

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Program Report for the November 22, 2019 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 is under review to authorize the use of two new modular concrete canister (MCC) designs in waste disposal operations.

By-product Material Disposal

The by-product material disposal facility operated by WCS is limited to receiving only the Fernald by-product waste, which has been placed for disposal. A license renewal application is currently under review.

TCEQ also licenses three legacy conventional uranium milling sites. These three sites will ultimately be transferred to the Department of Energy for long-term care and maintenance. A major amendment for Conoco Phillips' Conquista project is under review. A draft Completion Review Report (CRR) for the Panna Maria facility was submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in August. As soon as the NRC acknowledges that the draft CRR is complete, a final CRR will be submitted for NRC's concurrence to terminate the license and transfer the site to the DOE.

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.

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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 NRC has provided concurrence with TCEQ's Final CRR for termination of Signal Equities' license, which was terminated in October. License renewal applications for Uranium Resources Inc. (URI), Energy Fuel Resources' (EFR) Alta Mesa project and South Texas Mining Venture's (STMV) Hobson project are under technical review. A license renewal application was received for STMV's LaPalangana project and is currently under administrative review.

The TCEQ continues to work towards obtaining partial release for a portion of the former licensed area of the abandoned Intercontinental Energy Corporation Lamprecht/Zamzow site. The TCEQ is using an existing contractor through a Remediation Division umbrella contract to remediate the site. Work is ongoing at the Lamprecht site and is expected to proceed through this fiscal year with the receipt of a legislative appropriation (not to exceed \$770,000). The legislature also appropriated \$2.23M during this biennium to perform cleanup work at the Zamzow site.

Legislative Implementation

HB 2203 was signed into law on May 31, 2019. This requires any state agency that receives a required report of a release of a radioactive substance into the environment to immediately provide notification to each political subdivision into which the substance was released. TCEQ is in the process of developing procedures to implement the requirements of this bill.