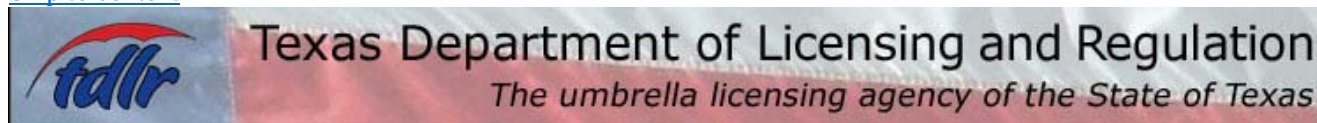


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Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District Fined - TDLR levies \$11,000 Administrative Penalty

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For Immediate Release

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AUSTIN –The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) assessed an \$11,000 fine and six months probated suspension against the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District (PGCD) for violating the Texas Weather Modification and Control Law.

TDLR’s investigation found the District performed cloud seeding eleven times in areas outside the defined operational area, specifically Briscoe and Swisher counties.

“In determining the fine TDLR considered several factors. We looked at the seriousness of the violations, what efforts the ground water district has taken to correct the violations and what amount is necessary to deter any future violations,” states William H. Kuntz, Jr., executive director of Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

To assure compliance of the law PGCD purchased two Garmin Global Positioning Systems (GPS) which will be used in their aircraft. By programming the target and operational area boundaries into the GPS units pilots will be aware of the plane’s location as it relates to the boundaries.

The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) is the State agency responsible for administering the Texas Weather Modification and Control law. The law enacted in 1967 by the Texas Legislature and now codified as Chapter 301, Texas Agriculture Code. The law requires the agency to regulate the use of cloud seeding through a licensing and permitting procedure. The law also charges TDLR with promoting the development, and demonstration, of cloud-seeding technology through research.

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