

By: Guillen

H.B. No. 279

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to procedural requirements for uranium mining production area authorizations.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 27.0513(d), Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

(d) Notwithstanding Sections 5.551, 5.556, 27.011, and 27.018, an application for an authorization or an amendment to an authorization that allows the permit holder to conduct mining and restoration activities in production zones within the boundary established in the permit is an uncontested matter not subject to a contested case hearing or the hearing requirements of Chapter 2001, Government Code, if:

(1) the authorization is for a production zone located within the boundary of a permit that incorporates, for each production zone addressed in the application, a range table of groundwater quality restoration values used to measure groundwater restoration by the commission;

(2) the application includes, for each production zone addressed in the application, groundwater quality restoration values falling at or below the upper limit of the range established in Subdivision (1); and

(3) the authorization is for a production zone located within the boundary of a permit that incorporates groundwater

1 baseline characteristics of the wells for the application required
2 by commission rule.

3 SECTION 2. Sections 27.0513(f) and (g), Water Code, are
4 repealed.

5 SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act applies only
6 to an application for an authorization or an amendment to an
7 authorization that is submitted to the Texas Commission on
8 Environmental Quality on or after the effective date of this Act.
9 An application for an authorization or an amendment to an
10 authorization that was submitted to the commission before the
11 effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect at the
12 time the application or amendment was submitted, and the former law
13 is continued in effect for that purpose.

14 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.