



Texas Legislative and Regulatory Update

2016 TMRA Annual Meeting
Hyatt Lost Pines – Bastrop, Texas
November 1, 2016

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Legislative Dates of Interest

- General Election – November 8, 2016
- Bill Pre-Filing Begins – November 14, 2016
- 1st Day of Regular Session – January 10, 2017
- 60-Day Bill Filing Deadline – March 10, 2017
- Adjournment / Sine Die – May 29, 2017
- Post-Session 20 deadline for Governor Action – June 18, 2017
- Effective Date for Bills (91st Day)– Aug. 28, 2017

Overview of 85th Regular Session of Texas Legislature

- Stability in State Leadership
- Budget
- Tax Relief – Franchise / Sales / Property Taxes
- Transportation
- Public School Finance
- Child Protective Services
- Transgender / “Bathroom” Legislation
- Local Control – City Ordinances
- New faces:
 - **Senate** – 3 Freshmen / 9 Sophomores
 - **House** – At least 20 Freshmen and 2 Returning State Reps.

Legislative Issues of Interest to Mining Industries

- Railroad Commission of Texas Sunset Legislation
- Contested Case Hearings (SB 709) Clean Up Legislation
- Tax Legislation Impacting Mining Operations.
- Groundwater-Related Legislation
 - Creation of Aquifer-Wide Management Authorities
 - Brackish Groundwater Production

Sunset Advisory Commission – Railroad Commission of Texas

- Railroad Commission of Texas (RCT) is part of the 2016-2017 review cycle for the Sunset Advisory Commission (SAC).
- SAC issues recommendations to improve efficiency and performance of state agencies.
- SAC's recommendations typically turned into legislation to implement recommendations and continue state agency for an additional 8 to 12 years.
- Third time for RCT to go through Sunset Process in last 10 years.
- SAC scheduled to make decision on its recommendations for RCT on November 10

2016 TMRA-UC Legislative Activities

- Preparation for 2017 Regular Session
- Educational Effort – educating and informing state legislators and legislative staff
- Building Relationships
- Monitoring Work of Interim Legislative Committees

EPA Rulemaking – Revisions to 40 CFR Part 192

- 40 CFR Part 192 - Health and Environmental Protection Standards for Uranium and Thorium Mill Tailings and Uranium In Situ Leaching Processing Facilities.
- Proposed rule would impose federal restoration standards on the Texas in-situ uranium mining industry and would require that post-restoration monitoring be conducted for up to 30 years or more after restoration stability was completed at a mining site.
- Texas basically invented in-situ uranium mining and EPA did not look at any technical data from Texas operations or TCEQ.
- Proposed Rule is currently at Office of Management and Budget.

Petition for Rulemaking - TCEQ

- Filed by Owner/Operator Members of the TMRA-Uranium Committee on Friday, October 28, 2016.
- Petition is the result of several years of work by TMRA-UC members.
- Issues identified by TMRA-UC members after operating under TCEQ rules updated in 2007-2009 rulemaking.
- TCEQ Commissioners have 60 days from date of filing of Petition to take action on the Petition.
- Decision on Petition likely Dec. 7 or Dec. 15 TCEQ Agenda.

Questions?

- Any questions?
- Thank you.