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

January 19, 2024

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
JEFFERSON	BIG HILL	TEXAS EXPLORATION COMPANY 21948	ECOSERV ENVIRONMENTAL SVCS, LLC	7
ANDREWS	FUHRMAN- MASCHO	LOTUS 35507	LOTUS, L. L. C.	7
ANDREWS	SHAFTER LAKE (SAN ANDRES)	PERMIAN BRINE - GRIMMETT BROS 34752	PWS-ES, LLC	1
HOWARD	SAND SPRINGS (FUSSELMAN)	BIG SPRINGS BRINE STATION	PWS-ES, LLC	1
DUVAL	PALANGANA DOME	SCHALLERT E&P	HUISACHE ENVIRO SERVICES, L.L.C.	4
LIBERTY	MOSS BLUFF	TRINITY STORAGE SERVICES	TRINITY ENVIRO SERVICES I,L.L.C.	1
CHAMBERS	MOSS BLUFF	STERLING, R. S.	SABINE ENVIRONMENTAL SVCS, LLC	4

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:

ECOSERV ENVIRONMENTAL SVCS, LLC - TEXAS EXPLORATION COMPANY Lease

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.