

Amend CSSB 3 (house committee printing) by adding the following appropriately numbered ARTICLE to the bill and renumbering subsequent ARTICLES of the bill accordingly:

ARTICLE _____. AREA PERMITS AND PRODUCTION AREAS FOR URANIUM MINING
SECTION _____.01. Subchapter D, Chapter 27, Water Code, is amended by adding Section 27.0513 to read as follows:

Sec. 27.0513. AREA PERMITS AND PRODUCTION AREAS FOR URANIUM MINING. (a) The commission may issue a permit pursuant to Section 27.011 that authorizes the construction and operation of two or more similar injection wells within a specified area for mining of uranium. An application for a new permit issued pursuant to Section 27.011, a major amendment of such a permit, or a renewal of such a permit for mining of uranium is subject to the public notice requirements and opportunity for contested case hearing provided under Section 27.018.

(b) For a permit for mining of uranium issued on or after September 1, 2007, pursuant to Section 27.011, the term of the permit to authorize injection for recovery of uranium shall be 10 years. The holder of a permit for mining of uranium issued by the commission before September 1, 2007, pursuant to Section 27.011, must submit an application to the commission before September 1, 2012, for renewal of the permit to authorize construction and operation of injection wells for mining of uranium. Authority to construct or operate injection wells for recovery of uranium under a permit issued before September 1, 2007, pursuant to Section 27.011, expires on September 1, 2012, if an application for renewal of the permit is not submitted to the commission before September 1, 2012. Expiration of authority under this subsection does not relieve the permit holder from obligations under the permit or applicable rules, including obligations to restore groundwater and to plug and abandon wells in accordance with the requirements of the permit and applicable rules.

(c) The commission may issue a holder of a permit issued pursuant to Section 27.011 for mining of uranium an authorization that allows the permit holder to conduct mining and restoration activities in production zones within the boundary established in the permit. The commission by rule shall establish application

requirements, technical requirements, including the methods for determining restoration table values, and procedural requirements for any authorization.

(d) Notwithstanding Sections 5.551, 5.556, 27.011, and 27.018, an application for an authorization submitted after September 1, 2007, is an uncontested matter not subject to a contested case hearing or the hearing requirements of Chapter 2001, Government Code. An application filed by the holder of a permit issued pursuant to Section 27.011 to amend a restoration table value of an authorization is subject to the public notice requirements and opportunity for contested case hearing provided under Section 27.018.

SECTION _____.02. This article takes effect immediately if this Act receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this article takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the legislative session.