



ENERGY MINUTE

For the 89th Legislature & the Texas Congressional Delegation

VOL. 65
January 2026

Our mission is to serve Texas by our stewardship of natural resources and the environment, our concern for personal and community safety, and our support of enhanced development and economic vitality for the benefit of Texans.

Texas Granted Primacy Over Class VI Wells



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) granted the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) Primacy for Class VI Underground Injection Control (UIC), recognizing the Commission's expertise and reinforcing the agency's role in protecting Texans and the state's natural resources.

With primacy in place, the RRC oversees the permitting, regulation and enforcement of Class VI wells, which are used for the injection of carbon dioxide into deep underground rock formations for permanent storage.

"Primacy will streamline the application process and provide the regulatory certainty that is critical to Texas, which is one of the most productive energy regions in the world," said Wei Wang, RRC Executive Director.

The RRC has a long history of regulating multiple classes of injection wells, ensuring strong oversight and safeguarding underground sources of drinking water. Its UIC program has been consistently commended by EPA Region 6 during annual evaluations.

"Approving Texas' request to be in charge of this critical program is a big step forward for cooperative federalism — as big as the state of Texas," said Regional Administrator Scott Mason. "The Texas Railroad Commission has demonstrated that the state is ready, willing, and able to add Class VI wells to its underground injection control program, and the Trump Administration is proud to support Texas as it shows once again that you can protect natural resources and grow our nation's energy economy at the same time."

Since 2021, the RRC has been proactively developing its Class VI program, with staff working alongside EPA's Region 6 office to review permit applications and prepare for the transition. This groundwork allowed the Commission to hit the ground running and begin managing the permitting process safely and effectively as soon as primacy was granted.

The program is overseen by geologists and engineers in the Special Injection Permits Unit, who bring a combined 140 years of industry experience and more than 50 years of Texas regulatory expertise. In September, the RRC was also awarded the UIC Class VI grant from the EPA, providing \$1.93 million in additional funding to support implementation.

The RRC has already received 18 applications and is aware of additional projects being planned by industry in Texas.

For more information on Class VI wells, visit <https://www.rrc.texas.gov/about-us/faqs/primacy-faq/>.

Contact: **Matt Cope**
Director, Government Relations
Matt.Cope@rrc.texas.gov | 512-463-6831



@TxRRC



[railroadcommissionoftexas](https://www.instagram.com/railroadcommissionoftexas)



[railroadcommissionoftexas](https://www.facebook.com/railroadcommissionoftexas)



[railroad-commission-of-texas](https://www.linkedin.com/company/railroad-commission-of-texas)