

# Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Program Report for the January 20, 2023 TRAB Meeting

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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 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 the notice of completion of technical review will be posted in the near future. As authorized in major amendment 26 of the license, issued August 28, 2014, WCS plans to initiate construction for Phase 2A of the Compact Waste Facility, expected to start in January 2023. TCEQ has reviewed and approved of the construction plans and will provide regulatory oversight of the construction.

## **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 review. A minor amendment for the 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 Uranium Mill Site was issued on October 6, 2022, for removal of groundwater aquifer compliance requirements based on a non-aquifer determination. 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).

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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. An application for minor amendment for WCS' license was received March 15, 2022, and the notice of completion of technical review will be posted in the near future.

## **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 for South Texas Mining Venture's Hobson project was issued on October 6, 2022. License renewal applications for South Texas Mining Venture's La Palangana project, Uranium Energy Corporation's Goliad project, and URI's Kingsville Dome, Vasquez, and Rosita projects 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 on May 6, 2022, and is under review. An application for administrative amendment from URI for the Kingsville Dome, Vasquez, and Rosita projects was received on October 14, 2022, and is under review. An application for major amendment from URI for the Upper Spring Creek project was received on October 17, 2022, and is under administrative 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, updated by the contractor to include the work performed in 2022, is under review by TCEQ. A draft Completion Review Report (CRR) for the site is underway.