

# Desalination Residual Discharges

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# House Bill 2031 of 84<sup>th</sup> Session

Required TCEQ to adopt an expedited permitting process for discharge permits for:

- Waste from desalination of marine seawater into the Gulf of Mexico
- Treated marine seawater (freshwater)

# Water Quality Standards

**Water quality standards for marine waters** - Texas does not have numerical water quality standards for salinity or total dissolved solids in marine waters.

- Discharges to the Gulf of Mexico need to demonstrate minimal impact will occur

**Water quality standards for estuaries** - salinity gradients in estuaries must be maintained to support attainable estuarine dependent aquatic life uses... [30 TAC §307.4(g)].

- The discharge of desalination wastewater into bays and estuaries is prohibited under the expedited permit process

# Rulemaking: 30 TAC Chapter 318

## **Subchapter C - Off Shore Discharges**

Applies to the off-shore discharges of marine seawater (  $\geq 3$  miles) from the shoreline.

Establishes an expedited permitting process for off-shore discharges as follows:

- Streamlined application
- Reduced review periods and response times
- Public notice is web-based
- Reduced public comment period from 30 days to 10 days
- Response to Comments included in a technical summary
- No opportunity for a public meeting or contested case hearing

# Rulemaking: 30 TAC Chapter 318

## Subchapter D: Near-Shore Discharges

Applies to the near-shore discharges of marine seawater ( <3 miles) from the shoreline.

- Discharges are subject to the current TPDES requirements
- Applications are processed in accordance with current permitting procedures
- Public participation- Public meeting and/or a contested case hearing

# Rulemaking: 30 TAC Chapter 318

## Subchapter B: Treated Marine Seawater Discharges

Discharge of treated marine seawater (freshwater) into a natural stream in the state, or lake, reservoir, or other impoundment.

- Establishes an expedited permitting process
- Streamlined applications
- Reduced review periods and response times
- Public notice is web-based
- Reduced public comment period - from 30 days to 10 days
- Response to Comments will be prepared
- Public participation- Public meeting and/or a contested case hearing

# Next Steps in the Process

## Discharge Zones in the Gulf:

- TCEQ to adopt rules for discharge zones by 2020.
- Prior to 2020, a person must consult TPWD and GLO regarding the discharge point
- After 2020 (or when rule is effective) discharges must be located in the discharge zones



# Questions

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