

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Visits TCEQ

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) requested to meet with TCEQ to learn more about the agency's Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program. ADEQ has intention to apply to EPA for primacy of the UIC Program in Arizona and this trip was part of a data-gathering effort. After meeting in TCEQ's Austin offices with representatives of UIC Permits Section staff and OLS/Environmental Law Division staff to dialog about the UIC Program, the ADEQ participated in field visits to two UIC permitted facilities in South Texas.

The first visit was on June 11, 2018 to San Antonio Water System (SAWS) H2Oaks facility southeast of San Antonio. SAWS operates the largest active Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) facility in the nation at this site and also recently began operations of a new Reverse Osmosis (RO) water treatment facility for brackish groundwater produced at the H2Oaks site. The ASR wells are authorized under a UIC Class V authorization and the RO drinking water treatment residuals are disposed in two deep wells registered under TCEQ's UIC Class I General Permit.

The second visit was on June 12, 2018 to the Energy Fuels Alta Mesa In-Situ Uranium Mine in Brooks County. The TCEQ has issued the Alta Mesa facility a UIC Class III mine area permit, seven UIC Class III production area (PA) authorizations, and a UIC aquifer exemption associated with the mined ore zone (the exemption was also approved by EPA Region 6). The Alta Mesa mine also has a radioactive materials license issued by the TCEQ.



Figure 1. In front of SAWS ASR well no. 9. From left to right, Matt Ivers (ADEQ), Lorrie Council (TCEQ), David Murry (TCEQ), Jerry Smits (ADEQ), Ryan Fitzpatrick (ADEQ)