

TDEC Division of Water Resources East TN Water Regulatory Forum

August 13, 2026, 8:30 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Forum Objectives:

- Increase familiarity with TDEC staff, programs, and resources.
- Discuss and increase mutual understanding regarding key issues, hot topics, and challenges within the water regulatory sphere.
- Network with other water quality professionals.

Time	Agenda Item
8:30-9:00 a.m.	Arrival & Networking
9:00-9:10 a.m.	Welcome and Forum Overview
9:10-9:30 a.m.	TDEC Leadership Welcome
9:30-10:10 a.m.	Overview of the Division of Water Resources
10:10-10:30 a.m.	<i>Networking Break</i>
10:30-11:30 a.m.	Get to Know TDEC's Water Programs and Staff
11:30-11:55 a.m.	Room A – Aquatic Resource Alteration Permitting Room B – Emergency/Disaster Funding
12:00-12:45 p.m.	<i>Lunch Break</i>
12:45-1:10 p.m.	Room A – Stormwater Updates Room B – Biosolids
1:15-1:40 p.m.	Room A – TN Plant Optimization Program (TNPOP) Room B – Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems
1:45-2:10 p.m.	Room A – Engineering Plans Review Room B – Decentralized Wastewater Systems Utilizing Land Application
2:10-2:30 p.m.	<i>Networking Break</i>
2:30-2:55 p.m.	Room A – NPDES Permitting Room B – Emergency Response
3:00-3:30 p.m.	East TN Water Quality Success Stories
3:30-3:45 p.m.	Forum Wrap Up

Executive Leadership



David Salyers, P.E., P.G.
Commissioner, Environment &
Conservation



Ronné Adkins, Ph.D.
Deputy Commissioner,
Bureau of Environment

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

ARAP/Wetlands – Discussion of TDEC's Aquatic Resource Alteration Permit (ARAP) Program, including its relationship to state water quality certifications and wetlands.

Emergency & Disaster Funding – Information on supplemental disaster relief funding for State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs.

Stormwater Updates – Discussion of technical issues related to stormwater management with technical experts from the Division of Water Resources.

Biosolids Technical Discussion – Discussion with TDEC technical staff about the key issues related to biosolids management along with a period of Q & A.

TN Plant Optimization Program (TNPOP) – Discussion of this no-cost initiative designed to assist wastewater treatment facilities in enhancing operational efficiency by optimizing energy consumption and improving nutrient removal processes.

Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems – Discussion with TDEC technical staff regarding permitting for the installation of subsurface sewage disposal (septic) systems, followed by an open discussion with TDEC technical staff.

Engineering Plans Review Process – Overview of TDEC's review process for submitted engineering plans, followed by an open Q&A session where participants can ask specific technical questions.

Decentralized Wastewater Systems Utilizing Land Applications – Presentation on different types of decentralized wastewater systems in Tennessee Utilizing land application, followed by a Q & A.

NPDES Permitting – Discussion of topics related to TDEC's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting program.

Water-Related Emergency Response – Presentation on TDEC's emergency response resources, followed by an opportunity to ask questions related to emergency response.

East TN Water Quality Success Stories – Presentation of various examples of how TDEC's programs have furthered the state's water quality goals and resulted in cleaner and healthier water resources in East Tennessee.

MyTDEC Forms Drop-In Assistance – Our MyTDEC Forms expert will be available on-site to answer any questions that attendees might have. Location to be announced.

Regional Directors for External Affairs



Jan Compton
Johnson City



J.R. Tinch
Knoxville



Meghan Ploch
Chattanooga