



Legislation Text

File #: Ordinance 01-2021, **Version:** 2

Agenda Date: 02/02/2021

Subject:

Ordinance 01-2021: An ordinance on second reading establishing changes to the existing ordinance for Technologically Enhanced Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (TENORM) for South Platte Renew

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PURPOSE:

Does city council support establishing changes to the code regarding recent changes required by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Board of Health regulations to control the handling and disposal of TENORM containing materials?

PRESENTATIONS:

Staff Presenter(s):	Keith Reester, Public Works Director
Additional Presenter(s):	Blair Corning, Deputy Director, Environmental Programs, South Platte Renew Pieter Van Ry, Director of South Platte Renew Matthew Montgomery, Attorney for South Platte Renew, Hill & Robbins, P.C.

SUMMARY:

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Board of Health recently promulgated regulations to control the handling and disposal of TENORM containing materials through registration and licensing. This regulation sets a level of TENORM under which the requirements of the rule are not applicable. Based on current testing, the cities are not aware of any current discharges of non-exempt TENORM to the South Platte Renew (SPR) plant. These code changes are designed to prevent potential future discharges of non-exempt TENORM from sources such as water treatment plant residuals or industrial wastes from entering the plant.

PRIOR ACTIONS OR DISCUSSIONS:

Approving the TENORM-related municipal code changes will prohibit the future discharge or deposit of any non-exempt amounts of TENORM into the wastewater treatment system. These code changes were reviewed by the city attorneys of Littleton and Englewood and approved by the SPR Supervisory Committee on December 17, 2020.

This ordinance passed on first reading on January 19, 2021.

ANALYSIS:

Staff Analysis

SPR currently applies biosolids to farmland jointly owned by the cities of Littleton and Englewood. Testing has shown these biosolids to be within the exempt level for TENORM. If levels of TENORM were to rise above the non-exempt threshold, this would require SPR to obtain registration and licensing to handle this material. A significant consequence of this would be limitations on the number of years the plant could land apply biosolids to the currently owned farmland.

Council Goal, Objective, and/or Guiding Principle

Council Goal 3 - Good Governance; Objective 3 - Strategic Partnerships

Fiscal Impacts

Potential financial impacts that would arise from exceeding the non-exempt level of TENORM in plant biosolids include costs associated with loss of farmland viability due to restrictions on the number of application years allowed. Additional financial impacts would be incurred as a result of required TENORM testing and the creation and implementation of a radiation management program.

There are no current costs associated with the implementation of the proposed TENORM ordinance. Additionally, it is anticipated the proposed changes will have no impact on current businesses within the SPR service area.

Alternatives

By not instituting the proposed TENORM ordinance changes, both the cities of Littleton and Englewood and the SPR facility may be at risk of receiving non-exempt levels of TENORM, resulting in a potential loss of long-term viability of farmland for biosolids application.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

South Platte Renew (SPR), owned by the cities of Littleton and Englewood, recommends Littleton City Council approve, by ordinance, changes to the municipal code related to technologically enhanced naturally occurring radioactive material (TENORM). These changes prohibit the discharge or deposit of any non-exempt amounts of TENORM into the wastewater treatment system.

PROPOSED MOTION:

I move to approve Ordinance 01-2021 on second reading establishing changes to the existing ordinance for Technologically Enhanced Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (TENORM) for South Platte Renew.