

## 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 known occurrences of groundwater contamination cases in Texas and the status of enforcement action for each case for the previous calendar year. The *Joint Report* also describes the status of groundwater monitoring programs either conducted or required for regulated activities by members of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC).

TGPC members conduct or require groundwater monitoring to ensure regulatory compliance with groundwater protection, assess ambient groundwater quality, or perform research activities. The *Joint Report* provides a program-by-program overview of groundwater monitoring by participating TGPC members.

The *Joint Report* includes several terms defined by TGPC in its rules:

- “Groundwater” means 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 contamination” refers to the detrimental alteration of the naturally occurring physical, thermal, chemical, or biological quality of groundwater. For the purposes of inclusion of cases in the *Joint Report*, groundwater contamination is limited to contamination reasonably suspected of having been caused by activities or entities under the jurisdiction of TGPC members and affecting usable quality groundwater.
- “Enforcement action” includes any agency action to identify, document, monitor, assess, or remediate groundwater contamination.

While the Texas Water Code (TWC) authorizes TGPC to coordinate groundwater protection programs, these programs and activities are under the jurisdiction of the TGPC member agencies.

When the *Joint Report* is published, the list of groundwater contamination cases from the report is available as a downloadable Excel file on the TCEQ *Joint Report* webpage. Shortly after the *Joint Report* is published, the cases will be added to the TCEQ *Groundwater Contamination Viewer*.

### Resources and Useful Links:

- *What is the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee?* Frequently Asked Question (FAQ), <https://tgpc.texas.gov/frequently-asked-questions-faqs/#administrative>
- The current version of the *Joint Report* (TCEQ, publication SFR-056), <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/groundwater/groundwater-planning-assessment/sfr-056-joint-groundwater-monitoring-contamination-report>

- TCEQ Groundwater Contamination Viewer, <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/gis/groundwater-contamination-viewer>
- TGPC rules at Texas Administrative Code, Title 31, Part 18, Chapter 601 (“Groundwater Contamination Report”), Subchapter A, (“General Provisions Relating to Public Files and Joint Report”), [https://texas-sos.appianportalsgov.com/rules-and-meetings?chapter=601&interface=VIEW\\_TAC&part=18&subchapter=A&title=31](https://texas-sos.appianportalsgov.com/rules-and-meetings?chapter=601&interface=VIEW_TAC&part=18&subchapter=A&title=31)
- TWC, Title 2, Subtitle D, Chapter 26 (“Water Quality Control”), Subchapter J (“Groundwater Protection”), Sections 26.405 (“Powers and Duties of Committee”) and 26.406 (“Groundwater Contamination Information and Reports; Rules”), <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/WA/htm/WA.26.htm#J>

### **Other Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

To find additional FAQs, visit the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee’s FAQ webpage at <https://tgpc.texas.gov/frequently-asked-questions-faqs/>.