



July 16, 2026

Submitted via electronic filing: <https://tceq.commentinput.com/?id=t4Tx29FYWG>

Office of the Chief Clerk (MC 105)
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

Re: Potential Changes to On-Site Sewage Facility (OSSF) Rules Under 30 Tex. Admin. Code Ch. 285

The Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) potential changes to OSSF rules under Chapter 285.

LCRA is a conservation and reclamation district. It has no taxing authority and generates revenues and fees from its core operations of electric generation, electric transmission, and water services. LCRA manages the lower 600 miles of the Colorado River in Texas, securing and protecting the water supply for more than one million people, businesses, and industries. LCRA monitors the water quality of the lower Colorado River in part through its OSSF program. Pursuant to Chapter 366 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, LCRA is an OSSF authorized agent and has the power and responsibility to implement and enforce both TCEQ's and its own rules within LCRA's OSSF jurisdiction.

LCRA respectfully submits the following comments regarding the potential rule changes.

30 TAC § 285.1(a) Purpose and Applicability: TCEQ should revise this rule to explicitly state that it applies to both "maintenance providers" and "maintenance technicians" as these terms are defined in Section 285.2.

30 TAC § 285.2 Definitions & Table 285.91(3): TCEQ should add definitions for the terms "apartment houses," and "hotels and motels," given that these terms are used in Table 285.91(3) (titled "Wastewater Usage Rate"). TCEQ should also add definitions for the terms "recreational vehicle," "park model recreational vehicle," and "tiny home," and further specify applicable usage rates in gallons per day (GPD) in Table 285.91(3).

30 TAC § 285.3(c) General Requirements: TCEQ should clarify whether a permitting authority's failure to meet the 30-day deadline to either approve or deny an application requires automatic permit authorization.

30 TAC § 285.4(a)(2) Facility Planning: TCEQ should clarify what a “sewage disposal plan” is and how it differs from other OSSF planning materials.

30 TAC § 285.32(a)(5), (7) Criteria for Sewage Treatment Systems: TCEQ should clarify whether two 45-degree fittings also require an additional cleanout plug. If two 45-degree fittings do require an additional cleanout plug, how close must the fittings be to each other to trigger the requirement? TCEQ should further clarify whether 3” Schedule 80 PVC is acceptable for non-pressure sewer lines, given that interior dimensions are slightly less than 3”.

30 TAC § 285.33 Criteria for Effluent Disposal Systems: TCEQ should consider making clarifications and improvements to the following criteria:

- 285.33(a)(4): Clarify whether the pipe itself must be at least five feet in length, or whether the closest drainfield excavation should be five feet from a gravity flow tank.
- 285.33(b)(2)(B) & Table 285.91(7): There is a lot of physical distance between each of the named cities in Table 285.91(7). A method to determine which Ret to use in ET sizing or a method of extrapolation when an area exists equidistant between the two closest towns should be included to avoid conflicts determining minimum sizing requirements.
- 285.33(c)(2)(B): Remove low-pressure dosed (LPD) drainfield from the list and allow a reduction when leaching chambers are used as the media in LPD drainfields.
- 285.33(c)(3): Provide maximum slope requirements for drip emitter systems.
- 285.33(d)(1): Provide maximum slope requirements for LPD systems.
- 285.33(d)(1): Provide design information for leaching chamber as media in LPD system. (i.e., distribution hole directions, minimum distance of distribution pipes off bottom of excavation).
- 285.33(d)(3)(F): Simplify sizing of mound basal area when on slopes greater than 2%.
- 285.33(d)(4)(C): Clarify that the setbacks are to be measured from the exterior edge of the substituted soil.

30 TAC § 285.91(X) Tables: TCEQ should clarify whether “Private Water Line” is limited to lines for potable water. Furthermore, for “Foundations, Buildings, Surface Improvements, Property Lines, Swimming Pools, and Other Structures,” where there are sewer pipes with watertight joints, the regulation requires that “Pipe may run beneath driveways and sidewalks or up to surface improvements if it is Schedule 80 pipe or sleeved in Schedule 40 pipe” and “Pipe containing secondary effluent has no setbacks

Comments of LCRA: Potential Changes to OSSF Rules
July 16, 2026
Page 3 of 3

from building foundations.” TCEQ should clarify how these two separate requirements should be interpreted.

In closing, LCRA appreciates the opportunity to comment on these potential changes. If you have any questions or need additional information regarding this submittal, please contact me at 512-578-3541 or by email at Monica.Masters@LCRA.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Monica P. Masters". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Monica Masters
Senior Vice President, Water Resources