

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Program Report for the September 29, 2017 TRAB Meeting

Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal: A renewal with major amendment to increase disposal capacity for the license held by Ascend Performance Materials, RML RW0219, was issued on July 18, 2017. An administrative amendment for the radioactive waste storage and processing license held by NSSI, RML R01811, was issued on June 22, 2017, which replaces the radiation safety officer of record.

A minor amendment for the low level radioactive waste disposal license held by WCS, RML R04100, was noticed as technically complete and the comment period will end on September 25, 2017. The more significant changes of this amendment include extending the possession time of the Los Alamos National Laboratory waste by two years and adding authorization to build the Rail Tipper Building for receiving and unloading bulk Class A waste with the provision that the licensee cannot begin operations of this facility until the Executive Director has approved the operational procedures. This amendment also modifies some of the license conditions due to decision by the Executive Director to require the licensee to notify the agency as soon as practicable upon knowledge of a possible exceedance of an action or analytical decision level and to allow a “qualified TCEQ staff” other than resident inspectors to inspect waste shipments and manifests. The TCEQ continues to monitor storage and disposal operations at the site.

Uranium Mining: A new license application from Uranium Energy Corporation for their Burke Hollow project and a major amendment for Conoco Phillips’ Conquista project, RML R01634, are still under technical review. A major amendment application from Rio Grande Resources to reduce the restricted area of the license and amend groundwater monitoring requirements for their Panna Maria tailings impoundment, RML R02402, was noticed to be administratively complete, and is now under technical review. A minor amendment of the UEC Goliad Project for reduction of their licensed area has been finished and a license has been drafted for approval. A confirmatory survey of the Schulz property adjacent to the Ray Point Tailings Impoundment site was completed and we are awaiting analytical results. At the end of September, the TCEQ will be traveling to both URI’s Rosita Project and the former IEC Uranium Mining site for a Drone Survey Capability Demonstration.

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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, primarily focusing on the Completion Review Report which must be submitted to the NRC for their concurrence in granting a partial release of these areas for unrestricted use. The TCEQ is currently drafting a work plan for remediation of the site.

Byproduct Material Disposal: An administrative amendment to allow permanent removal of the "sacrificial sidewall geomembrane" from Cells A and B of the By-product Material Disposal Facility and updates additional license conditions for the by-product disposal license held by WCS, RML R05807, was received on September 8, 2017 and is currently under review. Operation of the byproduct waste disposal facility continues under WCS's current byproduct license. By license condition, the byproduct disposal operation is limited to receiving only the Fernald byproduct waste. The TCEQ continues to review WCS's environmental monitoring reports and related data.

Underground Injection Control: The TCEQ has just noticed preliminary decision for issuance of a renewal for URI's Class I WDW 248. Comments and requests for contested case hearing may be submitted until October 14, 2017. A minor amendment of the UEC Goliad Project was also completed for a reduction of the permit boundaries.

Rulemaking Projects: Rulemaking to implement HB 2662 was initiated with the proposal agenda scheduled for November 1, 2017. The rulemaking, once adopted, will remove from rule the reference to the 5% state fee on all compact and federal waste, which was temporarily removed from statute. TCEQ also continues to gather stakeholder input for the rulemaking petition from Texas Mining and Reclamation Association for rule changes to injection well permitting and radioactive materials licensing requirements for uranium mining operations that was approved on December 15, 2016.