

2. FACT SHEET

PRESERVING WATER QUALITY ADJACENT TO OPERATIONS

CONCERN: Water is not being protected by permit requirements and damage is occurring to rivers and waterways from illegal discharges.

The TCEQ’s environmental permitting process and enforcement process ensures that water quality is protected. TACA actively supports and promotes sustainable operational practices and policies that reflect sensible environmental stewardship of Texas’ natural resources.

Like many other industrial operations, Aggregate Production Operations (APOs) must have wastewater discharge permits to legally operate their facilities in Texas. The most common wastewater discharge permit for aggregate facilities is the TCEQ Multi-Sector General Permit – MSGP – for Industrial Facilities (aka, TXRO50000).

APOs often fall under Sector J of the MSGP for “mineral mining and processing facilities,” which includes SIC 1442 - 1446 for sand and gravel mining and SIC 1422-1429 for crushed and broken stone.

The MSGP requires an “annual comprehensive site compliance evaluation;” contains numeric effluent criteria for pH, TSS, and nitrates, as applicable; and requires self-reporting using “discharge monitoring reports.” TCEQ administers other water quality protection programs on a more regional-specific basis, such as the John Graves Scenic Riverway Permitting Program (specific to Palo Pinto and Parker Counties) and the Edwards Aquifer Program (specific to Medina, Bexar, Comal, Kinney, Uvalde, Hays, Travis and Williamson Counties).