

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Program Report for the March 25, 2022 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 low-level radioactive waste disposal facility is located in Andrews County and is operated by Waste Control Specialists (WCS). A minor amendment of the license was issued on January 21, 2022.

By-product Material Disposal

Operation of the by-product material disposal facility continues under WCS' current by-product license. By license condition, the byproduct 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 Conoco Phillips' Conquista project is under review. Minor amendments for Conoco Phillips' Conquista project and Exxon Mobil Ray Point licenses are currently under 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 Nuclear Regulatory Commission (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. A minor amendment for WCS' license was issued on January 21, 2022.

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 two licensed sites with both in-situ mining and processing operations. License renewal applications

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for South Texas Mining Venture's Hobson and La Palangana projects are under technical review. Also, a license renewal application for Uranium Energy Corporation's Goliad project is under administrative review. The TCEQ continues to provide technical review of URI's Vasquez and Rosita's Projects site and soil decommissioning plans.

The TCEQ and its contractors continue to work towards obtaining unrestricted release for the former licensed area of the abandoned Intercontinental Energy Corporation Lamprecht/Zamzow site. A revised Remedial Action Report (RAR) for cleanup activities completed is currently under review. In 2019 and 2020, a significant amount of remedial work was performed by the contractor until the appropriated funding was exhausted. This work consisted of characterization, homogenization, sampling, and disposal of contaminated soil and concrete. Additional remedial work began in January 2022 using newly appropriated funding (\$3.0M). The RAR will be updated with the work that began in January 2022 consisting of contaminated soil and concrete disposal, and further characterization, homogenization, and sampling of a few remaining areas. The RAR will document the work conducted to reach unrestricted use of the land.

Rulemaking

Public comments from the NRC were received for the rulemaking proposed at the November 17, 2021 Agenda to modify Title 30 Texas Administrative Code §336.357, "Physical Protection of Category 1 and Category 2 Quantities of Radioactive Material" to add "list of individuals that have been approved for unescorted access" to the list of information for which access must be controlled to ensure compatibility with federal regulations promulgated by the NRC. Their comments were incorporated into the rulemaking for adoption at the April 27, 2022 Agenda.