



# Office of Compliance and Enforcement

Tony Walker  
DFW Regional Director



# OCE Mission

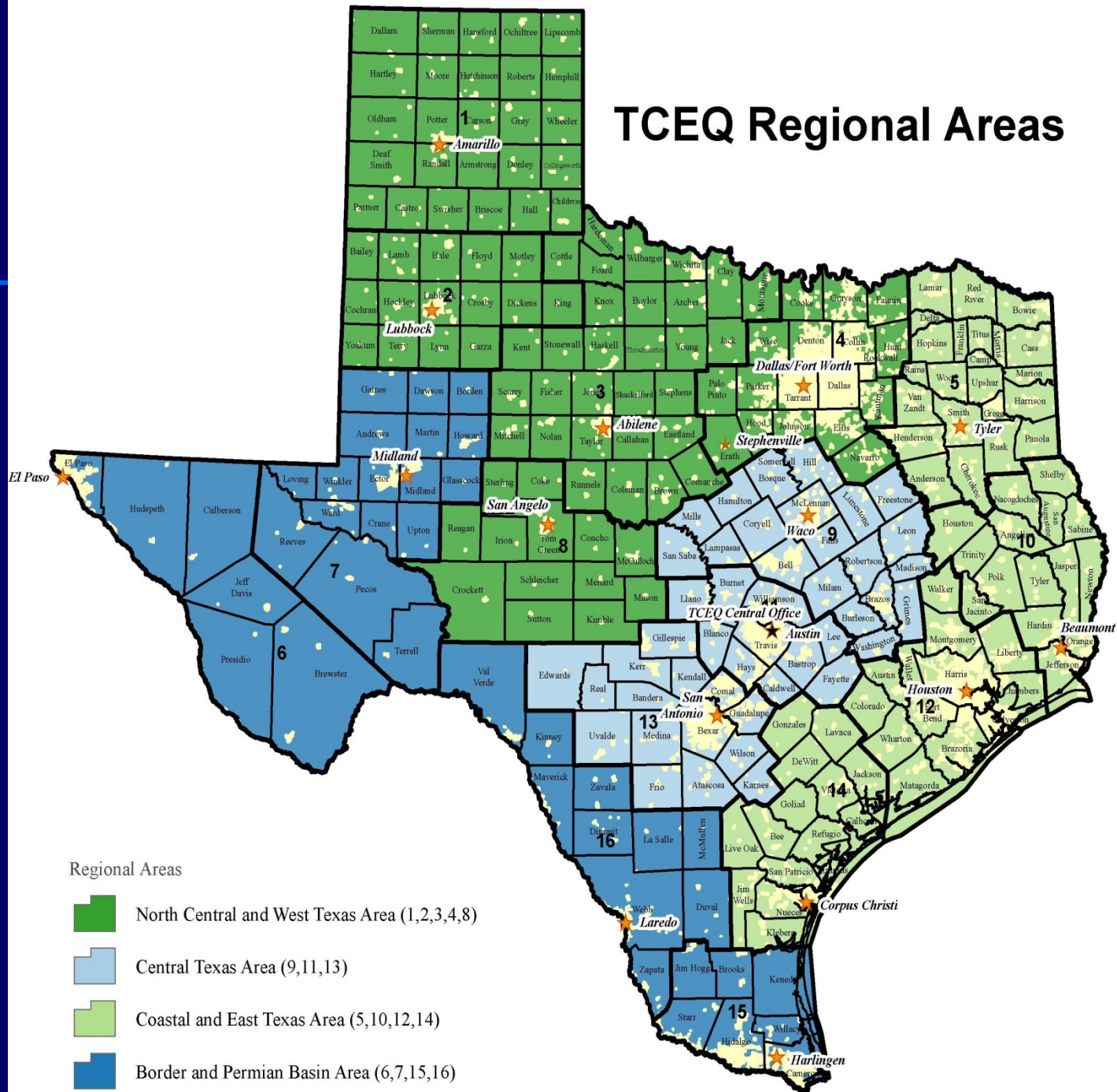


Programs within OCE take swift action that is fair, sensible and responsive to the needs of the citizens of Texas

- To protect human health and the environment by ensuring compliance with state and federal regulations
- To promote voluntary compliance through a comprehensive program of regional investigations, technical assistance and outreach, environmental monitoring and appropriate enforcement
- To prevent, protect, respond to and recover from natural and manmade disasters

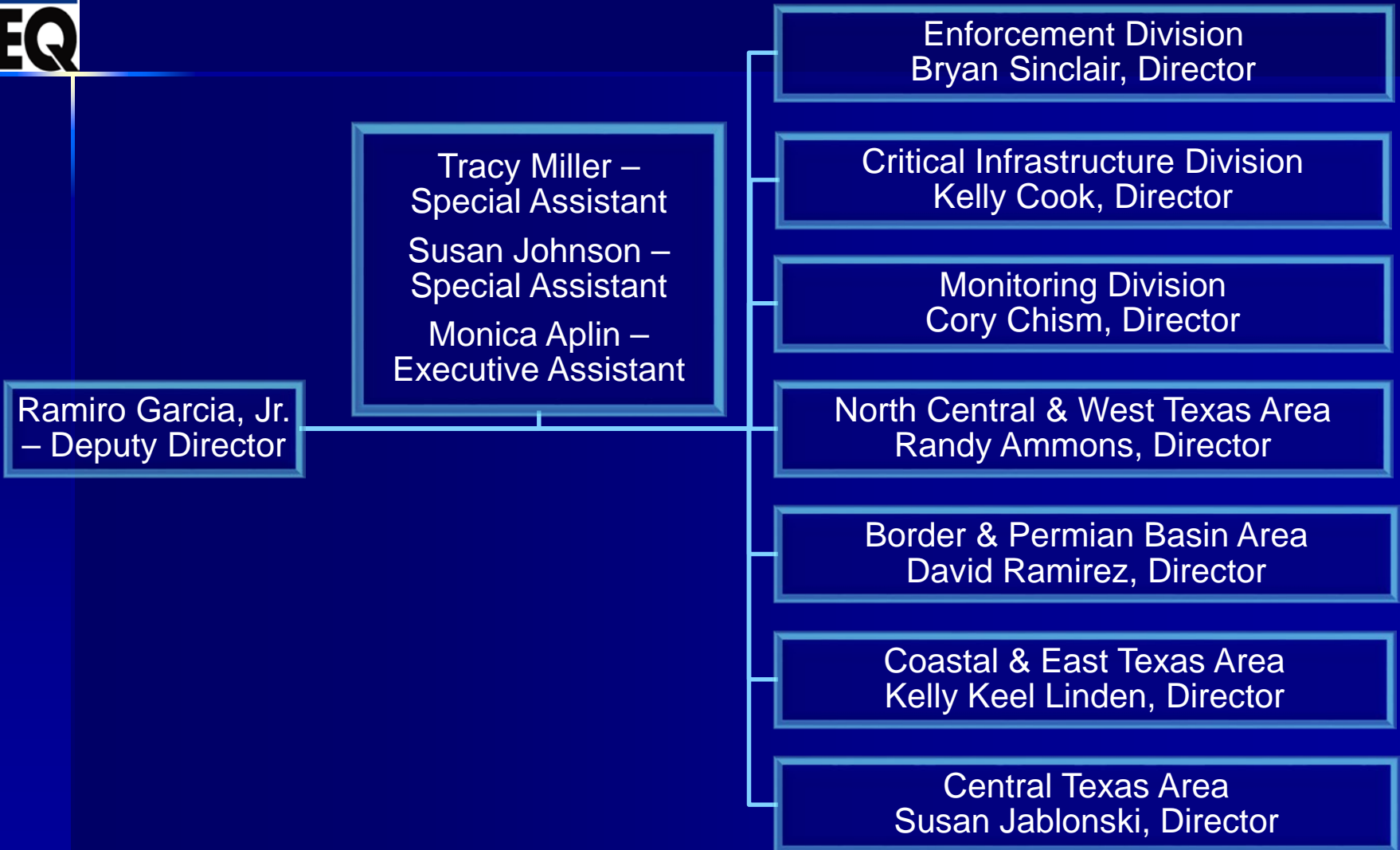


# TCEQ Regional Areas





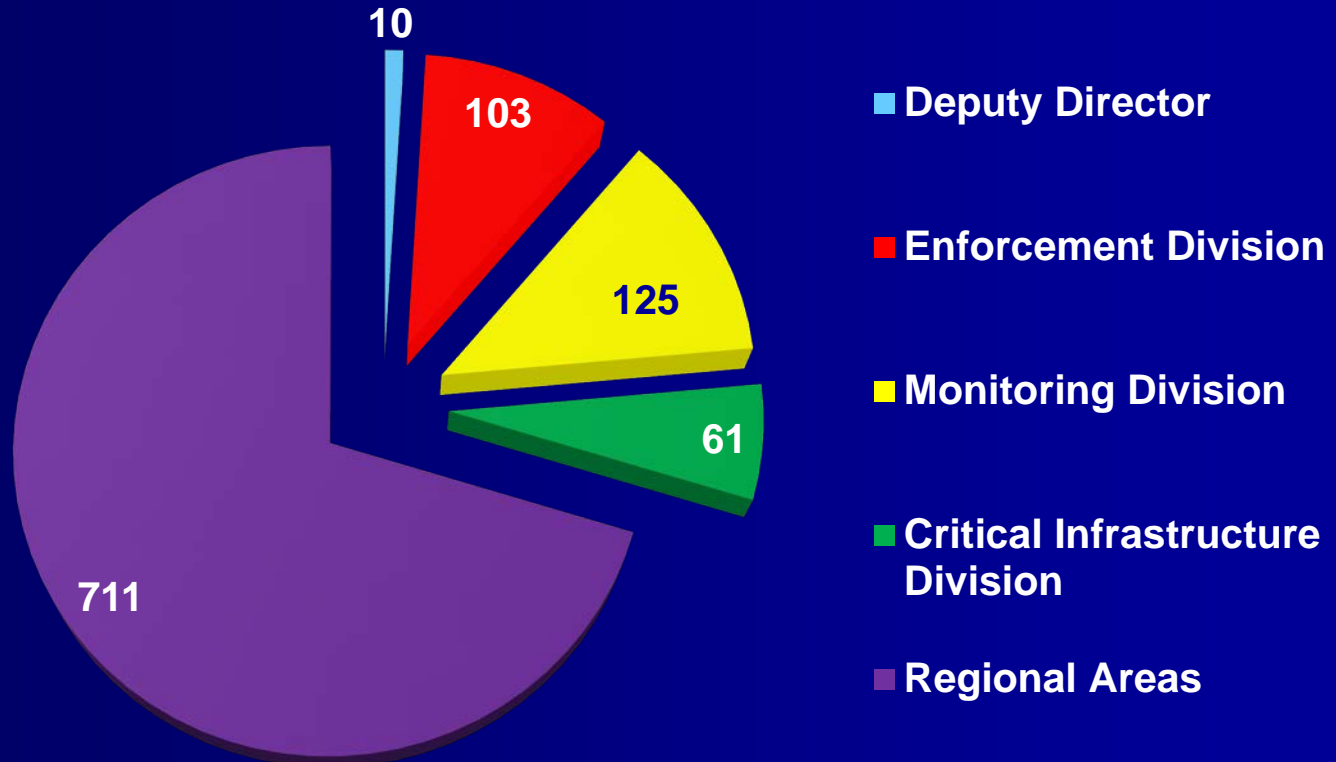
# OCE Organization Chart





# OCE Staff Resource Distribution

OCE Resources – 1010 FTEs





# DFW Region Organization Chart





# OCE Critical Functions

- Conduct Compliance Investigations (FY17 – 104,146 agency wide)
- Investigate Complaints (FY17 – 4,963)
- Review Emission Events Reported to TCEQ (FY17 – 4,068)
- Issue Notices of Violation (FY17 – 17,274)
- Issue Enforcement Orders (FY17 – 1,496)
- Conduct ambient monitoring of air quality
- Respond to environmental emergency incidents





# Managing Priorities

- Agility is a necessity for maneuvering varied Office/Agency functions and priorities







# Multiple Priorities

## ➤ Examples:

- ❖ Drinking Water

- ❖ Oil and Gas activities

- ❖ Interim Legislative Charges

- Landfills

- Hurricane Harvey/Disaster Response



# Case Study – City of Crystal City Drinking Water Complaints

“Black water coming out of taps in Crystal City”  
– *San Antonio Express News*

“Water runs black in Texas Town already  
wracked by corruption arrests” – *CNN*

“After almost every official in this Texas town  
was arrested, black water started coming out of  
the pipes” – *The Washington Post*



# Crystal City – Unique Challenges

- City leadership previously arrested
- Comparison with Flint water crisis
- Faulty independent sampling





# Crystal City – TCEQ Response

- TCEQ immediate response
- Multiple regions, offices, and agencies assisted
- TCEQ Executive Director collaborated with Zavala County Judge



# Oil and Gas Activities

- Use of Optical Gas Imaging Cameras (OGICs) to identify areas with potential sources of volatile organic compound emissions





# Oil and Gas Activities – Unique Challenges

- Volume of on-demand investigations has steadily increased over the years





# Oil and Gas Activities – TCEQ Response

- Routine aerial flyovers using a helicopter mounted with an OGIC
- Follow-up investigations from the aerial surveys are also conducted utilizing an OGIC



# Interim Legislative Charges

- Landfills
  - ❖ Study regulatory structure to ensure compliance and to maximize participation from the public and stakeholders
- Hurricane Harvey
  - ❖ Examine TCEQ's response to Hurricane Harvey and make recommendations on how natural disaster responses can be improved





# Landfill Odors – Unique Challenges

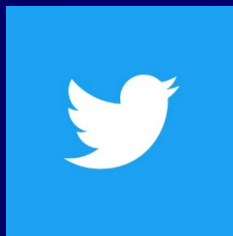
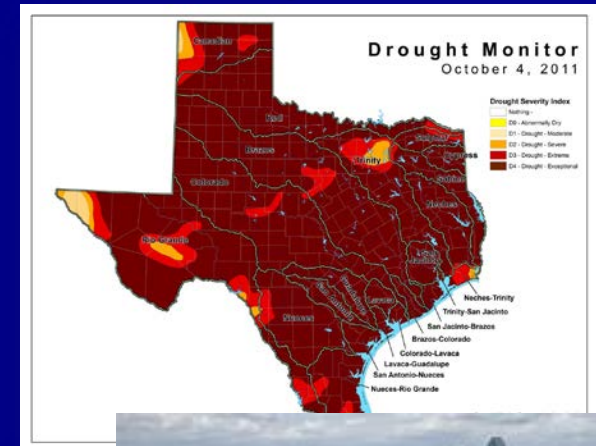
- Location of landfills and surrounding industry
- Location of landfills bordering neighborhoods/municipality jurisdictions





# Landfills and Odor Nuisance Complaints

- Increased citizen complaints
  - ❖ Historic drought conditions followed by record rainfall events
  - ❖ Increasing population
  - ❖ Prevalence of social media





# Landfill Odors – TCEQ Response

- TCEQ investigations: Air/Water/ Waste
- TCEQ Responds to Complaints
  - ❖ TCEQ conducts investigation(s)
    - FIDO – Frequency, Intensity, Duration, Offensiveness
    - Potential Enforcement
- Get RP involved



# Hurricane Harvey Disaster Response

- Harvey made landfall on August 25, 2017 at 10:00 pm CT as a Category 4 storm near Rockport, Texas and stalled over southeastern Texas
- Due to its slow motion and a week-long period of onshore flow, more than 19 trillion gallons of rainwater fell on parts of Texas causing catastrophic flooding.





# Hurricane Harvey – TCEQ Response – Before the storm

- Regional Office preparations to ensure continuity of operations
- Monitoring Division preparations to secure valuable equipment so monitoring operations could resume as soon as safe to do so



# Hurricane Harvey – Unique Challenges

- TCEQ staff were impacted
- Travel within Houston and Beaumont
- Working to get Disaster Response Strike Team and Region staff in the field as soon as safe to do so
- Beaumont Region Office had no water





# Hurricane Harvey – TCEQ Response – After the storm

- Unified Command under Natural Disaster Operational Workgroup (NDOW)
- Texas Emergency Management Plan - State Hurricane Annex
- TCEQ worked closely with EPA in coordinating response activities





# Cooperative Federalism

- The number of regulated entities within EPA Region 6, including Texas, is the highest in the country and requires a coordinated federal/state approach to address non-compliance in the most efficient and effective manner.







# Examples of TCEQ/EPA Partnership

- Partnering in disaster response events
- Partnering in oil and gas regulation
- Partnering in drinking water issues





# Plan For Success

- Develop and Leverage Relationships before crisis.
- Plan for contingencies.
- Gain efficiency thru Technology.
- Communication is key!



# A Day In the Life.....

**From:**

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 17, 2018 6:03 PM

**To:** Kendra Houston <[kendra.houston@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:kendra.houston@tceq.texas.gov)>

**Subject:** Extreme emergency event

Dear Emergency Lady,

I spoke to your people in Austin and they said they that you were the person i needed to talk to report an emergency. I want to let you know that it is extremely hot in Fort Worth and the radio says it's going get hotter. This is an emergency event and you need to do something about it. This heat isn't good for kids or old people like me. This type of heat can kill you. You need to do something about. I heard that the government has weather modification machines. You need to use them now before people start dying. This heat isn't fun either. So if you could do your job and take care of this emergency, I would appreciate that very much.



# Questions?

