



Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Program Report to the Texas Radiation Advisory Board (TRAB) July 26, 2024, 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

Movement of the remaining Los Alamos National Laboratory transuranic waste from storage in the Federal Waste Facility to storage in the Bin Storage Area 1 began on March 11, 2024. The waste drums will be prepared for shipment offsite to the U.S Department of Energy's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in New Mexico. Technical review of the WCS license renewal application is ongoing.

By-product Material Disposal

Operation of the by-product material 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. TCEQ continues to review WCS' environmental monitoring reports and related data.

TCEQ also licenses three legacy conventional uranium milling sites whose tailings impoundment waste is classified as by-product material. These three sites will ultimately be transferred to the Department of Energy (DOE) for long-term care and maintenance. A major amendment for the ConocoPhillips' Conquista project is under review. A draft Completion Review Report (CRR) for the ExxonMobil Ray Point Uranium Mill Site is underway. A draft CRR for the Panna Maria facility was reviewed by the NRC and deficiencies were found related to the acceptable uranium background level. The state and the NRC have not agreed on an acceptable groundwater standard for the site.



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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.

In-Situ Uranium Recovery

TCEQ authorizes the following uranium recovery operations: four licensed sites with in-situ mining operations, two licensed sites with processing operations, and three licensed sites with both in-situ mining and processing operations. The license renewal and minor amendment application for South Texas Mining Venture's La Palangana project is under technical review. On July 2, 2024, the NRC concurred with the partial release of the La Palangana site and the reduction of licensed area. The license renewal, amendment 2, for Uranium Energy Corporation's (UEC) Goliad project was published March 14, 2024. The updated renewal and major amendment application for enCore's Alta Mesa Project was received on February 16, 2024 and is under administrative review. EnCore's Vasquez and Rosita project site and soil decommissioning plans are under review. An application for major amendment for enCore's Upper Spring Creek project was received on October 17, 2022 and is under technical review. A letter requesting termination of Rio Grande Resources Radioactive Material License R06063, Panna Maria Site, was received on October 5, 2022 and is under review.

Rulemaking

Proposed rulemaking was approved by the TCEQ Commissioners at the June 12 Agenda. The rulemaking will modify the Title 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 336 to maintain compatibility with the federal regulations, to correct errors, remove obsolete text, add clarity, and provide flexibility in determining adequate training for the Radiation Safety Officer at different licensed facilities.