



BUREAU OF ECONOMIC GEOLOGY  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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December 14, 2009

Re: Survey of Water Use in Texas Mining Operations

Dear Madam/Sir:

On behalf of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), the Bureau of Economic Geology, a research unit of The University of Texas at Austin, has started the task of surveying water use of mining operations across the state. One of the missions of the TWDB is to provide planning, information, and education for the conservation and responsible development of water for Texas. The purpose of the survey is (1) to collect accurate information on water use and/or water discharge and (2) to understand possible future change in water use strategies in the different segments of the Texas mining industry. Survey's results will be used to assist planners of the next State Water Plan (to be released in 2012).

We have attached to this letter two survey forms containing the same questions: one in a Word document format, the other one in an Excel document format. Only one needs to be returned. The completed survey is to be scanned and emailed back to [jp.nicot@beg.utexas.edu](mailto:jp.nicot@beg.utexas.edu) or faxed to (512) 471-0140 to the attention of J.-P. Nicot or mailed to the Bureau at J.-P. Nicot, Bureau of Economic Geology, University Station, Box X, Austin, TX 78713-8924. A staff member from the Bureau will also be contacting you in the near future to gather technical information about your facility.

Please contact Russ Baier at [rbaier@austin.rr.com](mailto:rbaier@austin.rr.com) or (512) 986-4195 or (512) 785-1668 (cell) or if you have any question

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J.-P. Nicot".

J.-P. Nicot, P.E., P.G.  
Principal Investigator  
Research Scientist at the BEG

TACA Environmental Committee Meeting  
Thursday, January 28, 2010  
Discussion by Jean-Philippe "JP" Nicot and Russ Baier

**The Project:**

**Title:** Water Use in the Texas Mining and Oil and Gas Industry

**What is it?** (1) Collect data of current water use and consumption in the Texas mining industry, including, oil, gas, coal, aggregates, and other mineral commodities; (2) make projections for future water use at 5-10- and 50- year horizons.

**Who does it?** Bureau of Economic Geology (BEG) a research unit of The University of Texas at Austin (~Texas Geological Survey) on behalf of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB).

**Why?** Input to the 2012 State Water Plan

**Why TACA?**

- We believe it is important to involve actual operators and facilities
- We endeavor to assemble accurate regional and statewide numbers
- This represents an early opportunity for involvement in the water planning process to ensure adequate representation of the aggregate industry

**What are we asking from you? The permission to**

- Distribute the questionnaire to willing TACA members, with the approval of the Executive Committee; BEG will compile returned survey forms
- Follow up with phone interviews with select respondents (recommendations from TACA)
- Interview committee members or other company representatives
- In addition, we look for volunteers to participate in the panel that will review the draft final report

**Confidentiality and Reporting:**

- All data will be consolidated by geographic area at the county level and will not be reported by company.
- Specific, individual production information and other confidential data will not be released.

**Time frame:**

- Report to TWDB is due this summer; TWDB will then need to process the information and integrate it into the Water Plan
- We would like to have most of the returns, including follow-up interviews, completed by the end of April.

**For more information:**

Please contact Russ Baier at (512) 986-4195 or (512) 785-1668 (cell) or [rbaier@austin.rr.com](mailto:rbaier@austin.rr.com)