Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) Program Report to the Texas Radiation Advisory Board (TRAB)

April 21, 2023

The Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) has jurisdiction over the disposal of oil and gas NORM waste, identification of NORM contaminated equipment, and abandonment of radioactive logging tools in oil and gas wells.

The RRC staff works with the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) with respect to jurisdiction, legislation, general licenses, permits and exemptions for the disposal and related handling of oil and gas NORM waste.

Permits:

The RRC has permitted seven (7) facilities with a total of 21 wells for the disposal of oil and gas NORM waste into Class II injection wells (Title 16, Chapter 4, Subchapter F, §4.617, Permit for Injection). The most recent well was permitted March 21, 2019, in Andrews County.

The following facilities are permitted to accept for disposal of Oil and Gas NORM waste:

County	Field	Lease	Operator	#
				wells
HOWARD	SAND SPRINGS (FUSSELMAN)	BIG SPRINGS BRINE STATION	PWS-ES, LLC	1
ANDREWS	FUHRMAN- MASCHO	LOTUS	LOTUS, L. L. C.	5
ANDREWS	SHAFTER LAKE (SAN ANDRES)	PERMIAN BRINE - GRIMMETT BROS	PWS-ES, LLC	1
DUVAL	PALANGANA DOME	SCHALLERT E&P	HUISACHE ENVIRO SERVICES, L.L.C.	4
CHAMBERS	MOSS BLUFF	MOSS BLUFF	SABINE ENVIRONMENTAL SVCS, LLC	2
JEFFERSON	BIG HILL	TEXAS EXPLORATION COMPANY "A"	ECOSERV ENVIRONMENTAL SVCS, LLC	7
LIBERTY	MOSS BLUFF	TRINITY STORAGE SERVICES	TRINITY ENVIRO SERVICES I,L.L.C.	1

RRC rules at 16 Texas Admin. Code §4.620 allow operators to apply for a permit for surface disposal; however, to date, no applications have been submitted and no permits have been issued for the surface disposal of NORM wastes under the jurisdiction of the RRC.

Inspections:

Inspections were performed at all of the above facilities during the report period. No violations were discovered during the inspections.

Incident Investigations:

There were no significant incidents reported during the past quarter.

Rulemaking:

The RRC currently has no ongoing rulemaking concerning oil and gas NORM waste.