

What is the Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report ?

The *Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report* (“*Joint Report*”) is a state-mandated annual report that describes the current status of groundwater monitoring activities conducted or required by each member of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC). The *Joint Report* also describes the groundwater protection programs of each TGPC member and provides the enforcement status of each groundwater contamination case.

Groundwater is defined by the TGPC as water existing below the land surface in a zone of saturation – that is, the water which completely fills the interconnected pore spaces of the rock or sediment.

Groundwater monitoring is conducted by members of the TGPC in order to assure regulatory compliance with groundwater protection, assess ambient groundwater quality, and conduct research activities. The *Joint Report* provides a general overview of groundwater monitoring by participating TGPC members on a program-by-program basis.

Groundwater contamination is defined by the TGPC as any detrimental alteration of the naturally-occurring quality of groundwater. It is limited, however, to contamination suspected of being associated with activities under the jurisdiction of the contributing agencies and affecting usable quality groundwater.

While the TGPC has authority through the Texas Water Code to coordinate groundwater protection programs, the activities requiring the regulatory protection of groundwater are under the jurisdiction of the TGPC’s member agencies.

Enforcement action is defined very broadly by the TGPC to include any action of an agency which accomplishes or requires the identification, documentation, monitoring, assessment, or remediation of groundwater contamination.

References:

- *What is the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee ?*, <http://tgpc.state.tx.us/frequently-asked-questions-faqs/#administrative>
- The current version of the *Joint Report* (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality publication SFR-056) is available at http://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/water_supply/groundwater/gw_index.html
- Texas Administrative Code, [http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=31&pt=18&ch=601&sch=A&rl=Y](http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=31&pt=18&ch=601&sch=A&rl=Y), Title 31, Part 18, Chapter 601, Subchapter A
- Texas Water Code, <http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/?link=WA>, Title 2, Chapter 26, Section 26.405 and Section 26.406

For additional Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) related to groundwater quantity, groundwater quality, septic systems, water wells, administrative entities, and

publications, visit the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee's FAQ webpage at <http://tgpc.state.tx.us/frequently-asked-questions-faqs/>.