



TCEQ GENERAL INFORMATION

External Relations Division
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Public Meetings on Radioactive Material Licenses

Purpose of this Meeting

This public meeting provides information about an application for a Radioactive Material License and allows members of the public to submit comments.

How TCEQ Regulates Radioactive Materials

The federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has delegated certain federal regulatory responsibilities for radioactive material to the state of Texas. TCEQ is tasked with ensuring radioactive material facilities protect human health and safety and protect the environment by maintaining compliance with applicable rules and regulations. TCEQ issues licenses and conducts compliance investigations and responds to public complaints and concerns.

What a TCEQ Radioactive Material License Covers

If approved, a Radioactive Material License authorizes an applicant to receive, possess, use, store, dispose, and transfer specific radioactive material at a facility. The facility is normally licensed for 10 years from the issuance date and can renew or amend their license depending on the operational status of the facility. The license will specify federal and state regulations the applicant is required to comply with, as well as site-specific requirements, such as radioactive material possession limits, financial assurance, groundwater monitoring, environmental surveillance, radiation safety programs, recordkeeping, and timely reporting. For more information about TCEQ Radioactive Materials Licensing, see www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/radmat.

Other Types of Radioactive Material Licenses

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has a Radioactive Material Licensing Unit which issues licenses for other radioactive uses, including industrial use, academic research, and medical use. More information on DSHS licenses can be found at: www.dshs.texas.gov/texas-radiation-control.

Other Types Licenses for Radioactive Activities

In addition, TCEQ issues licenses for Low Level Radioactive Waste (LLRW) disposal and the recovery of source material (ex. uranium).

Uranium is a radioactive element that is used for many commercial purposes including the production of nuclear energy. Source recovery is the extraction of uranium (also called source material) from ores in the earth's crust. In Texas, uranium recovery occurs through a process called in-situ recovery where uranium minerals are extracted by using a solution injected into the uranium-bearing zone underground, which dissolves the solid uranium ore. The resulting solution is then retrieved through recovery wells. Uranium is then precipitated out from the solution to produce yellowcake, a type of concentrate powder.

LLRW is a broad category of radioactive waste material that does not include high level waste, spent nuclear fuel, transuranic waste, uranium tailings, by-product waste, naturally occurring

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radioactive material (NORM), and oil and gas NORM. LLRW typically consists of radioactively contaminated material, which can include trash, protective clothing, packaging material, organic material, spent pharmaceuticals, and used (decayed) sealed radioactive sources. LLRW is broken into four classes (A, B, and C, and Greater than class C), with A containing the lowest radioactivity concentrations and Greater than class C containing the highest.

For More Information

For questions about the permitting process, call or email our Public Education Program at 800-687-4040 or pep@tceq.texas.gov.

You can also view pending permit applications, find information on public meetings and contested case hearings, provide comments, request accommodations, and more on our website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/participation.