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Energy News



From the Field Photo

Storage Facility / Pump Jack with Sunflowers
in Martin County

Photo from Morgan Hrnccirik



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Upcoming Events

RRC Open Meeting.....Tuesday, September 24, 2024

[VIEW OPEN MEETING WEBCASTS ▶](#)



Summer Weatherization Inspections *in Full Swing*

The RRC's Critical Infrastructure Division (CID) has been fanning across the state with an important mission: making sure natural gas is available for electricity generation in the brutal summer heat.

Just as they do in the winter, inspectors have been going to critical natural gas facilities in the Texas electricity supply chain to ensure the facilities are weatherized. More than 880 inspections were completed as of mid-August.

CID has been inspecting facilities such as pipelines that directly serve power plants and gas processing plants, to name a few, to ensure equipment is weatherized to shed heat and function in extremely high temperatures.

"Our operators are going above and beyond," said Mysti Doshier, CID Assistant Director. "We're seeing a lot of things from sprinkler systems to cooling units, all different kinds of methods to ensure that natural gas is going to be available for electricity generation."

CID began summer inspections on July 1 and will continue that work through the end of September.





SUCCESSFUL REGULATORY CONFERENCE IN THE BOOKS!

A huge thank you to the hundreds of oil and gas and pipeline operators and representatives who attended this year's Regulatory Conference. We had more than 775 attendees – which is a record – for this year's annual conference!

The conference is a key opportunity for RRC staff to inform and train oil and gas and pipeline operators and representatives on the laws, rules, and procedures for hydrocarbon production in Texas. This includes updates on rules, regulations and filings.

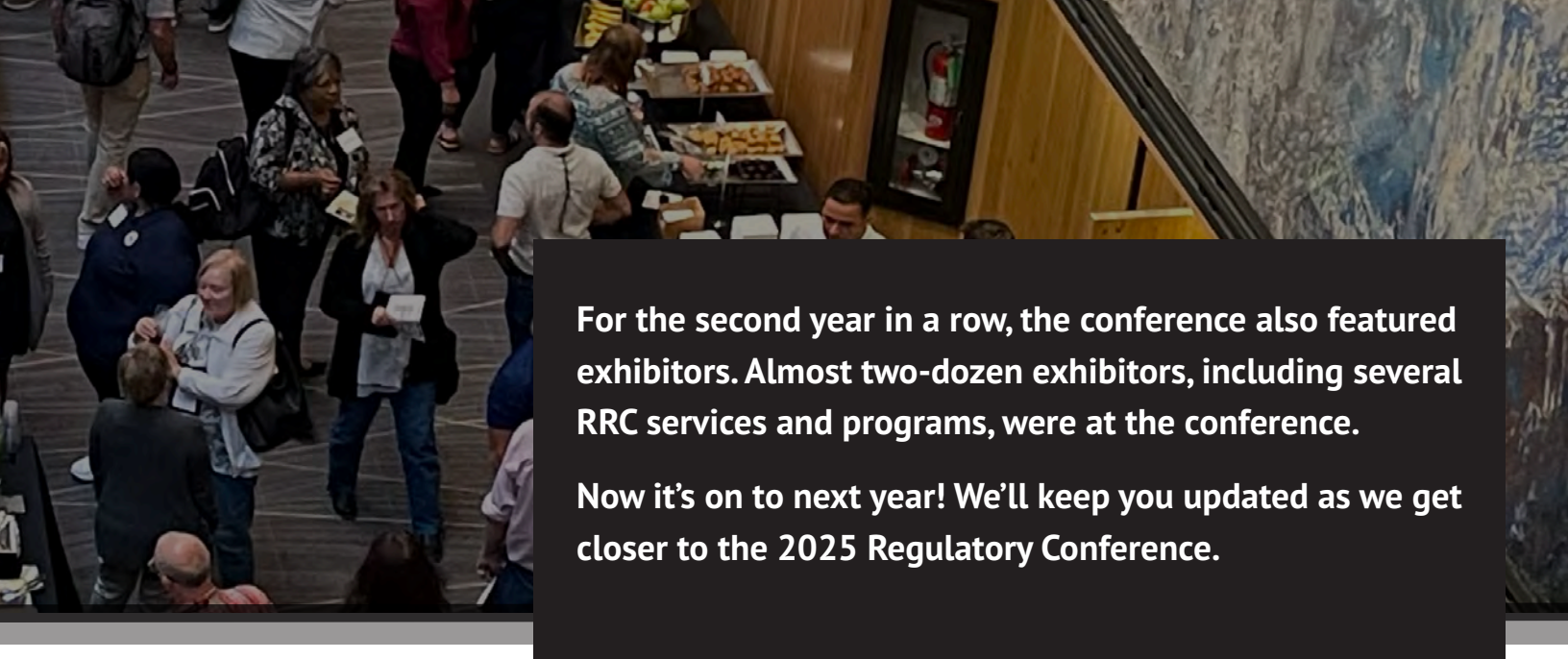
This year's conference featured more than 60 sessions covering oil and gas and pipeline safety topics, ranging from injection control permitting, to state severance tax incentives and specialized pipeline inspections.

There were many packed sessions at the Conference. For example, RRC's Pipeline Safety staff had important updates on federal and state rules for pipeline safety ranging

from equipment to training requirements. RRC's pipeline safety inspectors are certified to perform inspections on federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) regulations, in addition to state regulations, for intrastate pipelines.

“Ever since 2019, PHMSA has come out with new safety rules for pipelines several times a year,” said Stephanie Weidman, RRC Pipeline Safety Director. “It was important for us to let operators know what our inspectors will be looking for when they're out in the field checking compliance with state and federal regulations. By working with operators, we hope to keep hundreds of thousands of pipeline mileage transportation safe for residents and the environment.”

Another example of standing room only presentations was our Critical Infrastructure Division sessions. Given the vast geography and varying weather conditions in Texas, the



For the second year in a row, the conference also featured exhibitors. Almost two-dozen exhibitors, including several RRC services and programs, were at the conference.

Now it's on to next year! We'll keep you updated as we get closer to the 2025 Regulatory Conference.

RRC's summer and winter weather inspections of natural gas facilities ensure there's ample gas supply to protect Texans.

"Operators asked us a lot of questions, just wanting to make sure they maintain compliance," said Mysti Doshier, CID Assistant Director. "They really take it seriously and they want to ensure that there's natural gas available during weather emergencies. We make sure that we're answering their questions or providing them whatever they need to make sure they are in compliance with Commission rules and regulations."

The in-person dialogue at the conference was also a great way for staff to explain the new LoneSTAR system to operators. In early July, the RRC launched that major technology project for operators to be able to make online filings for multiple forms in the P-5 process.

"We had a lot of great questions about how to get into the LoneSTAR system, and some questions were more specific to someone's operations and what they do every day," said Jennifer Gilmore, RRC P-5 Financial Assurance Unit Manager. "It's great to put a name to a face when we get to meet an operator in person, because it's someone we've been emailing with or been on the phone with frequently."



RRC PROPOSES SIGNIFICANT OVERHAUL OF OIL & GAS WASTE MANAGEMENT RULES

RRC Commissioners voted to publish for public comment proposed amendments that are critical to updating the agency's rules regulating waste management facilities.

This is the first overhaul of RRC's waste management rules in four decades. Groundwater protection is a major factor in the rule amendments, and they also take into consideration the need for historical rules to adapt to technological advancements in the energy industry's resource development in Texas.

The amendments pertain to not only waste from oil and gas operations, such as rock and other material pulled up from the ground during drilling, but also encapsulate waste from other operations for which the Legislature has given the RRC jurisdiction. Examples include geothermal, carbon sequestration and brine mining wells.

The proposed rule updates requirements on the design, construction, operation, monitoring, and closure of waste

management units, and help improve the Commission's ability to track and collect data on oilfield waste transported throughout Texas.

Many of the amendments codify informal guidance that the RRC has developed over the course of several decades and would give operators and the public certainty on how regulations of waste management facilities are carried out.

The proposed rule also allows residents more time to protest waste management permit applications. Among the changes to the process is an extended time frame for a person to file a protest, from the current 15 days to 30 days.

The RRC's forward-thinking approach to protecting the public and groundwater resources is not just limited to the amendments to the waste management rules. The Commission now has a team that is dedicated to environmental permit compliance. That team reviews waste management facility reports and



inspections and follows-up on those reviews to quickly rectify any issues.

“This proposed rule reflects the hard work and dedication of agency staff and stakeholders on this critical rule,” said Chairman Christi Craddick. “I am grateful to Commissioner Wright for his leadership on this important matter and look forward to reviewing public input as we work toward final adoption of our solid waste rule amendments.”

“The Railroad Commission continues to prove that a robust, responsible oil and gas industry can thrive while also ensuring a safe and clean environment for all,” said Commissioner Wayne Christian. “Right next to oil and gas, water is becoming perhaps the most valuable natural resource in Texas. As an EPA commended agency for ground water protection, the Commission takes safeguarding water extremely seriously, and this rule update makes certain that industry is taking every precaution possible toward protecting the

public. I’m proud of the hard work by our Commission staff and look forward to this rule continuing to bolster the RRC’s historic legacy as a world-class regulatory agency.”

“Today’s draft rule represents an important step forward with respect to the Railroad Commission’s expectations regarding waste management practices,” said Commissioner Jim Wright. “It has been 40 years since the Commission last made significant updates to this rule, and today’s proposal is an acknowledgment that considerable changes have occurred in terms of technology and industry practices now being utilized. I thank the Railroad Commission staff for their tireless work on behalf of our state and look forward to reviewing the public’s feedback on this important issue as we work towards final adoption.”

The proposed rule and information on public comments can be found on the RRC website at <https://www.rrc.texas.gov/general-counsel/rules/proposed-rules/> under Chapters 3 and 4.

Chairman Craddick

COMMISSIONERS' CORNER



In August, Chairman Christi Craddick spent time traveling the state to speak with groups about the role of the Railroad Commission and the impact of the oil and gas industry. At one such group, the Ad Valorem Tax Seminar in San Antonio, Chairman Craddick was pleased to share the incredible impacts of the oil and gas industry on the state's economy with over 400 tax professionals. Paying over \$9 billion in severance taxes, \$6 billion in property taxes, and \$5 billion in sales, state, and local taxes, the oil and gas industry funds 1/3 of our state's economy and is the powerhouse of Texas. Regulating this industry effectively is critical to ensuring that Texas continues to thrive.

Commissioner Christian

COMMISSIONERS' CORNER



This month Commissioner Christian met up with Senator Ted Cruz in East Texas to discuss the importance of providing reliable energy to the nation and ensuring a safe environment for Texans.





Commissioner Wright

COMMISSIONERS' CORNER

In August, Commissioner Wright first traveled to San Angelo where he participated in a panel discussion at the West Texas Legislative Summit. Commissioner Wright detailed the work of the Railroad Commission and the oil and gas industry to treat produced water for beneficial reuse while noting several of the pilot projects currently underway to determine the treatment standards for agricultural, industrial, and ultimately, aquifer recharge purposes.

Later in August, Commissioner Wright spoke with members of the Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO) in San Antonio where he discussed the recently proposed changes to the Commission's Oil & Gas Waste rules, orphan well plugging, and seismicity.

[Read Commissioner Wright's piece in the Dallas Morning News outlining the RRC's work to address seismic activity in our state.](#)





Oil & Gas Production Statistics

View monthly production totals of crude oil, condensate and total oil; and of gas well gas, casinghead gas, and total natural gas.

[VIEW CURRENT PRODUCTION STATISTICS ▶](#)

Enforcement Actions

The Commission has primary oversight and enforcement of the state's oil and gas industry and intrastate pipeline safety. View RRC's Latest Enforcement Actions here.

[VIEW LATEST ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS ▶](#)

Public GIS Viewer

The Public GIS Viewer allows users to view oil, gas and pipeline data in a map view.

[LAUNCH THE PUBLIC GIS VIEWER ▶](#)