

BRA SysOps Permit Timeline

Oct 2004 – BRA Filed SysOps Permit Application

BRA filed the SysOps Permit Application with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

TCEQ is the state agency responsible for regulating and issuing permits for surface water in Texas.

Apr 2005 – Application Declared Administratively Complete

TCEQ declared the SysOps Permit Application administratively complete.

When water right applications are declared administratively complete, meaning the applications contain all necessary information for review, they are given a priority date. The SysOps Permit Application's priority date is October 15, 2004.

May 2005 – TCEQ Issued Notice of Application

After completing the technical review of the water right application, TCEQ issued notice of the SysOps Permit Application.

Notice was published in basin newspapers and mailed to individual water right holders.

Jun 2007 – Public Meeting Held

A public meeting was held regarding the SysOps Permit Application.

Feb 2010 – Senate Bill 3 (SB3) Passed

Senate Bill 3 was passed by the Texas State Legislature.

SB3 established the process by which environmental flow standards were developed in Texas.

May 2010 – TCEQ Issued Draft SysOps Permit

TCEQ issued a draft SysOps Permit.

At that time, draft permits were developed after notice was issued. TCEQ has since changed this process and now includes draft permits within the notice package.

May 2010 – Oct 2011 – 1st SOAH Hearing Completed

The SysOps Draft Permit completed its first State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) proceeding.

SOAH is the independent agency responsible for hearing and mediating administrative disputes. TCEQ must refer permits to SOAH if a contested case hearing is officially requested.

Jan 2012 – Water Management Plan Required

The TCEQ Executive Director required BRA to develop a Water Management Plan (WMP).

Nov 2012 – Amended Application & WMP Filed

BRA filed an amended SysOps Application and Water Management Plan (WMP) with TCEQ.

Jul 2013 – Notice Issued for Amended Application & WMP

TCEQ issued notice of the amended SysOps Application and WMP.

Notice was published basin-wide and sent to individual water right holders.

Apr 2014 – Brazos Watermaster Program Established

Over thirty water right holders petitioned TCEQ to establish a Watermaster Program in the Brazos River Basin to protect senior water right holders.

All BRA permits, including the SysOps Permit, are subject to the Watermaster Program.

May 2014 – Updated WMP Filed

BRA filed an updated WMP incorporating environmental flow standards established under SB3.

TCEQ established environmental flow standards for the Brazos River Basin in March 2014.

Jun 2015 – Brazos Basin Drought Ended

The drought in the Brazos Basin, which began in 2011, ended.

Jul 2015 – 2nd SOAH Hearing Completed

The SysOps Permit and WMP completed a second State Office of Administrative Hearings proceeding.

Jan 2016 – Jun 2016 – Special Hearing Ordered

The TCEQ Executive Director required the SysOps Application to return to SOAH for a special hearing on specific issues.

Nov 2016 – SysOps Permit Issued

Following the special hearing, TCEQ issued the SysOps Permit with various special conditions and authorizations.

Aug 2017 – Drought Study Submitted

BRA submitted the required Drought Study to TCEQ.

The study concluded that the 2011–2015 drought was not a new basin-wide drought of record.

Apr 2018 – Conformed WMP Approved

TCEQ approved BRA's Conformed Water Management Plan.

The Conformed WMP includes descriptions and technical data supporting the SysOps Permit's special conditions and authorizations.

Aug 2018 – District Court Affirms Permit

A District Court Judge ruled that the SysOps Permit is valid as granted.

Apr 2019 – Additional Water Approved for Contracting

BRA's Board of Directors approved additional water made available under the SysOps Permit for long-term contracting.

Nov 2023 – 1st WMP Update Began

BRA began the required first update to the WMP.

As a special condition of the permit, BRA must submit an updated WMP every ten years from November 2016.

Mar 2025 – Water Dedicated to TPWD

BRA dedicated 6,035 acre-feet of water to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD).

Through a Memorandum of Understanding, BRA pledged a portion of SysOps water for environmental uses.

Nov 2026 – 1st WMP Amendment Due

The first WMP Amendment Application is due to TCEQ.