



RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

OIL AND GAS DIVISION

TEXAS RADIATION ADVISORY BOARD

Program Report for the Railroad Commission of Texas February 2020

The Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) staff continues to work with the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) relating to jurisdiction, legislation, general licenses, permits and exemptions for the disposal and related handling of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) and Technologically Enhanced Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (TENORM) on a case by case basis.

House Bill 2203:

RRC staff is working with DSHS and TCEQ staff to implement House Bill 2203, which requires notice of the report of a release of a radioactive substance into the environment to each political subdivision of this state into which the substance was released.

Permits:

The RRC currently has six facilities permitted to dispose of NORM waste into Class II injection wells (Title 16, Chapter 4, Subchapter F, §4.617, Permit for Injection). The Underground Injection Control (UIC) Unit has permitted a total of 23 wells for the disposal of NORM by injection into a formation not productive of oil and gas. The most recent UIC well was permitted May 25, 2018, in Jefferson County.

Rule §4.620 allows 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.