



Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Program Report to the Texas Radiation Advisory Board (TRAB) April 19, 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

Minor Amendment 40 of WCS' license R04100 was issued on January 9, 2024. Movement of the 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 in the Bin Storage Area 1. Additionally, WCS license renewal application was deemed administratively complete on January 12, 2024. Technical review 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. Minor amendment 40 for WCS license R04100 was issued on January 9, 2024.

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. 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. Additional requested information was received February 8, 2024 and is under review.