and Chronic Toxicity" (EPA/600/R-92/081), as appropriate.

The documents referenced above may be obtained through the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) by phone at (703) 487-4650, or by writing:

U.S. Department of Commerce
National Technical Information Service
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161

- ii. **Sampling Plan** (e.g., locations, methods, holding times, chain of custody, preservation, etc.). The effluent sample volume collected for all tests shall be adequate to perform the toxicity test, toxicity characterization, identification and confirmation procedures, and conduct chemical specific analyses when a probable toxicant has been identified;

Where the permittee has identified or suspects specific pollutant(s) and/or source(s) of effluent toxicity, the permittee shall conduct, concurrent with toxicity testing, chemical specific analyses for the identified and/or suspected pollutant(s) and/or source(s) of effluent toxicity. Where lethality was demonstrated within 48 hours of test initiation, each composite sample shall be analyzed independently. Otherwise the permittee may substitute a composite sample, comprised of equal portions of the individual composite samples, for the chemical specific analysis;

- iii. **Quality Assurance Plan** (e.g., QA/QC implementation, corrective actions, etc.); and

- iv. Project Organization (e.g., project staff, project manager, consulting services, etc.).
- b. The permittee shall initiate the TRE Action Plan within thirty (30) days of plan and schedule submittal. The permittee shall assume all risks for failure to achieve the required toxicity reduction.
- c. The permittee shall submit a quarterly TRE Activities Report, with the Discharge Monitoring Report in the months of January, April, July and October, containing information on toxicity reduction evaluation activities including:
 - i. any data and/or substantiating documentation which identifies the pollutant(s) and/or source(s) of effluent toxicity;
 - ii. any studies/evaluations and results on the treatability of the facility's effluent toxicity; and
 - iii. any data which identifies effluent toxicity control mechanisms that will reduce effluent toxicity to the level necessary to meet no significant lethality at the critical dilution.

A copy of the TRE Activities Report shall also be submitted to the state agency.

- d. The permittee shall submit a Final Report on Toxicity Reduction Evaluation Activities no later than twenty-eight (28) months from confirming lethality in the retests, which provides information pertaining to the specific control mechanism selected that will, when implemented, result in reduction of effluent toxicity to no significant lethality at the critical dilution. The report will also provide a specific corrective action schedule for implementing the selected control mechanism.

A copy of the Final Report on Toxicity Reduction Evaluation Activities shall also be submitted to the state agency.

- e. Quarterly testing during the TRE is a minimum monitoring requirement. EPA recommends that permittees required to perform a TRE not rely on quarterly testing alone to ensure success in the TRE, and that additional screening tests be performed to capture toxic samples for identification of toxicants. Failure to identify the specific chemical compound causing toxicity test failure will normally result in a permit limit for whole effluent toxicity limits per federal regulations at 40 CFR 122.44(d)(1)(v).

6. MONITORING FREQUENCY REDUCTION

- a. The permittee may apply for a testing frequency reduction upon the successful completion of the first four consecutive quarters of testing for

one or both test species, with no lethal or sub-lethal effects demonstrated at or below the critical dilution. If granted, the monitoring frequency for that test species may be reduced to not less than once per year for the less sensitive species (usually the Inland Silverside minnow) and not less than twice per year for the more sensitive test species (usually the mysid shrimp).

- b. **CERTIFICATION** - The permittee must certify in writing that no test failures have occurred and that all tests meet all test acceptability criteria in item 3.a. above. In addition the permittee must provide a list with each test performed including test initiation date, species, NOECs for lethal and sub-lethal effects and the maximum coefficient of variation for the controls. Upon review and acceptance of this information the agency will issue a letter of confirmation of the monitoring frequency reduction. A copy of the letter will be forwarded to the agency's Permit Compliance System section to update the permit reporting requirements.
- c. **SUB-LETHAL OR SURVIVAL FAILURES** - If any test fails the survival or sub-lethal endpoint at any time during the life of this permit, three monthly retests are required and the monitoring frequency for the affected test species shall be increased to once per quarter until the permit is re-issued. Monthly retesting is not required if the permittee is performing a TRE.

Any monitoring frequency reduction applies only until the expiration date of this permit, at which time the monitoring frequency for both test species reverts to once per quarter until the permit is re-issued.

F. WHOLE EFFLUENT TOXICITY TESTING (TEXAS 24 HOUR ACUTE LC50 FRESHWATER)

1. SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

a. The provisions of this section shall apply individually and separately to the outfalls listed below. No samples or portions of samples from one outfall may be composited with samples or portions of samples from another outfall. The provisions of this section are in addition to other biomonitoring requirements in this permit.

APPLICABLE TO FINAL OUTFALL(S): 001

COMPOSITE SAMPLE TYPE: Defined at PART I

TEST SPECIES/METHODS: 40 CFR Part 136

Daphnia pulex acute static nonrenewal 24 hour toxicity test using EPA/600/4-90/027F or the latest update thereof. A minimum of five (5) replicates with eight (8) organisms per replicate must be used in the control and in each effluent dilution of this test.

24 HOUR ACUTE TEST SUBSTITUTIONS If any other tests conducted under biomonitoring requirements elsewhere in PART II of this permit include the 100% effluent concentration in the dilution series, the mean survival results at 24 hours from those tests, for each species, may be submitted to fulfill the requirements of this section. See Item 4.b of this section for acceptable test substitutions. The >50% survival in 100% effluent for 24 hour period standard applies to all tests utilizing a 100% effluent dilution, regardless of whether the results are submitted for compliance with the minimum testing frequency.

b. The permittee shall test the effluent for lethality in accordance with the provisions of this section. Such testing will determine if an effluent sample meets the Texas Surface Water Quality Standard listed at 30 TAC '307.6(e)(2)(B) of greater than 50% survival of the appropriate test organisms in 100% effluent for a 24 hour period.

c. The permittee shall submit the results of these tests on the Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) due in the month following the test.

d. In addition to an appropriate control (0% effluent), a 100% effluent concentration shall be used in the toxicity tests.

e. This permit may be reopened to require whole effluent toxicity limits, chemical specific effluent limits, additional testing, and/or other appropriate actions to address toxicity.

2. PERSISTENT LETHALITY

a. If any toxicity test at the 100% effluent concentration demonstrates 50% or greater mortality, the permittee shall conduct two (2) additional tests (retests) for each species that demonstrates mortality and report these results as required in Item 4 of this section. The two additional retests shall be conducted monthly during the next two consecutive months. Five (5) dilutions in addition to an appropriate control (0% effluent) shall be used in the two (2) retests. These effluent concentrations shall be 6%, 13%, 25%, 50%, and 100%. If one of the retests indicates 50% or greater mortality at the 100% effluent concentration, the permittee may suspend additional retesting for this period and shall notify the EPA in writing within five (5) days. If none of the retests indicates 50% or greater mortality at the 100% effluent concentration, the permittee shall continue testing at the original frequency.

b. Within thirty (30) days after submitting the original and retest results which demonstrate 50% or greater mortality at the 100% effluent concentration, the permittee shall initiate a Toxicity Reduction Evaluation (TRE) in accordance with the procedures stated Item 5 below and substituting the timetable given in Item 2.c, below. The permittee shall continue biomonitoring quarterly (as a minimum) during the TRE, using the affected species, unless otherwise authorized by the permitting authority. All information related to the TRE shall be directed to the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission (TNRCC).

c. Within eighteen (18) months from the date of completion of the test confirming 50% or greater mortality at the 100% effluent concentration, the permittee shall submit a Final Report on Toxicity Reduction Activities detailing the specific actions and control mechanism(s) and

necessary to achieve greater than 50% survival in 100% effluent for a period of 24 hours. The final report shall also contain a corrective action schedule for implementing the control measures outlined.

Within three (3) years from the date of completion of the test confirming 50% or greater mortality at the 100% effluent concentration, the permittee shall demonstrate greater than 50% mean survival of the appropriate test organism in 100% effluent for a 24 hour test period for all subsequent testing.

3. REQUIRED TOXICITY TESTING CONDITIONS

a. Control/Dilution Water

Control and/or dilution water used in the test shall normally consist of a standard, synthetic, moderately hard, reconstituted water of similar pH and alkalinity to the closest downstream perennial water. If the permittee is utilizing the results of a 48 hour acute test or 7 day chronic test to satisfy these 24 hour acute biomonitoring requirements in accordance with Item 1.a, the permittee may use receiving water as the control and dilution water if the control meets the requirements of Item 3.b.

b. Control Survival

If more than 10% of the test organisms in any control die within 24 hours, that test including the control and all effluent dilution(s) shall be repeated with all results from both tests reported as per Item 4 of this section.

c. Repeat Test

The permittee shall repeat a test, including the control and all effluent dilutions, if the procedures and quality assurance requirements defined in the test methods or in this permit are not satisfied. A repeat test shall be conducted within the required reporting period of any test determined to be invalid, in accordance with Item 3.b of this section.

d. Samples and Composites

GRAB samples are authorized for this test. The samples shall be collected at a point following the last treatment unit.

One **grab** sample representative of normal operating flows will be collected from each outfall, and a discrete test will be run on each **grab** sample.

Samples shall be chilled to 4 degrees Centigrade during collection, shipping, and/or storage. The toxicity tests must be initiated within 36 hours after collection of the **grab** sample. The **grab** sample must be collected such that the sample is representative of any periodic episode of chlorination, biocide usage, or other potentially toxic substance discharged on an intermittent basis.

4. REPORTING

a. The permittee shall prepare a full report of the results of all tests conducted pursuant to this Part in accordance with the Report Preparation section of EPA/600-4-90/027F for every valid or invalid toxicity test initiated, whether carried to completion or not. The permittee shall retain each full report pursuant to the provisions of PART III.C.3 of this permit. The permittee shall submit the information contained in any full report upon the specific request of the Agency.

b. The permittee shall report the following results of each toxicity test on the subsequent monthly DMR for that reporting period in accordance with PART III.D.4 of this permit:

i. *Daphnia pulex*

Enter the following codes on the DMR for Parameter No. TIE3D:

"0" if mean survival at 24 hrs. is greater than 50% in 100% effluent;

"1" if the mean survival at 24 hrs. is less than or equal to 50% in 100% effluent.

In cases of test substitution (See 24 HOUR ACUTE TEST SUBSTITUTIONS, Item 1.a, above), mean survival results in 100% effluent from the 48 hr. *Daphnia pulex* acute test, determined at 24 hrs., shall be reported on the DMR under Parameter No. TIE3D.

5. TEXAS 24 HR LC50 TOXICITY REDUCTION EVALUATION (TRE)

a. Within thirty (30) days of confirming lethality in the retests, the permittee shall submit a Toxicity Reduction Evaluation (TRE) Action Plan and Schedule for conducting a TRE. The TRE Action Plan shall specify the approach and methodology to be used in performing the TRE. A Toxicity Reduction Evaluation is an investigation intended to determine those actions necessary to achieve compliance with water quality-based effluent limits by reducing an effluent's toxicity to an acceptable level. A TRE is defined as a step-wise process which combines toxicity testing and analyses of the physical and chemical characteristics of a toxic effluent to identify the constituents causing effluent toxicity and/or treatment methods which will reduce the effluent toxicity. The TRE Action Plan shall lead to the successful elimination of effluent toxicity at the critical dilution and include the following:

i. **Specific Activities.** The plan shall detail the specific approach the permittee intends to utilize in conducting the TRE. The approach may include toxicity characterizations, identifications and confirmation activities, source evaluation, treatability studies, or alternative approaches. When the permittee conducts Toxicity Characterization Procedures, the permittee shall perform multiple characterizations and follow the procedures specified in the documents "Methods for Aquatic Toxicity Identification Evaluations: Phase I Toxicity Characterization Procedures" (EPA-600/6-91/003) or alternate procedures. When the permittee conducts Toxicity Identification Evaluations and Confirmations, the permittee shall perform multiple identifications and follow the methods specified in the documents "Methods for Aquatic Toxicity Identification Evaluations, Phase II Toxicity Identification Procedures for Samples Exhibiting Acute and

Chronic Toxicity" (EPA/600/R-92/080) and "Methods for Aquatic Toxicity Identification Evaluations, Phase III Toxicity Confirmation Procedures for Samples Exhibiting Acute and Chronic Toxicity" (EPA/600/R-92/081), as appropriate;

The documents referenced above may be obtained through the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) by phone at (703) 487-4650, or by writing:

U.S. Department of Commerce
National Technical Information Service
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161

ii. Sampling Plan (e.g., locations, methods, holding times, chain of custody, preservation, etc.). The effluent sample volume collected for all tests shall be adequate to perform the toxicity test, toxicity characterization, identification and confirmation procedures, and conduct chemical specific analyses when a probable toxicant has been identified;

Where the permittee has identified or suspects specific pollutant(s) and/or source(s) of effluent toxicity, the permittee shall conduct, concurrent with toxicity testing, chemical specific analyses for the identified and/or suspected pollutant(s) and/or source(s) of effluent toxicity;

iii. Quality Assurance Plan (e.g., QA/QC implementation, corrective actions, etc.); and

iv. Project Organization (e.g., project staff, project manager, consulting services, etc.).

b. The permittee shall initiate the TRE Action Plan within thirty (30) days of plan and schedule submittal. The permittee shall assume all risks for failure to achieve the required toxicity reduction.

c. The permittee shall submit a quarterly TRE Activities Report with the Discharge Monitoring Report in the months of January, April, July, and October containing information on toxicity reduction evaluation activities including:

i. any data and/or substantiating documentation which identifies the pollutant(s) and/or source(s) of effluent toxicity;

ii. any studies/evaluations and results on the treatability of the facility's effluent toxicity; and

iii. any data which identifies effluent toxicity control mechanisms that will reduce effluent toxicity to the level necessary to meet the Texas Surface Water Quality Standard listed at 30 TAC '307.6(e)(2)(B) of greater than 50% survival of the appropriate test organisms in 100% effluent for a 24 hour period.

A copy of the TRE Activities Report shall also be submitted to the state agency.

d. The permittee shall submit a Final Report on Toxicity Reduction Evaluation Activities no later than eighteen (18) months from confirming lethality in the retests, which provides information pertaining to the specific control mechanism selected that will, when implemented, result in reduction of effluent toxicity to less than 50% mortality in 100% effluent after 24 hours. The report will also provide a specific corrective action schedule for implementing the selected control mechanism.

A copy of the Final Report on Toxicity Reduction Evaluation Activities shall also be submitted to the state agency.

APPENDIX A of PART II

The following Minimum Quantification Levels (MQL's) are to be used for reporting pollutant data for NPDES permit applications and/or compliance reporting.

POLLUTANTS	MQL µg/l	POLLUTANTS	MQL µg/l
METALS, RADIOACTIVITY, CYANIDE and CHLORINE			
Aluminum	2.5	Molybdenum	10
Antimony	60	Nickel	0.5
Arsenic	0.5	Selenium	5
Barium	100	Silver	0.5
Beryllium	0.5	Thallium	0.5
Boron	100	Uranium	0.1
Cadmium	1	Vanadium	50
Chromium	10	Zinc	20
Cobalt	50	Cyanide	10
Copper	0.5	Cyanide, weak acid dissociable	10
Lead	0.5	Total Residual Chlorine	33
Mercury *1	0.0005 0.005		
DIOXIN			
2,3,7,8-TCDD	0.00001		
VOLATILE COMPOUNDS			
Acrolein	50	1,3-Dichloropropylene	10
Acrylonitrile	20	Ethylbenzene	10
Benzene	10	Methyl Bromide	50
Bromoform	10	Methylene Chloride	20
Carbon Tetrachloride	2	1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane	10
Chlorobenzene	10	Tetrachloroethylene	10
Clorodibromomethane	10	Toluene	10
Chloroform	50	1,2-trans-Dichloroethylene	10
Dichlorobromomethane	10	1,1,2-Trichloroethane	10
1,2-Dichloroethane	10	Trichloroethylene	10
1,1-Dichloroethylene	10	Vinyl Chloride	10
1,2-Dichloropropane	10		
ACID COMPOUNDS			
2-Chlorophenol	10	2,4-Dinitrophenol	50
2,4-Dichlorophenol	10	Pentachlorophenol	5
2,4-Dimethylphenol	10	Phenol	10
4,6-Dinitro-o-Cresol	50	2,4,6-Trichlorophenol	10

POLLUTANTS	MQL µg/l	POLLUTANTS	MQL µg/l
BASE/NEUTRAL			
Acenaphthene	10	Dimethyl Phthalate	10
Anthracene	10	Di-n-Butyl Phthalate	10
Benidine	50	2,4-Dinitrotoluene	10
Benzo(a)anthracene	5	1,2-Diphenylhydrazine	20
Benzo(a)pyrene	5	Fluoranthene	10
3,4-Benzofluoranthene	10	Fluorene	10
Benzo(k)fluoranthene	5	Hexachlorobenzene	5
Bis(2-chloroethyl)Ether	10	Hexachlorobutadiene	10
Bis(2-chloroisopropyl)Ether	10	Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	10
Bis(2-ethylhexyl)Phthalate	10	Hexachloroethane	20
Butyl Benzyl Phthalate	10	Indeno(1,2,3-cd)Pyrene	5
2-Chloronaphthalene	10	Isophorone	10
Chrysene	5	Nitrobenzene	10
Dibenzo(a,h)anthracene	5	n-Nitrosodimethylamine	50
1,2-Dichlorobenzene	10	n-Nitrosodi-n-Propylamine	20
1,3-Dichlorobenzene	10	n-Nitrosodiphenylamine	20
1,4-Dichlorobenzene	10	Pyrene	10
3,3'-Dichlorobenzidine	5	1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	10
Diethyl Phthalate	10		
PESTICIDES AND PCBs			
Aldrin	0.01	Beta-Endosulfan	0.02
Alpha-BHC	0.05	Endosulfan sulfate	0.02
Beta-BHC	0.05	Endrin	0.02
Gamma-BHC	0.05	Endrin Aldehyde	0.1
Chlordane	0.2	Heptachlor	0.01
4,4'-DDT and derivatives	0.02	Heptachlor Epoxide	0.01
Dieldrin	0.02	PCBs	0.2
Alpha-Endosulfan	0.01	Toxaphene	0.3

(MQL's Revised November 1, 2007)

Footnotes:

*1 Default MQL for Mercury is 0.005 unless Part I of your permit requires the more sensitive Method 1631 (Oxidation / Purge and Trap / Cold vapor Atomic Fluorescence Spectrometry), then the MQL shall be 0.0005

