



RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

TEXAS RADIATION ADVISORY BOARD

Program Report for the Railroad Commission of Texas

December 2017

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.

Permitting:

The RRC currently has six facilities permitted to dispose of NORM waste into Class II injection wells. The most recent injection well permit was issued on June 16, 2017, in Andrews County. There is a facility in Pecos County that is currently conducting excavation (salt cavern) activities and once excavation is completed it has already been approved for NORM disposal.

To date, no other applications for the disposal of NORM wastes have been submitted.

Current Rules:

16 TAC Chapter 4 Subchapter F, RULE §4.620(b) states:

(b) "Standards for permit issuance. The Commission shall issue a permit to dispose of oil and gas NORM waste under §3.8 of this title only if the Commission determines that the subject oil and gas NORM waste will be disposed of in a manner that protects public health, safety, and the environment. Any permit to dispose of oil and gas NORM waste issued pursuant to §3.8 of this title shall contain construction and operating requirements that are reasonably necessary to protect public health, safety, and the environment. In addition, the Commission shall issue a permit for burial of oil and gas NORM waste only if, prior to burial, the oil and gas NORM waste has been treated or processed so that the radioactivity concentration does not exceed 30 pCi/g Radium-226 combined with Radium-228 or 150 pCi/g of any other NORM radionuclide. The Commission shall issue a permit to dispose of oil and gas NORM waste by applying it to and mixing it with the land surface only if, after such application and mixing, the radioactivity concentration in the area where the oil and gas NORM waste was applied and mixed will not exceed 30 pCi/g Radium-226 combined with Radium-228 or 150 pCi/g of any other NORM radionuclide."