

Plain-Language Summary

Energy Fuels Alta Mesa, LLC is applying for the renewal of an existing Class III Injection Well Area Permit UR03060 to conduct In-Situ uranium mining.

The In-Situ uranium mine, named Alta Mesa, is located in Brooks County, 11 miles west of Encino, Texas.

The Alta Mesa In-Situ uranium mine consists of a plant and wellfields. From the plant, a fluid (Injectate) made of natural water and oxygen is injected into the ground (Goliad aquifer) where the uranium ore is located.

The function of the existing plant is to produce uranium.

When injectate reaches the formation containing the uranium ore, the oxygen added in the injectate starts to oxidize or “dissolve” the elements present in the ground, including uranium. The oxidation increases the concentration of uranium and other elements in solution. These elements are, in most cases, classified as metals. The concentration of these elements in solution can reach a level that may harm organisms like humans, plants and animals or exceed an environmental quality standard.

This solution is then pumped back to the plant in pipelines to remove the dissolved uranium. After the uranium is removed from the solution, more oxygen is added to the injectate and it is recycled back to the wellfield.

Energy Fuels Alta Mesa strictly follows the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) guidelines and rules to control these metals. The TCEQ rules and guidelines have been incorporated in Energy Fuels’ mining operations at Alta Mesa for the last 17 years. During this period, the facility didn’t report any adverse impact on human health or the environment and aims to continue this practice.