


GOLIAD COUNTY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

118 S. Market St., P.O. Box 562, Goliad, Texas 77963-0562

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Board of Directors:
President – Wilfred Korth
Vice-President – Art Dohmann
Secretary – Roy Rosin
Directors – Ernest Alaniz, Barbara Smith, Reagan Sahadi, Terrell Graham
REVIEWED
DEC 06 2022

 By GCW **REF** **H**

December 02, 2022

TCEQ OCC

5DEC '22 10:00

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Office of the Chief Clerk MC-105

P.O. Box 13087

Austin, Texas 78711-3087

Re: Reply to the Executive Director, Office of Public Interest Counsel and Applicant

Permit Numbers: WDW423 and WDW424

Applicant: Uranium Energy Corporation

Goliad County Groundwater Conservation District (GCGCD) is a governmental body created by the Legislature of Texas to protect and preserve the groundwater of Goliad County.

Request for Reconsideration

GCGCD's Request for Reconsideration was two pronged: 1) GCGCD requested that the decision to issue the draft permit be reconsidered. It is understood that reconsideration of draft permit may require a Contested Case Hearing to develop facts before a decision to reconsider the draft permit can be reached. 2) The decision to not allow a Public Meeting should be reconsidered. Reconsideration of the decision not to hold a Public Meeting does not require the development of facts. Along with GCGCD, State Senator Lois Kolkhorst requested a Public Meeting to better inform the public regarding Uranium Energy Corp.'s (UEC) plans to mine uranium in Goliad County. In fact, UEC's memo to the TCEQ dated November 16, 2022, implies that transparency and a better understanding of the facts surrounding the disposal of wastes from uranium mining in Goliad County could resolve potential misunderstandings and concerns. GCGCD reasserts its Request for Reconsideration of the TCEQ's decision not to hold a Public Meeting. This Request for Reconsideration was brought pursuant to 30 TAC § 55.201 authorizing a request by any person for reconsideration and review of decisions made by the Executive Director of the TCEQ such as the decision not to hold a Public Meeting.

Request for Contested Case Hearing

GCGCD agrees that the issues that the Office of the Executive Director recommends for referral to the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) are the correct issues to be referred. GCGCD also agrees that Alternate Dispute Resolution may be beneficial. As a governmental taxing entity, GCGCD seeks the resolution that requires the least expense of public funds. While

UEC's memo seems to indicate all facts have been developed, this is simply not the case as shown by the responses of the Office of the Executive Director and the Office of Public Interest Counsel. Although UEC's memo indicates there will be monitor wells, nothing in the Draft Permits indicates monitor wells are required. None of the responses address the potential of injection wells causing fault movement leading to vertical movement of injected fluids into drinkable water resources. For these reasons and others, a Public Meeting to provide the citizens of Goliad and the surrounding counties an opportunity to be made aware of the facts surrounding the injection of these foreign substances to ensure that potable groundwater is not contaminated is warranted. It is worth noting that Goliad County's sole source of drinking water is groundwater.

GCGCD fully incorporates its memo dated September 27, 2022, in this memo for all purposes.

GCGCD thanks the TCEQ for their diligence. GCGCD looks forward to timely response to our Request for Reconsideration of the decision not to hold a Public Meeting regarding these permits. A Public Meeting would be beneficial to all parties and could resolve issues at the lowest level of time and expense for all parties. GCGCD looks forward to the December 14, 2022, meeting of the TCEQ Commissioners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'W. Korth', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Wilfred Korth
President

Goliad County Groundwater
Conservation District
P.O. Box 562
Goliad, TX. 77963

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