

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ, agency, or commission) adopts the amendment to §305.62 *without change* to the proposed text as published in the July 13, 2018, issue of the *Texas Register* (43 TexReg 4702) and, therefore, will not be republished.

Background and Summary of the Factual Basis for the Adopted Rule

The commission adopts a federal rule update as well as responds to a petition filed by Lloyd Gosselink on behalf of the Owner/Operator Members of the Uranium Committee of the Texas Mining and Reclamation Association (TMRA-UC) in October 2016 (Project Number 2017-005-PET-NR; approved on December 15, 2016 to initiate rulemaking).

The rulemaking modifies rules in 30 TAC in order to fulfill the requirements of an Agreement State program for radioactive material licenses and also to clarify and streamline rules. The adopted revision in §305.62 changed the category for certain types of radioactive material license amendment applications dealing with reductions in financial assurance.

This rulemaking includes corresponding changes to 30 TAC Chapter 331, Underground Injection Control; and Chapter 336, Radioactive Substance Rules.

Section Discussion

§305.62, Amendments

Under current rule, any reduction in the amount of financial assurance for a radioactive materials license triggers as a major amendment application. This practice

is not always consistent with other programs that require financial assurance. If a licensee completes required closure (such as decommissioning or groundwater restoration) and the agency has approved such closure, financial assurance for that closure is no longer needed and a major amendment application for the license should not be required to reduce the financial assurance. In some cases, approval of the licensee's closure activity may also require concurrence of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The commission adopts amended §305.62(i) so that a licensee would submit a minor amendment application for a reduction in financial assurance as a result of completed closure activities.

The commission adopts amended §305.62(i)(1)(J) to delete the word "amounts" and add the phrase "unless such a reduction occurs as a result of completed closure activities that have been approved by the appropriate regulatory authority." This amendment reduces regulatory costs and time requirements.

The commission adopts amended §305.62(i)(2)(B) to delete the word "or" as a result of adopted §305.62(i)(2)(C).

The commission adopts §305.62(i)(2)(C) to add the phrase "authorizes a reduction in financial assurance as a result of completed closure activities that have been approved by the appropriate regulatory authority; or." This amendment reduces regulatory costs and time requirements.

The commission adopts an amendment to reletter §305.62(i)(2)(D) resulting from adopted §305.62(i)(2)(C).

Final Regulatory Impact Determination

The commission adopts the rulemaking action under the regulatory analysis requirements of Texas Government Code, §2001.0225, and determined that the action is not subject to Texas Government Code, §2001.0225 because it does not meet the definition of a "Major environmental rule" as defined in the statute. A "Major environmental rule" means a rule, the specific intent of which, is to protect the environment or reduce risks to human health from environmental exposure and that may adversely affect in a material way the economy, a sector of the economy, productivity, competition, jobs, the environment, or the public health and safety of the state or a sector of the state. The adopted rulemaking action is procedural and changes the category of certain radioactive materials license applications dealing with financial assurance. The adopted rulemaking is not anticipated to adversely affect in a material way the economy, a sector of the economy, productivity, competition, jobs, the environment, or the public health and safety of the state or a sector of the state, because the amendment does not alter in a material way the existing substantive requirements for radioactive material licensees.

Furthermore, the adopted rulemaking action does not meet any of the four applicability requirements listed in Texas Government Code, §2001.0225(a). Texas Government Code, §2001.0225 only applies to a major environmental rule, the result

of which is to: 1) exceed a standard set by federal law, unless the rule is specifically required by state law; 2) exceed an express requirement of state law, unless the rule is specifically required by federal law; 3) exceed a requirement of a delegation agreement or contract between the state and an agency or representative of the federal government to implement a state and federal program; or 4) adopt a rule solely under the general powers of the agency instead of under a specific state law. The adopted rulemaking action does not exceed a standard set by federal law, an express requirement of state law, a requirement of a delegation agreement, nor does it adopt a rule solely under the general powers of the agency.

The commission implements an Agreement State program under the federal Atomic Energy Act and must maintain a compatible program with the NRC. The adopted revision for the type of amendment application for certain reductions in financial assurance does not exceed a standard of federal law. There are no federal standards regarding amendment categories for a reduction in financial assurance resulting from completed closure activity. The adopted rule is compatible with federal law.

The adopted rule does not exceed a requirement of state law. Texas Health and Safety Code (THSC), Chapter 401, the Radiation Control Act, establishes requirements for the commission's radioactive materials licensing program. The Radiation Control Act does not address categories of license amendment applications dealing with reductions in financial assurance. The adopted rulemaking is consistent with THSC, Chapter 401.

The commission also determined that the adopted rule does not exceed a requirement of a delegation agreement or contract between the state and an agency of the federal government. The State of Texas has been designated as an "Agreement State" by the NRC under the authority of the Atomic Energy Act. The adopted revision for the type of amendment application for certain reductions in financial assurance does not exceed a requirement of a delegation agreement or the state's agreement with the NRC for maintaining a compatible licensing program.

The commission also determined that the rule is adopted under specific authority of the Texas Radiation Control Act, THSC, Chapter 401. THSC, §§401.051, 401.103, 401.104, and 401.412 authorize the commission to adopt rules for the control of sources or radiation, the licensing of source material recovery and disposal of radioactive materials.

The commission invited public comment regarding the draft regulatory impact analysis determination during the public comment period. No comments were received on the Draft Regulatory Impact Analysis Determination.

Takings Impact Assessment

The commission evaluated the adopted rule and performed a preliminary assessment of whether the Private Real Property Rights Preservation Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 2007 is applicable. The commission's preliminary assessment is that implementation of the adopted rule does not constitute a taking of real property.

Promulgation and enforcement of this adopted rule is neither a statutory nor a constitutional taking of private real property. The adopted rule does not affect a landowner's rights in private real property because this rulemaking does not burden (constitutionally), nor restrict or limit, the owner's right to property and reduce its value by 25% or more beyond which would otherwise exist in the absence of the rules. The adopted rule is procedural and changes the category of certain radioactive materials license applications dealing with financial assurance.

Consistency with the Coastal Management Program

The commission reviewed the adopted rule and found it is neither identified in Coastal Coordination Act Implementation Rules, 31 TAC §505.11(b)(2) or (4), nor will it affect any action/authorization identified in Coastal Coordination Act Implementation Rules, 31 TAC §505.11(a)(6). Therefore, the adopted rule is not subject to the Texas Coastal Management Program (CMP).

The commission invited public comment regarding the consistency with the CMP during the public comment period. No comments were received on the CMP.

Public Comment

The commission offered a public hearing on August 9, 2018. The comment period closed on August 13, 2018. The commission received one comment letter from Lloyd Gosselink on behalf of TMRA-UC in support of the rulemaking and suggesting changes to the rulemaking.

Response to Comments

Comment

TMRA-UC stated the revisions work to accomplish the goals of TMRA-UC's petition and agrees with TCEQ's proposed rule revisions.

Response

The commission appreciates the support for the rulemaking and proposed changes. No changes have been made in response to this comment.

**SUBCHAPTER D: AMENDMENTS, RENEWALS, TRANSFERS, CORRECTIONS,
REVOCATION, AND SUSPENSION OF PERMITS**

§305.62

Statutory Authority

The amendment is adopted under the Texas Radiation Control Act, Texas Health and Safety Code (THSC), Chapter 401, THSC, §401.011, which provides the commission authority to regulate and license the disposal of radioactive substances, the commercial processing and storage of radioactive substances, and the recovery and processing of source material; THSC, §401.051, which authorizes the commission to adopt rules and guidelines relating to the control of sources of radiation; THSC, §401.103, which authorizes the commission to adopt rules and guidelines that provide for licensing and registration for the control of sources of radiation; THSC, §401.104, which requires the commission to provide rules for licensing for the disposal of radioactive substances; THSC, §401.109, which requires the commission to establish the type and amount of financial assurance by rule; THSC, §401.2625, which provides the commission authority to grant licenses for source material recovery and processing, and for the storage, processing or disposal of by-product material; and THSC, §401.412, which provides the commission authority to adopt rules for the recovery and processing of source material and the disposal of by-product material. The adopted amendment is also authorized by Texas Water Code, §5.103, which provides the commission with the authority to adopt rules necessary to carry out its powers and duties under the Texas Water Code and other laws of the state.

The amendment implements THSC, Chapter 401, including THSC, §§401.011, 401.051, 401.103, 401.104, 401.107, and 401.109.

§305.62. Amendments.

(a) Amendments generally. A change in a term, condition, or provision of a permit requires an amendment, except under §305.70 of this title (relating to Municipal Solid Waste Permit and Registration Modifications), under §305.69 of this title (relating to Solid Waste Permit Modification at the Request of the Permittee), under §305.66 of this title (relating to Permit Denial, Suspension, and Revocation), and under §305.64 of this title (relating to Transfer of Permits). The permittee or an affected person may request an amendment. If the permittee requests an amendment, the application shall be processed under Chapter 281 of this title (relating to Applications Processing). If the permittee requests a modification of a solid waste permit, the application shall be processed under §305.69 of this title. If the permittee requests a modification of a municipal solid waste (MSW) permit, the application shall be processed in accordance with §305.70 of this title. If an affected person requests an amendment, the request shall be submitted to the executive director for review. If the executive director determines the request is not justified, the executive director will respond within 60 days of submittal of the request, stating the reasons for that determination. The person requesting an amendment may petition the commission for a review of the request and the executive director's recommendation. If the executive

director determines that an amendment is justified, the amendment will be processed under subsections (d) and (f) of this section.

(b) Application for amendment. An application for amendment shall include all requested changes to the permit. Information sufficient to review the application shall be submitted in the form and manner and under the procedures specified in Subchapter C of this chapter (relating to Application for Permit or Post-Closure Order). The application shall include a statement describing the reason for the requested changes.

(c) Types of amendments, other than amendments for radioactive material licenses in subsection (i) of this section.

(1) A major amendment is an amendment that changes a substantive term, provision, requirement, or a limiting parameter of a permit.

(2) A minor amendment is an amendment to improve or maintain the permitted quality or method of disposal of waste, or injection of fluid if there is neither a significant increase of the quantity of waste or fluid to be discharged or injected nor a material change in the pattern or place of discharge of injection. A minor amendment includes any other change to a permit issued under this chapter that will not cause or relax a standard or criterion which may result in a potential

deterioration of quality of water in the state. A minor amendment may also include, but is not limited to:

(A) except for Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) permits, changing an interim compliance date in a schedule of compliance, provided the new date is not more than 120 days after the date specified in the existing permit and does not interfere with attainment of the final compliance date; and

(B) except for TPDES permits, requiring more frequent monitoring or reporting by the permittee.

(3) Minor modifications for TPDES permits. The executive director may modify a TPDES permit to make corrections or allowances for changes in the permitted activity listed in this subsection (see also §50.45 of this title (relating to Corrections to Permits)). Notice requirements for a minor modification are in §39.151 of this title (relating to Application for Wastewater Discharge Permit, Including Application for the Disposal of Sewage Sludge or Water Treatment Sludge). Minor modifications to TPDES permits may only:

(A) correct typographical errors;

(B) require more frequent monitoring or reporting by the permittee;

(C) change an interim compliance date in a schedule of compliance, provided the new date is not more than 120 days after the date specified in the existing permit and does not interfere with attainment of the final compliance date;

(D) change the construction schedule for a discharger which is a new source. No such change shall affect a discharger's obligation to have all pollution control equipment installed and in operation before discharge under §305.534 of this title (relating to New Sources and New Dischargers);

(E) delete a point source outfall when the discharge from that outfall is terminated and does not result in discharge of pollutants from other outfalls except within permit limits;

(F) when the permit becomes final and effective on or after March 9, 1982, add or change provisions to conform with §§305.125, 305.126, 305.531(1), 305.535(c)(1)(B), and 305.537 of this title (relating to Standard Permit Conditions; Additional Standard Permit Conditions for Waste Discharge Permits; Establishing and Calculating Additional Conditions and Limitations for TPDES Permits; Bypasses from

TPDES Permitted Facilities; Minimum Requirements for TPDES Permitted Facilities; and Reporting Requirements for Planned Physical Changes to a Permitted Facility); or

(G) incorporate enforceable conditions of a publicly owned treatment works pretreatment program approved under the procedures in 40 Code of Federal Regulations §403.11, as adopted by §315.1 of this title (relating to General Pretreatment Regulations for Existing and New Sources of Pollution).

(d) Good cause for amendments. If good cause exists, the executive director may initiate and the commission may order a major amendment, minor amendment, modification, or minor modification to a permit and the executive director may request an updated application if necessary. Good cause includes, but is not limited to:

(1) material and substantial changes to the permitted facility or activity which justify permit conditions that are different or absent in the existing permit;

(2) information, not available at the time of permit issuance, is received by the executive director, justifying amendment of existing permit conditions;

(3) the standards or regulations on which the permit or a permit condition was based have been changed by statute, through promulgation of new or amended standards or regulations, or by judicial decision after the permit was issued;

(4) an act of God, strike, flood, material shortage, or other event over which the permittee has no control and for which there is no reasonably available alternative may be determined to constitute good cause for amendment of a compliance schedule;

(5) for underground injection wells, a determination that the waste being injected is a hazardous waste as defined under §335.1 of this title (relating to Definitions) either because the definition has been revised, or because a previous determination has been changed; and

(6) for Underground Injection Control area permits, any information that cumulative effects on the environment are unacceptable.

(e) Amendment of land disposal facility permit. When a permit for a land disposal facility used to manage hazardous waste is reviewed by the commission under §305.127(1)(B)(iii) of this title (relating to Conditions to be Determined for Individual Permits), the commission shall modify the permit as necessary to assure that the facility continues to comply with currently applicable requirements of this chapter and Chapter 335 of this title (relating to Industrial Solid Waste and Municipal Hazardous Waste).

(f) Amendment initiated by the executive director. If the executive director determines to file a petition to amend a permit, notice of the determination stating the

grounds therefor and a copy of a proposed amendment draft shall be personally served on or mailed to the permittee at the last address of record with the commission. This notice should be given at least 15 days before a petition is filed with the commission. However, such notice period shall not be jurisdictional.

(g) Amendment initiated permit expiration. The existing permit will remain effective and will not expire until commission action on the application for amendment is final. The commission may extend the term of a permit when taking action on an application for amendment.

(h) Amendment application considered a request for renewal. For applications filed under the Texas Water Code, Chapter 26, an application for a major amendment to a permit may also be considered as an application for a renewal of the permit if so requested by the applicant.

(i) Types of amendments for radioactive material licenses authorized in Chapter 336 of this title (relating to Radioactive Substance Rules).

(1) Major amendments. A major amendment is one which:

(A) authorizes a change in the type or concentration limits of wastes to be received;

(B) authorizes receipt of wastes determined by the executive director not to be authorized in the existing license;

(C) authorizes a change in the licensee, owner or operator of the licensed facility;

(D) authorizes closure and the final closure plan for the disposal site;

(E) transfers the license to the custodial agency;

(F) authorizes enlargement of the licensed area beyond the boundaries of the existing license;

(G) authorizes a change of the method specified in the license for disposal of by-product material as defined in the Texas Radiation Control Act, Texas Health and Safety Code, §401.003(3)(B);

(H) grants an exemption from any provision of Chapter 336 of this title;

(I) authorizes a new technology or new process that requires an engineering review, unless the new technology or new process meets criteria in §305.62(i)(2)(A) of this title;

(J) authorizes a reduction in financial assurance unless such a reduction occurs as a result of completed closure activities that have been approved by the appropriate regulatory authority; or

(K) authorizes a change which has a potentially significant effect on the human environment and for which the executive director has prepared a written environmental analysis or has determined that an environmental analysis is required;

(2) Minor amendments. An application for a minor amendment is subject to public notice requirements of Chapter 39 of this title (relating to Public Notice), but is not subject to an opportunity to request a contested case hearing. A minor amendment is one which:

(A) authorizes a modification that is not specifically authorized in an existing condition in a license issued under Chapter 336 of this title and which does not pose a potential detrimental impact on public health and safety, worker safety, or environmental health;

(B) authorizes the addition of previously reviewed production or processing equipment, and where an environmental assessment has been completed;

(C) authorizes a reduction in financial assurance as a result of completed closure activities that have been approved by the appropriate regulatory authority; or

(D) any amendment, after completion of a review, the executive director determines is a minor amendment.

(3) Administrative amendments. An application for an administrative amendment is not subject to public notice requirements and is not subject to an opportunity to request a contested case hearing. An administrative amendment is one which:

(A) corrects a clerical or typographical error;

(B) changes the mailing address or other contact information of the licensee;

(C) changes the Radiation Safety Officer, if the person meets the criteria in Chapter 336 of this title;

(D) changes the name of an incorporated licensee that amends its articles of incorporation only to reflect a name change, if updated information is provided by the licensee, provided that the Secretary of State can verify that a change in name alone has occurred;

(E) is a federally-mandated change to a license;

(F) corrects citations in license from rules/statutes;

(G) is necessary to address emergencies;

(H) authorizes minor modifications to existing facilities, consistent with individual license conditions for a specified facility with demonstrated performance, that enhance public health and safety or protection of the environment;

(I) authorizes minor modifications to existing facilities, consistent with individual license conditions for a specified facility with demonstrated performance, to enhance environmental monitoring programs and protection of the environment; or

(J) any amendment, after completion of a review, the executive director determines is an administrative amendment.

(j) This subsection applies only to major amendments to MSW permits.

(1) A full permit application shall be submitted when applying for a major amendment to an MSW permit for the following changes:

(A) an increase in the maximum permitted elevation of a landfill;

(B) a lateral expansion of an MSW facility other than changes to expand the buffer zone as defined in §330.3 of this title (relating to Definitions). Changes to the facility legal description to increase the buffer zone may be processed as a permit modification requiring public notice under §305.70(k) of this title;

(C) any increase in the volumetric waste capacity at a landfill or the daily maximum limit of waste acceptance for a Type V processing facility; and

(D) upgrading of a permitted landfill facility to meet the requirements of 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 258, including facilities which previously have submitted an application to upgrade.

(2) For all other major amendment applications for MSW facilities, only the portions of the permit and attachments to which changes are being proposed are required to be submitted. The executive director's review and any hearing or

proceeding on a major amendment subject to this paragraph shall be limited to the proposed changes, including information requested under paragraph (3) of this subsection. Examples of changes for which less than a full application may be submitted for a major amendment include:

(A) addition of an authorization to accept a new waste stream (e.g., Class 1 industrial waste);

(B) changes in waste acceptance and operating hours outside the hours identified in §330.135 of this title (relating to Facility Operating Hours), or authorization to accept waste or operate on a day not previously authorized; and

(C) addition of an alternative liner design, in accordance with §330.335 of this title (relating to Alternative Liner Design).

(3) The executive director may request any additional information deemed necessary for the review and processing of the application.

(k) This subsection applies only to temporary authorizations made to existing MSW permits or registrations.

(1) Examples of temporary authorizations include:

(A) the use of an alternate daily cover material on a trial basis to properly evaluate cover effectiveness for odor and vector control;

(B) temporary changes in operating hours to accommodate special community events or prevent disruption of waste services due to holidays;

(C) temporary changes necessary to address disaster situations;
and

(D) temporary changes necessary to prevent the disruption of solid waste management activities.

(2) In order to obtain a temporary authorization, a permittee or registrant shall request a temporary authorization and include in the application a specific description of the activities to be conducted, an explanation of why the authorization is necessary, and how long the authorization is needed.

(3) The executive director may approve a temporary authorization for a term of not more than 180 days, and may reissue the temporary authorization once for an additional 180 days, if circumstances warrant the extension.

(4) The executive director may provide verbal authorization for activities related to disasters as described in paragraph (1)(C) of this subsection. When verbal

authorization is provided, the permittee or registrant shall document both the details of the temporary changes and the verbal approval, and provide the documentation to the executive director within three days of the request.

(5) Temporary authorizations for MSW facilities may include actions that would be considered to be either a major or minor change to a permit or registration. Temporary authorizations apply to changes to an MSW facility or its operation that do not reduce the capability of the facility to protect human health and the environment.