



# Nonpoint Source Grant Projects

Site Remediation | Oil and Gas Division

The United States Environmental Protection Agency awarded three nonpoint source grants between 2005 and 2006 to the Railroad Commission of Texas, administered through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality:

- **Colorado River Upstream of Spence Reservoir, Howard and Mitchell Counties**
- **Colorado River Downstream of Spence Reservoir, Coke and Runnels Counties**
- **Petronila Creek, Nueces County**

Section 319 of the Federal Clean Water Act requires each state to address nonpoint source pollution by developing control strategies and implementing activities or best management practices to prevent or abate known water quality problems. Section 319 provides for federal grant assistance to states to support these efforts.

Nonpoint source pollution management in Texas is a cooperative effort jointly administered by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB).

## Colorado River Upstream of Spence Reservoir, Howard & Mitchell Counties

The project encompasses several saltwater seeps in both Howard and Mitchell Counties which flow into Beals Creek, into the Upper Colorado River, and then into Spence Reservoir. The objective of the project was to locate and eliminate salinity sources likely related to nearby oil and gas activities in an effort to reduce salinity contributions to water quality in the Colorado River Basin. The study found that the most effective way to diminish the seep's salinity impact was to install a 300-foot recovery trench. In 2008, the RRC successfully removed a total of 17,309 pounds of chloride and 33,339 pounds of total dissolved solids (TDS) from groundwater at the West O'Daniel Seep. These management practices have continued to play a significant role in reducing chloride and TDS loading into downstream water bodies. The RRC continues to conduct monitoring of the system's effectiveness.



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