

**FINAL MINUTES
TOXIC SUBSTANCES COORDINATING COMMITTEE
(TSCC)**

**September 15, 2015
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

**Room T-607
Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, Texas 78756**

1. Call to order and welcome visitors – Heidi Bojes

Attendees present: Heidi Bojes (DSHS), Josh Duty (DSHS), Tracie Phillips (TCEQ), Tina Walker (DSHS), Michael Tennant (DSHS), David Villarreal (TDA), Thandi Ziqubu-Page (DSHS) and Tina Williams (DSHS)

Visitors: Lindsay Jones (TCEQ), Darrell McCant (TCEQ) and Sabine Lange (TECQ)

2. Approval of minutes: Minutes dated June 23, 2015 were approved with corrections.

3. Presenter - Natalie Archer, MS, Epidemiologist, Environmental and Injury Epidemiology and Toxicology Unit, Texas Department of State Health Services

Topic: *“Evaluating Genetic Mechanisms for Risk of Childhood Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia Among Hispanics”.*

4. Subcommittee reports:

- a. **Harmful Algal Bloom Workgroup** – (No report)
- b. **Fish Sampling Subcommittee** – (No report)
- c. **Environmental Health and Toxicology Workgroup** – (No report)

5. Agency updates

TDA: (update provided by David Villarreal)

- TDA has a new Commissioner – Sid Miller
- Texas RESTORE Act Advisory Board has funding available

Texas Parks and WildLife: (not present)

DSHS: (update provided by Mike Tennant and Heidi Bojes)

- There are currently no bills being reviewed in the Texas legislature that impact the SALG program.
- DSHS is in the process of finalizing a cancer cluster investigation for east Harris County.

Railroad Commission of Texas: (update provided by Amanda Kindt)

- Researchers at Southern Methodist University (SMU) recently published a paper in *Nature Communication* (Causal factors for seismicity near Azle, Texas, Hornbach et al, April 2015). The researchers found that high volumes of wastewater injection combined with saltwater (brine) extraction from natural gas wells is the most likely cause of earthquakes occurring near Azle, Texas, from late 2013 through spring 2014.
- RRC staff reviewed the SMU report. A copy of RRC's review is available on the RRC website (<http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/about-us/commissioners/sitton/news/061815/>)
- Due to recent rainfall and flooding events, RRC is monitoring hydrocarbons that may be spilling into the rivers, such as the Colorado River. Several tank batteries have been struck by lightning.
- Bill Renfro, staff geologist with the Site Remediation Section, retired at the end of May. The RRC will be interviewing for Bill's replacement next week. The position requires a PE or PG license.

TCEQ: (update provided by Joseph Haney)

- TCEQ staff finalized the Development Support Document (DSD) for hexamethylenediamine (HMDA);
- Public Comment period open until July 17th on:
 - TCEQ Guidelines to Develop Toxicity Factors (revision)
 - Approaches to Derive Odor –Based Values
 - Proposed crotonaldehyde (cis and trans) DSD
 - Proposed monoethanolamine DSD
 - Proposed trimethylbenzenes DSD
 - Proposed vinyl acetate DSD

6. Public comment:
None

7. Approval of upcoming meetings:

2015 TSCC Meetings and locations

September 15, 2015 – DSHS, T-607, 10:00 – 11:30 am

December 17, 2015 – DSHS, T-607, 10:00 – 11:30 am

8. Adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

TSCC Mission:

Our mission is to protect and promote the health of the people of Texas through the prevention and control of adverse health effects related to toxic substances and harmful physical agents. This is accomplished through interagency coordination of regulation development, health risk assessments, cooperative studies, information dissemination, and public education efforts.