

COMMITTEE REPORTS

WATER COMMITTEE

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With the change in committee chair leadership, the 2nd quarter activity of the PBPA's Water Committee was focused on planning and action, rather than meetings. The committee provided feedback in Q1 of the types of topics that members would like to learn about. Several industry experts are scheduled to attend committee meetings in Q3 to discuss disposal and seismicity issues, water treatment technology and cost, and produced water management strategies throughout various basins.

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the Study of Oil and Gas Extraction Wastewater Management Under the Clean Water Act draft earlier this year and requested comments from various stakeholders. Representing many of the key companies throughout the Permian Basin, the PBPA Water Committee felt that we had an obligation to voice our feedback on behalf of PBPA's members.

EPA's draft consisted of a general study of produced water, treatment technologies, current surface water discharge regulations, and feedback they had received from various stakeholders – including oil and gas companies, tribal lands, and environmental groups. Upon publishing of this draft study, the EPA requested feedback from stakeholders primarily focused on regulatory and non-regulatory suggestions for increasing the oil and gas industry's ability to recycle produced water for beneficial use (surface water discharge, agriculture, irrigation, etc.).

The PBPA Water Committee created a task force to draft a response that would be sent to the EPA. Upon analysis of the draft and other trade groups responses, we focused our efforts on three goals. First, we wanted the EPA to see the PBPA as a stakeholder to provide feedback for future requests. Second, we support any efforts the EPA makes to increase our industry's ability to recycle and re-use water. Third, we view produced water as a resource that can add to the local hydrologic cycle. The task force drafted a response focused on these goals and in agreement with our peer trade groups. Ultimately, the entire Water Committee was able to review the draft and make comments prior to our submission to the EPA.

As the Water Committee continues, we hope to increase our participation and take action on these types of matters to increase our ability to influence our industry in a positive way.