



## **Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Program Report to the Texas Radiation Advisory Board (TRAB) January 19, 2024, TRAB Meeting**

The TCEQ's Radioactive Materials Division licenses low-level radioactive waste disposal (including legacy buried waste sites), by-product material disposal, alternative methods of disposal of radioactive material, radioactive waste storage and processing, and in-situ uranium recovery operations. Overall, the TCEQ maintains 15 licenses that authorize these activities.

### **Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued a revised Order that allows Waste Control Specialists (WCS) in Andrews, Texas to move the transuranic waste from Los Alamos National Laboratory stored at the Federal Waste Facility to one of WCS' decontamination facilities to prepare the waste for offsite transport and disposal, potentially to the U.S. Department of Energy's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in New Mexico. The review of the application for minor amendment of the license from WCS to amend their license to move the waste is completed. The Public Comment period ended December 21, 2023 and the amendment is expected to be issued by the date of this meeting. As authorized in major amendment 26 of the license, issued August 28, 2014, WCS has completed Phase 2A construction of the Compact Waste Facility. Lastly, WCS license renewal application received August 25, 2023, is under administrative review.

### **By-product Material Disposal**

Operation of the by-product material disposal facility continues under WCS' current by-product license. By license condition, the by-product disposal operation is limited to receiving only the Fernald by-product waste. TCEQ continues to review WCS' environmental monitoring reports and related data.

TCEQ also licenses three legacy conventional uranium milling sites whose tailings impoundment waste is classified as by-product material. These three sites will ultimately be transferred to the Department of Energy (DOE) for long-term care and maintenance. A major amendment for the ConocoPhillips' Conquista project is under



## **Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Program Report to the Texas Radiation Advisory Board (TRAB) January 19, 2024, TRAB Meeting**

review. A draft Completion Review Report (CRR) for the ExxonMobil Ray Point Uranium Mill Site is underway. A draft CRR for the Panna Maria facility is still under review by the NRC.

### **Radioactive Waste Storage and Processing**

TCEQ licenses Nuclear Sources & Services, Inc. (NSSI) and WCS for radioactive waste storage and processing. A renewal application for NSSI is under technical review. The review of an application for minor amendment for WCS' license was completed and the license amendment is expected to be issued by the date of this meeting.

### **In-Situ Uranium Recovery**

TCEQ authorizes the following uranium recovery operations: five licensed sites with in-situ mining operations, two licensed sites with processing operations, and three licensed sites with both in-situ mining and processing operations. The license renewal application for South Texas Mining Venture's La Palangana project is under technical review. The license renewal application for Uranium Energy Corporation's (UEC) Goliad project is under public notice for completion of technical review. The license renewal for enCore's Kingsville Dome, Vasquez, and Rosita projects was issued on November 2, 2023. EnCore's Vasquez and Rosita project site and soil decommissioning plans are under review. An application for major amendment for enCore's Upper Spring Creek project was received on October 17, 2022 and is under public notice for completion of administrative review. An application for administrative amendment for enCore's Kingsville Dome, Vasquez, and Rosita projects was received on August 8, 2023 and was issued on November 7, 2023. A letter requesting termination of Rio Grande Resources Radioactive Material License R06063, Panna Maria Site, was received on October 5, 2022. The review is pending receipt of additional requested information.