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# RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

## OIL AND GAS DIVISION

### TEXAS RADIATION ADVISORY BOARD

#### Program Report for the Railroad Commission of Texas September 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 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.

*§4.620 (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 radionuclide."*