

PROJECT FACT SHEET

CONTRACT TITLE: Environmental Guidance Documents for Exploration Development, Production, and Transportation of Crude Oil and Gas in Texas

ID NUMBER: DE-FG22-95MT95017

CONTRACTOR: Texas Railroad Commission

B & R CODE: AC1015000

ADDR: 1701 N. Congress

P.O. Box 12967

Austin, TX 78711

DOE PROGRAM MANAGER:

NAME: William H. Hochheiser

PHONE: (202) 586-5614

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:

NAME: Leslie Savage

PHONE: (512) 463-7308

FAX: (512) 463-6780

DOE PROJECT MANAGER:

NAME: Nancy C. Holt

LOCATION: NPTO

PHONE: (918) 699-2059

INTERNET ADDRESS: leslie.savage@rrc.state.tx.us

PROJECT SITE

CITY: Austin

STATE: TX

CITY:

STATE:

CITY:

STATE:

CONTRACT PERFORMANCE PERIOD:

08/01/1995 to 01/31/1998

PROGRAM: Environmental-Oil

RESEARCH AREA: Environmental

FUNDING (\$1000'S)	DOE	CONTRACTOR	TOTAL
PRIOR FISCAL YRS	89	0	89
FISCAL YR 1998	0	0	0
FUTURE FUNDS	0	0	0
TOTAL EST'D FUNDS	89	0	89

OBJECTIVE: Significantly reduce the compliance cost of environmental regulations through outreach and technology transfer, by providing guidance manuals to oil and gas operators under the Texas RRC Oil and Gas regulatory authority.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Work to be performed: The RRC shall develop, publish, and distribute environmental guidance documents. This project should complement the RRC's existing and planned regulatory programs for management of oil and gas wastes. The proposed guidance documents shall address the following issues: (1) Additional guidance on Rule 8 issues, such as technical criteria for waste management and other 'rules-of-thumb' the RRC uses in reviewing permit applications and cleanup proposals; (2) additional guidance on Rule 91 issues, including discussion of various bioremediation techniques and sampling and testing methods and identification of environmentally sensitive areas; (3) additional guidance on NORM issues, including disposal options; (4) additional guidance on the E& P exemption from the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and on management of hazardous oil and gas waste; and (5) additional guidance on mechanical integrity testing of Class II UIC wells.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION (Continued)

Background: The Texas Railroad Commission (RRC), a State of Texas agency, has regulatory oversight over the oil and gas industry within Texas. The RRC has been involved in regulating the E&P industry, including preventing pollution of land and water, since 1919. The RRC has jurisdiction of over the storage, handling, transportation, reclamation, and disposal of waste materials that result from activities associated with the exploration, development, and production, including transportation, of oil, gas, or geothermal resources. The RRC regulates injection of nonhazardous oil and gas wastes through its EPA-approved Class II Underground Injection Control (UIC) program and surface storage and disposal of oil and gas wastes through its Statewide Rule 8. The RRC has previously developed and distributed various manuals, such as the RRC's oil and gas Statewide Rules, the UIC Manual, and the Water Protection Manual. One example is the RRC's success in developing, publishing, and distributing the manual, Waste Minimization in the Oil Field, for use in training and for general distribution. In five months, 1,300 were distributed to the oil and gas industry.

PROJECT STATUS:

Current Work: Finalizing 3 of the documents and continue drafting of remaining 2 documents. The NORM guidance document must be reviewed by the Texas Radiation Advisor. Two of the five guidance documents are still being drafted. Additional information was requested for the guidance document on Rule 91 and the guidance document on Rule 8 issues is on a time line parallel to that of Rule Amendments, and the MIT guidance document has been placed on hold to determine whether its contents should be incorporated into a rule.

Scheduled Milestones:

Complete drafts for internal and external circulation	04/98
Incorporate comments & put in final form	05/98
Send final draft to DOE for printing	06/98

Accomplishments: Three of five guidance documents circulated for internal and external comments. Currently incorporating changes resulting from comments. One of these documents is in final draft form, has been approved by the commission, and will be forwarded to DOE for printing.