



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



**NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION
FOR TPDES PERMIT FOR INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER**

RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ0000395000

APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION. Alcoa USA Corp., P.O. Box 1491, Rockdale, Texas 76567, which operates Alcoa Rockdale Operations (a complex for the primary production of aluminum, electric power generation, and lignite mining), has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a renewal of Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0000395000, which authorizes the discharge of wastewater (including process water, utility wastewater, and stormwater) from the cooling pond (Alcoa Lake) at a total volume not to exceed 326,000,000 gallons per month via Outfalls 001 and 001a; wastewater from active mining areas on an intermittent and flow-variable basis via Outfalls 005 and 007; and wastewater from post-mining areas on an intermittent and flow-variable basis via Outfalls 103, 104, 105, 107, and 109.

The draft permit authorizes the discharge of previously monitored effluent [domestic wastewater at a daily average flow not to exceed 280,000 gallons per day via Outfall 201; recirculated cooling water at a daily average flow not to exceed 900,000,000 gallons per day via Outfall 301; process wastewater from the aluminum smelting operation at a daily average dry-weather flow not to exceed 10,000,000 gallons per day via Outfall 401; power plant low volume waste sources, utility wastewater (including air conditioning condensate), bottom ash transport water, metal cleaning wastes, coal pile runoff, cooling tower blowdown, and stormwater runoff at a daily average dry-weather flow not to exceed 25,000,000 gallons per day via Outfall 501; power plant low volume waste sources, utility wastewater (including air conditioning condensate), bottom ash transport water, metal cleaning wastes, coal pile runoff, cooling tower blowdown, and stormwater runoff at a daily average dry-weather flow not to exceed 3,000,000 gallons per day via Outfall 601; and stormwater and utility wastewater from the smelter on an intermittent and flow-variable basis via Outfall 701] via Outfalls 001/001A at a monthly maximum flow not to exceed 326,000,000 gallons. The TCEQ received this application on May 4, 2018.

The facility is located at 3990 Charles Martin Hall Road, between Farm-to-Market Roads 1786 and 2116, approximately 7.5 miles southwest of the City of Rockdale, in Milam County, Texas 76567. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and is not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application.

<https://tceq.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=db5bac44afbc468bbddd36of816825of&marker=-97.063611%2C30.566388&level=12>

The effluent is discharged via Outfalls 001/001a to unnamed tributaries of East Yegua Creek (with a series of on-channel impoundments), thence to East Yegua Creek, thence to the unclassified portion of Yegua Creek, thence to Somerville Lake in Segment 1212 of the Brazos River Basin. The unclassified receiving water uses are minimal aquatic life use for unnamed tributaries of East Yegua Creek and East Yegua Creek (upstream confluence with Ham Branch); and high aquatic life use for the on-channel impoundments on unnamed tributaries of East Yegua Creek and East Yegua Creek (downstream confluence with Ham Branch). The designated uses for Segment No. 1212 are primary contact recreation, public water supply, and high aquatic life use.

The TCEQ executive director has completed the technical review of the application and prepared a draft permit. The draft permit, if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The executive director has made a preliminary decision that this permit, if issued, meets all statutory and regulatory requirements. The permit application, executive director's preliminary decision, and draft permit are available for viewing and copying at the Milam County Courthouse, 101 South Fannin Street, Cameron, Texas.

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting about this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit written or oral comment or to ask questions about the application. Generally, the TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the executive director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for public comments, the executive director will consider the comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **The response to comments, along with the executive director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments or who requested to be on a mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting a contested case hearing or reconsideration of the executive director's decision.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in a state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period; and the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the executive director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period. TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTION. The executive director may issue final approval of the application unless a timely contested case hearing request or a timely request for reconsideration is filed. If a timely hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed, the executive director will not issue final approval of the permit and will forward the application and requests to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the executive director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be added to: (1) the permanent list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

All written public comments and public meeting requests must be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087 or electronically at www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/ within 30 days from the date of newspaper publication of this notice.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address, and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, toll free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Alcoa USA Corp. at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Terry Blodgett at 512-446-8379.

Issued: February 19, 2020