



Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Program Report to the Texas Radiation Advisory Board (TRAB) November 3, 2023, 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

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued a revised Order that allows Waste Control Specialists (WCS) in Andrews, Texas to move the transuranic waste from Los Alamos National Laboratory stored at the Federal Waste Facility to one of WCS' decontamination facilities to prepare the waste for offsite transport and disposal, potentially to the U.S. Department of Energy's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in New Mexico. An application for minor amendment of the license was received by the TCEQ in June 2023 for WCS to amend their license to move the waste, which is under technical review. WCS also has begun Phase 2A construction of the Compact Waste Facility, as authorized in major amendment 26 of the license, issued August 28, 2014. Construction is expected to be completed in November 2023. TCEQ has reviewed and approved of the construction plans and is providing regulatory oversight of the construction. The WCS license renewal application was received August 25, 2023 and is under administrative review.

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



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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 is still under review by the NRC.

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. An application for minor amendment for WCS' license was received in June 2023.

In-Situ Uranium Recovery

TCEQ authorizes the following uranium recovery operations: five 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 application for South Texas Mining Venture's La Palangana project is under technical review. The license renewal applications for enCore Energy Corporation's (enCore) Goliad project and enCore's Kingsville Dome, Vasquez, and Rosita projects are under public notice for completion of technical 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 administrative review. An application for administrative amendment for enCore's Kingsville Dome, Vasquez, and Rosita projects was received on August 8, 2023 and is under review. A letter requesting termination of Rio Grande Resources Radioactive Material License R06063, Panna Maria Site, was received on October 5, 2022. The review is pending receipt of additional requested information. Notification of an acquisition of the Alta Mesa project by enCore Energy Corp. was received on February 14, 2023. An application for administrative amendment from enCore for the Alta Mesa Project, received on April 14, 2023, was issued on July 17, 2023.

The TCEQ and its contractors completed their work towards obtaining unrestricted release for the former licensed area of the abandoned Intercontinental Energy



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Corporation Lamprecht/Zamzow site. The Remedial Action Report, updated by the contractor to include the work performed in 2022, was finalized in January 2023. A draft CRR for the site was submitted to the NRC in January 2023. Comments from the NRC were received on February 16, February 23, and May 3, 2023. The final CRR, including the TCEQ's response to the NRC's comments, was submitted on June 21, 2023. On August 21, 2023, the NRC concurred with the CRR and concluded that the Lamprecht/Zamzow sites are remediated to a level that allows them to be released without restriction.

Other

Quadrennial Review of Chapter 336 – TCEQ's Radioactive Substance Rule

Per Tx Govt Code the agency is required to conduct a review every four years on the continuance of our rules. Generally, no changes are allowed. The commissioner's adopted the rule on October 11, 2023.