

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Program Report for the September 16, 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). An application for minor amendment of the license was received March 15, 2022 and is under technical 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 ConocoPhillips' Conquista project is under review. A minor amendment for ConocoPhillips' Conquista Project was issued on July 15, 2022, for approval of background-based groundwater protection standards. A minor amendment for the Exxon Mobil Ray Point license is 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. An application for minor amendment for WCS' license was received March 15, 2022 and is under technical review.

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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. The license renewal application for South Texas Mining Venture's Hobson project was declared technically complete and TCEQ staff is awaiting Executive Director approval for issuance. License renewal applications for South Texas Mining Venture's La Palangana project and Uranium Energy Corporation's Goliad project are under technical review. The TCEQ is reviewing URI's Vasquez and Rosita's Projects site and soil decommissioning plans. An application for administrative amendment from Energy Fuels Resources Inc. for the Alta Mesa Project was received May 6, 2022 and is under review.

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. Additional remedial work began in January 2022 using newly appropriated funding (\$3.0M) and concluded in May 2022. Remedial work included disposing of contaminated soil and concrete and further characterization, homogenization, and sampling of a few remaining areas. The Remedial Action Report will be updated by the contractor to include the work performed this calendar year and will be reviewed by TCEQ.