

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Program Report for the September 20, 2019 TRAB Meeting

Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal: An application for minor amendment was received July 19, 2019 from Waste Control Specialists (WCS) to authorize the use of two new modular concrete canister (MCC) designs in waste disposal operations that use a simpler reinforcing steel layout by reducing the layers of rebar in the sidewall from two to one rebar layer and reducing the compressive strength requirements of the MCC concrete from 5,000 PSI to 4,000 PSI. This requested design change will use standard uncoated rebar (current requirement is coated) in the reinforced concrete structures used for MCCs and concrete barriers. The TCEQ is also currently reviewing a request from WCS to modify their Large Component Plan for disposal of reactor components and associated hardware.

Low-Level Radioactive Waste Processing and Storage: TCEQ continues the technical review of the NSSI renewal application. The TCEQ continues to monitor storage and processing operations at the WCS site.

Uranium Mining: A major amendment for Conoco Phillips' Conquista project, RML R01634 is under review. An application for termination of Signal Equities' license was received, a review of the application was done and a Final Completion Review Report (CRR) requesting concurrence on termination was sent to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). A renewal application for STMV's Hobson project is currently under technical review.

The TCEQ continues to work towards obtaining partial release for a portion of 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 perform the work. The contractor submitted a workplan which was approved, and work is ongoing at the Lamprecht site and is expected to proceed through this fiscal year with the receipt of a legislative funding appropriation for remediation of the site. The TCEQ has completed the CRR for the Panna Maria site and has submitted it to the NRC for review and concurrence.

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The NRC hosted a workshop in Salt Lake City mid-June to discuss issues Agreement States have had with implementing Alternate Concentration Limits at Title II Tailings Impoundments sites and to gather feedback on whether to propose rulemaking regarding groundwater protection standards at in situ recovery sites. Several staff were in attendance and presented on the Panna Maria Project.

By-product Material Disposal: Operation of the by-product waste disposal facility continues under WCS' current by-product license. By license condition, the by-product disposal operation is limited to receiving only the Fernald by-product waste. The TCEQ continues to review WCS' environmental monitoring reports and related data. A renewal application for the license was received May 31, 2018 and is currently under review.

Underground Injection Control: The TCEQ continues to monitor routine reports from permittees for mining and disposal well authorizations at licensed sites. An application for renewal of Class III Area Permit, URO3070 - La Palangana Mine in Duval County, by STMV was received on August 27, 2018. The permit was issued on June 11, 2019. Also, STMV submitted renewal permit applications for Class I waste disposal wells (WDW)418 and WDW419 at La Palangana. The applications were received on September 26, 2018. The permits were issued on June 25, 2019. STMV submitted renewal permit applications for WDW168 and WDW425 at their Hobson Processing Facility in Karnes County. The applications were submitted on April 22, 2019 and are under technical review.

URI, Inc. submitted a minor modification permit application to revise the closure plan for WDW185 at their Vasquez Mine in Duval County on October 31, 2018. The permit was issued on January 17, 2019. URI plans to plug the well in the near future. All Class III wells were plugged in PAA1 and PAA2. There are no additional PAAs and this completes mining at Vasquez. Also, URI submitted a renewal at their Rosita Mine in Duval County. The application was received on April 14, 2019 and is under technical review.

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EFR Alta Mesa LLC (EFR) submitted a “Plugging and Abandonment Report for Production Area PA1” on April 1, 2019 for their Alta Mesa Mine in Brooks County. Plugging operations began on June 18, 2018 and were completed on February 25, 2019. All Class III wells, except for two (2) production ring monitor wells (to be assigned to PAA2) for a total of 631 wells were plugged. TCEQ confirmed closure of the wells by letter dated April 14, 2019.

EFR submitted a minor amendment permit application for PAA2 requesting production ring monitor wells RM-217 and RM-218 be delisted from PAA1 and added to PAA2 on July 2, 2019. The application is under technical review.

Legislative Implementation: HB 2203 was signed into law on May 31, 2019. This requires any state agency that receives a required report of a release of a radioactive substance into the environment to immediately provide notification to each political subdivision into which the substance was released. TCEQ is in the process of developing and revising procedures to implement the requirements of this bill.