

TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE  
Groundwater Issues Subcommittee  
Subcommittee Charge

Date Approved

July 12, 2023

Sponsor

Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC)

Co-Chairs

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)  
Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)

Co-chairs serve for the biennium, and the TGPC may elect to rotate Co-Chairs among member agencies to appropriately focus on changing groundwater issues.

Members

Participating and interested agencies and individuals.

Subcommittee Purpose

The primary goals of the Subcommittee are to:

- Facilitate interagency communication for assessment programs addressing groundwater contamination;
- Coordinate and assist member agencies with monitoring programs for:
  - Ambient groundwater conditions;
  - Pesticides; and,
  - Emerging contaminants or constituents of concern;
- Support the intent of the *Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy* (<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/downloads/groundwater/publications/as-188-texas-groundwater-protection-strategy.pdf>) by:
  - Reviewing published data reports, and evaluating data independent of published reports, to assist in the determination of the effectiveness of existing regulatory programs and to identify potential groundwater contaminants not addressed by existing regulatory programs;
  - Developing recommendations for consideration by the TGPC to address potential groundwater contamination identified through monitoring and data review; and,
  - Developing white papers on the groundwater issues listed in their biannual *Activity Plan* which summarize the best available scientific data on a specific groundwater issue, identify areas where there is insufficient scientific data to thoroughly assess the issue,

evaluate the effectiveness of existing regulatory programs to address the issue, and provide recommendations or policy options to the TGPC regarding the issue.

The Subcommittee will work in cooperation with appropriate member agencies to:

- Develop or update management plans or management plan components, identifying specific program activities and agency roles and responsibilities, as needed;
- Coordinate member and interested agency and stakeholder input to the TGPC;
- Identify new groundwater issues; and,
- Develop and support educational outreach efforts and programs in coordination with the Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee.

### Expected Results

The Subcommittee will accomplish the above stated goals through communication, cooperation, and support with the various state agencies on the TGPC and interested stakeholders.

Subcommittee deliverables include, but are not limited to:

- A biennial Activities Plan. This plan should include procedures for:
  - Coordinating groundwater monitoring efforts;
  - Management plan development, if needed;
  - Data review efforts;
  - Developing recommendations for regulatory programs;
    - § Maintaining the Interagency Pesticide Database (<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/groundwater/groundwater-planning-assessment/pesticides.html>); and,
  - Potential educational outreach efforts, coordinated with the POE Subcommittee;
- An annual report on the previous year's activities, to be presented to the TGPC at its First Quarter Meeting of each fiscal year;
- Evaluations of regulatory effectiveness;
- Recommendations identifying potential contaminants or constituents of concern; and,
- Research recommendations where there is insufficient scientific data to thoroughly assess groundwater contaminant fate and transport.

### Scope and Boundaries

The Subcommittee may draw upon additional staff expertise from appropriate agencies as needed in order to address specific issues related to its Charge. The Subcommittee shall coordinate with the POE Subcommittee regarding the development of educational materials, publications, and outreach activities.

Subcommittee members shall help establish and abide by ground rules and operating procedures and respect the autonomy of their fellow agencies. Subcommittee meetings shall be held quarterly, must meet all requirements of open meetings, and must maintain written records of all meetings.

The Subcommittee may form Task Force working groups in order to address individual issues, as needed. Task Force working groups may include, but are not limited to:

- Sampling site selection, including pesticides;
- Nonpoint Source (NPS) pollution;
- Best Management Practices (BMPs);
- Groundwater research; and,
- Data management.

These Task Force working groups shall meet as necessary in order to support the Subcommittee, and will not be subject to open meetings requirements, unless a quorum of the TGPC is in attendance.

#### Reporting to the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee

The Subcommittee shall report on its activities at the regularly scheduled TGPC quarterly meetings.