



BIG: Bacteria Implementation Group

There is something BIG going on that will increase water quality monitoring at all area wastewater treatment plants. Unfortunately, costs will also increase. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (the "TCEQ") has identified high bacteria levels in waterways and streams statewide, making some of them unsafe for swimming and fishing. In order to combat this problem, the TCEQ has developed Total Maximum Daily Loads ("TMDL") for waterways with excessively high bacteria levels. A TMDL study is a technical analysis that determines maximum loadings of a pollutant that a water body can receive and still meet water quality standards. The purpose of the TMDL is to identify how much of a reduction in pollutants is required to meet the state water quality standards. Therefore, the TCEQ has begun working with various partners to create Implementation Plans ("I-Plan") to achieve these reductions. The Bacteria Implementation Group ("BIG"), organized by the Houston-Galveston Area Council, is one such partner that is working to develop these implementation plans for waterways and streams in the greater Houston area so that they will comply with TCEQ water quality standards. For more information about the BIG, please visit: <http://www.hgac.com/community/water/tmdl/BIG/default.aspx>.

New Arrivals

Johnson Radcliffe Petrov & Bobbitt PLLC is pleased to announce Elliot M. Barner and Amy C. Sillmon have joined the firm as associates.

Upcoming Events

Do your board meetings last three (3) or four (4) hours? Do you sit in those meetings lamenting the fact that you are missing your favorite show, a big game or a quiet evening at home? Has your mind ever drifted off during a lengthy meeting and you began to wonder how much your board pays all of its consultants to attend the meetings?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions and you are attending this summer's Association of Water Board Directors - Texas Annual Conference from June 17 – 19 in San Antonio, make sure not to miss "Time is Money... Get 'er Done! Keystones of Efficient Board Meetings", a presentation featuring Jonathan Polley, a JRPB attorney, and other industry consultants you are sure to know.

This program will discuss simple methods to decrease the length and increase the effectiveness of your meetings, thereby freeing up your time for other activities and decreasing the cost of the meeting.