



RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

OIL AND GAS DIVISION

TEXAS RADIATION ADVISORY BOARD

Program Report for the Railroad Commission of Texas June 2019

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.

Permits:

The RRC currently has six permitted facilities with 23 wells authorized to dispose of NORM waste into Class II injection wells (Chapter 4 Subchapter F, §4.617, relating to Permit for Injection, and 16 Tex. Admin. Code §3.9, relating to Disposal Wells). 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 oil and gas NORM wastes under the jurisdiction of the RRC.

2019 Legislative Session:

House Bill 2203 (H.B. 2203) was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor and became effective on May 31, 2019. H.B. 2203 amends Subchapter B, Chapter 501, relating to Hazardous Substances, Health and Safety Code, by adding new Section 501.0245. The new section requires the DSHS, TCEQ, RRC or any other state agency that receives a required report of a release of a radioactive substance into the environment to immediately provide notice to each political subdivision of this state into which the substance was released. The notice must include the name, quantity, and state of matter of the radioactive substance released, if known. The information contained in the notice provided to a political subdivision is confidential and not subject to disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code.

DSHS, TCEQ and the RRC are discussing implementation of H.B. 2203. With respect to the RRC, the bill could impact a release of/from a radioactive well logging tool or radioactive tracers.