

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Program Report for the June 26, 2020 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). TCEQ issued a minor amendment to radioactive material license RO4100 on May 18, 2020, which authorized the use of two new modular concrete canister (MCC) designs for waste disposal operations; authorized the use of standard uncoated rebar in the reinforced concrete structures used for MCCs and concrete barriers; and adjusted the concentration limits for low activity waste that is disposed of in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) facility.

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. The technical review of the license renewal application has been completed and the draft license will be noticed for public comment in late June or early July.

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 is still under review by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The NRC, accompanied by the DOE, conducted a site visit of all three legacy conventional uranium milling sites in early March.

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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The recently issued license amendment for R04100 described above authorizes WCS to add two new financial assurance (FA) tiers (whose monetary values are between the two current tiers) and two new waste categories for the storage and processing facility.

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 Uranium Resources Inc. (URI), Energy Fuel Resources' (EFR) Alta Mesa project, and South Texas Mining Venture's (STMV) Hobson and La Palangana projects are under technical review. A soil decommissioning plan for URI's Vasquez Project site is currently under technical 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. The TCEQ is using an existing contractor through a Remediation Division umbrella contract to remediate the site. Current funding appropriated for the Lamprecht site (\$770,000) has been expended; however, further cleanup work is required and will commence once additional funding is available. Cleanup work is proceeding at the Zamzow site with a legislative appropriation of \$2.23M for the 2020-21 biennium.

Rulemaking

The rulemaking proposal requested by WCS to adjust the curie inventory charge for low-level radioactive waste disposal was approved for publication for public comment at the TCEQ's Commissioners' Agenda on April 8, 2020 and is scheduled for adoption at Agenda on July 1, 2020.