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Lineup of Legislation

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The TCEQ's playbook grows with new responsibilities, laws to implement

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The Legislature added new duties to the TCEQ's role of overseeing air and wate quality and waste management. The agency has already begun analyzing new l and preparing for rule making. About 120 bills that passed during the regular s affect the agency.

The legislation that will attract a great deal of attention is the measure restorin funding to the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan, which is critical to bringing the into compliance with federal air quality standards. With a new appropriation, TE projects will expand rapidly (see Back on the Technology Track).

Below are other highlights of environmental bills passed by the 78th Legislature

Air Quality

Emissions testing (SB 1159). This air quality measure allows areas in Texas participating in early action compacts to initiate programs to curb vehicle emiss The early action compact is a voluntary plan designed to bring a metropolitan a into compliance with the new federal 8-hour ozone standard. Participating area ask the state to approve a local emissions testing program for cars and trucks. Austin, San Antonio, and Tyler-Longview-Marshall areas are eligible to initiate t program.

With emissions testing, which is already in place in 14 counties in the Houston Dallas areas, cars and trucks are examined during annual safety inspections for emissions or problems with emissions control equipment. Vehicles failing the te required to undergo repairs.

Aggregate facilities (HB 1287, HB 555, SB 1272). Several bills addressed l location and operating standards of aggregate facilities, such as concrete crush concrete batch plants. These operations are associated with construction or der projects and can emit a considerable amount of dust. The legislation addresses