

VICTORIA ADVOCATE

Uranium mining concerns addressed in EPA rules

March 20, 2015 at 10:24 p.m.

Updated March 20, 2015 at 11:30 p.m.

The Environmental Protection Agency has developed and posted for public comment a set of proposed rules dealing with in-situ uranium mining.

The rules are in part based on the work of the Goliad County Groundwater Conservation District.

The proposed rules are available for viewing in the Federal Register at www.regulations.gov.

During the past eight years, the district spent considerable time dealing with the potential of in-situ uranium mining in Goliad County and submitted input to the EPA dealing with the permitting of potential uranium mining operations near Ander.

The district's efforts were to protect the drinking water supply for the agricultural community and economy of the county, according to a news release from the water district.

On March 10, Neil Blandford with Daniel B. Stephens and Associates testified in Washington, D.C., on behalf of the district at the public hearing for these proposed rules.

The district was pleased that many of its concerns, including long-term water quality monitoring were included in the agency's proposed rules, according to the news release.

The EPA acknowledged the work of the district, including the modeling done by Daniel B. Stephens and Associates conducted for the district in 2007.

A public hearing of the proposed rules will be in Corpus Christi at a later date. The public is encouraged to attend.

For more information, visit goliadcogcd.org.