

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Program Report for the June 25, 2021 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). TCEQ issued amendment 35 to radioactive material license R04100 on June 8, 2021 providing authorization to remove the metal container requirement for a specific depleted uranium waste stream disposed in the In-Cell Non-Containerized Disposal Unit and update several license conditions and waste acceptance criteria. A minor amendment application, dated May 7, 2021, was received requesting to exempt depleted uranium from the above ground possession limit of source material and to authorize the use of modular concrete canisters which have a height between 4 feet and 10 feet 4 inches.

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 Conoco Phillips' Conquista project is 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). The TCEQ and the licensee are working to address the NRC's concerns.

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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. TCEQ issued amendment 35 to radioactive material license R04100 on June 8, 2021 providing authorization to increase the final decommissioning portion of the financial assurance for the storage and processing facility (total financial assurance did not change), authorize the processing of radioactive waste that is exempted under license condition 192 in specific locations identified on the license, extend the storage deadline of the transuranic waste from Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) from December 23, 2020 to August 31, 2021, and update several license conditions.

An administrative amendment of radioactive material license R04100 will be issued in June by initiative of the Executive Director to extend the storage deadline of the transuranic waste from LANL to December 23, 2021. A minor amendment application, dated May 7, 2021, was received requesting authorization on the use of the GeoMelt In Container Vitrification to process radioactive waste and to extend the storage deadline for the transuranic waste from LANL to December 23, 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 for South Texas Mining Venture's Hobson and La Palangana projects are under technical review. The TCEQ continues to provide technical review of URI's Vasquez and Rosita's Projects 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 draft Remedial Action Report for cleanup activities completed is currently under review. Current funding appropriated for the Lamprecht site (\$770,000) has been expended; however, further cleanup work is required and will commence once additional funding is available. Current funding

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appropriated for the Zamzow site (\$2.23M for the 2020-21 biennium) has been expended; however, further cleanup work is required and will commence once additional funding is available.

87th Legislative Session

No legislative bills were passed by the Texas Legislature that would have directly affected the licensing of radioactive materials by TCEQ.