

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Program Report for the April 21, 2023 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 in Andrews County and is operated by Waste Control Specialists (WCS). A minor amendment of the license was issued on February 2, 2023. WCS has begun Phase 2A construction of the Compact Waste Facility, as authorized in major amendment 26 of the license, issued August 28, 2014.

Construction is expected to be completed in November 2023. TCEQ has reviewed and approved of the construction plans and will provide regulatory oversight of the construction. License renewal is due September 9, 2023. WCS plans to submit early in August.

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 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 February 2, 2023.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Program Report for the April 21, 2023 TRAB Meeting

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 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, received on May 6, 2022, was withdrawn on March 7, 2023. An application for administrative amendment from URI for the Kingsville Dome, Vasquez, and Rosita projects was issued on December 20, 2022. An application for major amendment from URI for the Upper Spring Creek project was received on October 17, 2022 and is under administrative review. A letter requesting termination of Rio Grande Resources Radioactive Material License R06063, Panna Maria Site, was received on October 5, 2022. The review is pending receipt of additional information request.

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, was finalized in January 2023. A draft CRR for the site was submitted to the NRC in January 2023 and is under review.