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CONTACT: Michael Sommermeyer, michael.sommermeyer@ttu.edu

**TEXAS TECH AIDS IN PERCHLORATE STUDY**

LUBBOCK – Texas Tech’s Institute of Environmental and Human Health (TIEHH) will soon begin a scientific study to assess potential environmental impacts of possible perchlorate contamination in the Waco Lake and Belton Lake watersheds.

TIEHH’s study is part of a \$4 million project funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, in cooperation with the Brazos River Authority. Texas Tech will receive \$930,000.

Investigators from TIEHH, led by Associate Professor Dr. Todd A. Anderson, and other study participants will identify sources of perchlorate contamination within the lake watersheds and riparian areas.

The study will determine the extent of perchlorate contamination in the Waco and Belton watersheds and potential impacts on fish, amphibians, birds and mammals. Additionally, models of perchlorate movement, uptake and population-level effects will be developed to better describe the ecological risks associated with perchlorate exposure.

Perchlorate can be found in some explosives and fertilizers. The federal government has ruled that by 2001 community water suppliers must begin monitoring perchlorate. Utilities are now investigating how they might deal with perchlorate if it shows up in drinking-water sources.

Texas Tech, the largest research university system in West Texas, provides education and support to approximately 25,000 students. Texas Tech is the only university system in the state with a comprehensive academic campus, law school and medical center on the same campus. The university’s research programs, in areas such as wind engineering, agriculture and environmental and human health, impact the lives of all Texans.