

BACTERIA IN OUR BAYOUS: WATER QUALITY STANDARDS and RESTORATION OPTIONS

**OCTOBER 15-16, 2007
University of St. Thomas**

Please join the TCEQ, US Environmental Protection Agency, City of Houston, Harris County Flood Control District, Harris County, TxDOT and other regional stakeholders as we explore the technical and policy issues surrounding the bacteria TMDL process.

Many bayous in the Houston metropolitan area contain levels of bacteria that exceed target levels for safe swimming and contact recreation, known as water quality standards. This has led to a water quality restoration process that seeks to understand how much bacteria enters or regenerates in our bayous, the sources of bacteria, the types of bacteria and their relative physiological effects on humans and wildlife, and how bacteria loads from wastewater, stormwater, and other sources can be reduced. This process requires the development and implementation of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). The TMDL process will impact many citizens and governments in our region and could result in higher costs for municipal services such as wastewater treatment and stormwater management.

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