The Permitting Process

This guide was created to assist the general public or those unfamiliar with navigating the permitting process with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Depending on the type of permit, the steps may vary. Please note that the TCEQ is not required to grant any requests from public BUT must grant requests by your State Representative.

A facility submits a permit application to the TCEQ for administrative review; after which the agency opens comments and questions from the public.

This public comment period (minimum 30 days) and public meeting (if requested and granted) allows citizens the opportunity to give their input on the proposed permit. Actions to take: 1, 2

TCEQ Executive Director considers the application and public comments, prepares a response, and issues a decision. The public can contest this decision within 30 days. Actions to take: 3 and 4

If the permit is issued by the Executive Director, the public has 23 days to petition the TCEQ Commissioners to overturn it. Actions to take: 4

If TCEQ Commissioners approve the permit, the public has 25 days to submit a final petition for review. Actions to take: 4

What actions can I take?

1. Submit Public Comments: This is where your comments can be submitted for review by the appropriate TCEQ Agency.
2. Ask your State Elected Official to request a Public Meeting if one has not been scheduled.
3. Request a Contested Case Hearing.
4. Petition for review.

Air Alliance Houston can assist you in any of the above actions and may be able to support/represent you if you are interested in challenging a permit.