

## Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Program Report for the November 7, 2014 TRAB Meeting

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**Low-level radioactive waste disposal:** TCEQ published notice of Minor Amendment No. 27 to RML R04100 in the October 24 issue of the *Texas Register* (39 TexReg 8447-8). Public comment may be submitted for 10 days from the date of that notice. The amendment, which was agency initiated, would include the Federal Waste Facility as a location authorized for temporary waste storage, if approved on a case-by-case basis. The amendment would also authorize overnight storage of certain radioactive materials in the decontamination building, if approved on a case-by-case basis.

### **Uranium Mining:**

Major amendments for license area expansion at two in situ uranium mining licenses have been completed and are at or near the point of issuance. Two expansion amendments were signed by the Executive Director: one for the Mesteña Alta Mesa was signed on September 19, and the other for the South Texas Mining Venture Palangana Project was signed on October 27. A major amendment application for license area expansion from Signal Equities on their Brown Project and a new license application from UEC for their Burke Hollow project are both still under technical review.

TCEQ continues to work towards obtaining partial release from the NRC for a portion of the former licensed area of the abandoned IEC Lamprecht/Zamzow site. A second survey trip was conducted on October 16, and the data from that and the August 12 trip will now be analyzed. Once review is complete, a Completion Review Report will be written and submitted to the NRC for their concurrence in a partial release of these areas for unrestricted use. TCEQ has also issued a request for proposals (RFP) for contracts to clean up the operational portions of this site. The RFP was issued October 3, a site visit for potential bidders was held on October 14, and final bids are due November 14.

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**By-product material disposal:** Operation of the byproduct waste disposal facility continues under its current license. By license condition, the byproduct disposal operation is limited to receiving only the Fernald byproduct waste. Staff members continue to review WCS's environmental monitoring reports and related data.

**Underground Injection Control:** TCEQ continues to process two applications for new Class III UIC permits for in situ uranium mining and one application for expansion of the permit area of an existing in situ uranium mining site. One of the new applications (UEC Burke Hollow site) is for an unmined site in Bee County. The other new application (Signal Equities Brown site) is for a previously-mined site (USX Boots-Brown) in Live Oak County. The application for expansion (STMV Palangana site) is in Duval County.

**Rulemaking projects:** On October 22, TCEQ proposed rulemaking to reduce the maximum disposal rate that a licensee may charge generators for disposal of Class A Shielded low-level radioactive waste from \$250 to \$180 per cubic foot. The rulemaking should be published in the November 7 edition of the *Texas Register*, and public comment will run through December 8. Public comment has concluded on a rulemaking project to implement House Bill 1079 (83<sup>rd</sup> Regular), regarding issuance of Class III Underground Injection Control area permits, and the rulemaking is set to be considered for adoption on the November 19 agenda.