Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) Program Report to the Texas Radiation Advisory Board (TRAB)

January 20, 2023

The Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) has jurisdiction over the disposal of oil and gas NORM waste, identification of NORM contaminated equipment, and abandonment of radioactive logging tools in oil and gas wells.

The RRC staff works with the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) with respect to jurisdiction, legislation, general licenses, permits and exemptions for the disposal and related handling of oil and gas NORM waste.

Permits:

The RRC has permitted eight (8) facilities with a total of 22 wells for the disposal of oil and gas NORM waste into Class II injection wells (Title 16, Chapter 4, Subchapter F, §4.617, Permit for Injection). The most recent well was permitted March 21, 2019, in Andrews County.

The following facilities are permitted to accept for disposal of Oil and Gas NORM waste:

County	Field	Lease	Operator	#
				wells
Andrews	Fuhrman-Mascho	Lotus	Lotus L.L.C.	5
Andrews	Shafter Lake (San Andres)	Permian Brine Grimmett Bros	Ecoserv Permian, LLC	1
Chambers	Moss Bluff	R.S. Sterling	M.B. Environmental Services, LLC	2
Duval	Palangana Dome	Schalert E&P	Huisache Enviro Services, L.L.C.	4
Howard	Sand Springs (Fusselman)	Big Springs Brine Station	Newpark Env. Services LLC Ecoserv Permian, LLC	1
Jefferson	Big Hill	Texas Exploration Co	Ecoserv Environmental SVCS, LLC	7
Liberty	Moss Bluff	Wm. McFaddin	Trinity Enviro Services I, L.L.C.	1
Liberty	Moss Bluff	Trinity Storage Services	Trinity Enviro Services I, L.L.C.	1

RRC rules at 16 Texas Admin. Code §4.620 allow operators to apply for a permit for surface disposal; however, to date, no applications have been submitted, and no permits have been issued for the surface disposal of NORM wastes under the jurisdiction of the RRC.

Inspections:

Inspections were performed at the following facilities during the report period:

Lotus LLC – Lotus Lease – Andrews County Ecoserv Permian LLC – Grimmet – Andrews County Ecoserv Permian LLC – Big Springs – Howard County Ecoserv Env SVCS LLC – Big Hill – Jefferson County Trinity Enviro Services I, LLC – Moss Bluff – Liberty County

No violations were discovered during the inspections.

Incident Investigations:

There were no significant incidents reported during the past quarter.

Rulemaking:

The RRC currently has no ongoing rulemaking concerning oil and gas NORM waste.