

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Program Report for the September 19, 2014 TRAB Meeting

Low-level radioactive waste disposal: On August 28, TCEQ issued Amendment No. 26 to RML R04100 as a major amendment. The amendment 1) revised the performance assessment, 2) adjusted the amount of financial assurance required, and 3) increased the licensed volume of the compact disposal facility. Waste Control Specialists is now authorized under the license to accept all Class A, B, and C low-level radioactive waste for disposal, including depleted uranium in concentrations greater than 10 nanocuries/gram.

Uranium Mining:

Major amendments for license area expansion at two in situ uranium mining licenses were declared technically complete in July and August. Public notice was published in the *Falfurrias Facts* on August 7, 2014 for the Mesteña Alta Mesa Project, with the comment period ending on September 8, 2014. Public notice for the South Texas Mining Venture Palangana Project will be published soon. A major amendment application from Signal Equities for a license area expansion on their Brown Project and a new license application from UEC for their Burke Hollow project are both currently under technical review.

TCEQ had begun working towards obtaining partial release from the NRC of a portion of the former licensed area of the abandoned IEC Lamprecht/Zamzow site. On August 12, 2014, a team of 14 TCEQ field workers along with 3 individuals from DSHS began gamma surveys and soil sampling in support of an effort to release non-operational areas for unrestricted use. Using GPS data units coupled to survey meters, 2-man teams collected data across 775 acres in a portion of the formerly licensed area. Two more field days are currently planned to finish data collection. When all data have been collected and analyzed, a Completion Review Report will be written and submitted to the NRC for their concurrence in a partial release of these areas for unrestricted use. TCEQ has also initiated its contracting process to be able to contract for the clean-up of the operational portion of this site.

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By-product material disposal: Operation of the byproduct waste disposal facility continues under its current license. By license condition, the byproduct disposal operation is limited to receiving only the Fernald byproduct waste. Staff members continue to review WCS's environmental monitoring reports and related data.

Underground Injection Control: TCEQ is processing two applications for new Class III UIC permits for in situ uranium mining and one application for expansion of the permit area of an existing in situ uranium mining site. One of the new applications (UEC Burke Hollow site) is for an unmined site in Bee County. The other new application (Signal Equities Brown site) is for a previously-mined site (USX Boots-Brown) in Live Oak County. The application for expansion (STMV Palangana site) is in Duval County.