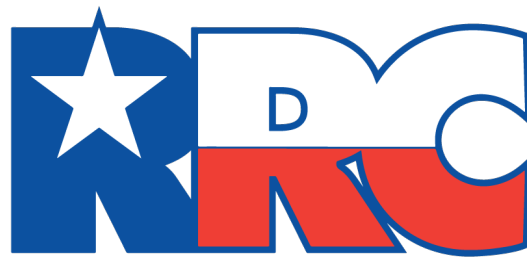


# 2024

OILFIELD CLEANUP PROGRAM  
*ANNUAL REPORT*



**LEADING TEXAS ENERGY**  
OIL & GAS ★ COAL ★ PIPELINES  
RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

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## Executive Summary

The Railroad Commission (RRC) is deeply committed to protecting the environment and natural resources of this state. One of the most important ways the RRC achieves this is through the restoration of land used in energy production to a safe, productive condition. Although most oil and gas wells that are no longer productive are plugged by responsible operators, the RRC administers Texas' Oil Field Cleanup Program to plug abandoned wells. First established in 1984, RRC's Oil Field Cleanup Program has plugged over 46,000 abandoned wells across Texas.

Section 81.069, Natural Resources Code, requires that the Railroad Commission submit to the Legislature and make available to the public this report reviewing the extent to which Oil and Gas Regulation Cleanup Fund (OGRC) dollars have enabled the Commission to better protect the environment through oil field cleanup activities. The OGRC funds the plugging and remediation activities of the Oil Field Cleanup Program. The Commission is proud to report that OGRC funds were used to better protect the environment in areas across Texas in FY 2024. Key highlights within the Commission's FY 2024 report are as follows:

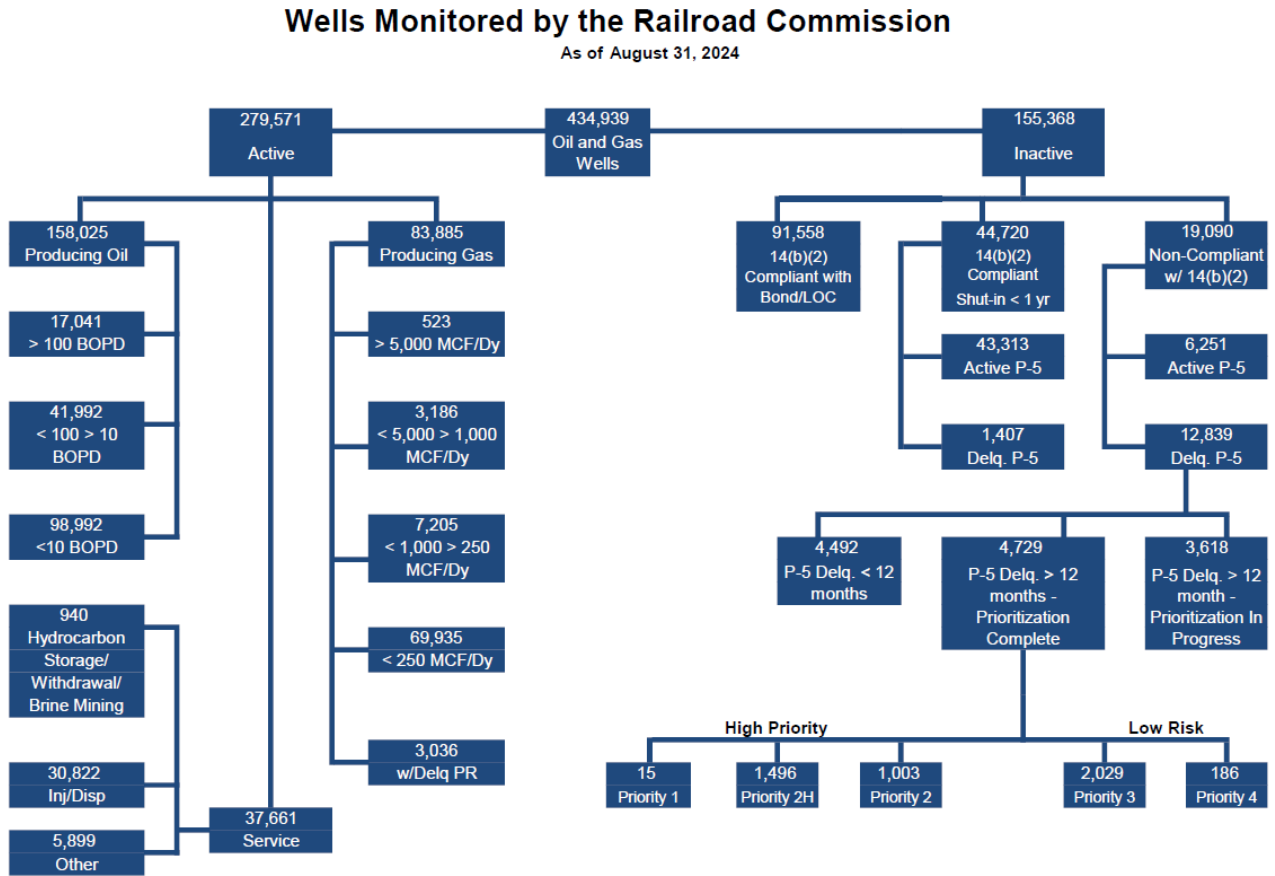
- RRC plugged 1,012 abandoned wells in FY 2024 using state funding, exceeding the agency's annual performance measure for wells plugged with state funds by 12 wells.
- In FY 2024 RRC exceeded each of its performance goals relating to well plugging and site remediation. The agency achieved 101.2 percent of its target performance for well plugging, 104 percent of its target for abandoned site investigation and clean up, and 180 percent of its target for surface locations to be remediated.
- As of August 2024, there were 8,347 abandoned, orphaned wells in Texas. While this represents an increase in the total orphaned well population over the past 15 years, much can be attributed to unprecedented volatility experienced by the energy industry. The abandoned well population increased by 460 wells during fiscal year 2024.
- RRC's well plugging expenditures totaled \$34 million for fiscal year 2024.
- The number of inactive wells not in compliance with RRC rules has decreased over the past 20 years. In fiscal year 2004, there were 22,119 non-compliant wells. By August 2024 that number was reduced to 19,090 wells, while the total number of wells in the state increased by 78,870.
- During fiscal year 2024, RRC identified 2,362 abandoned oilfield sites as candidates for state-managed remediation. RRC conducted 417 cleanup activities on those sites.

# Background

## Orphan Wells in Texas

As of August 2024, the Commission tracked 434,939 active and inactive oil and gas wells across Texas. Of this total, 155,368 wells are inactive, while the other 279,571 are active. Figure 1 illustrates the categories of active and inactive wells monitored by the Railroad Commission.

Figure 1: Wells monitored by the Railroad Commission



Inactive, shut-in oil and gas wells account for 36 percent of the total well population. The majority of these inactive wells are compliant with Commission rules. Operators of record plug most of the compliant inactive wells and some of the non-compliant inactive wells as required by the Commission. Of the 155,368 inactive wells, 8,347 are defined by the Commission as orphaned wells. An orphaned well is any oil or gas well that is inactive and not backed by an operator’s financial assurance represented by a P-5 with the Commission.

These 8,347 orphaned wells eventually require plugging by the Commission with OGRC funds and/or other state and federal funds. These wells are plugged through the Commission’s State Managed Plugging Program.

The number of orphaned wells is a dynamic number that changes daily, as wells move into and out of compliance with Commission rules. The Commission attempts to capture this dynamic number with a monthly count of the orphaned well population. Table 1 depicts these changes throughout fiscal year 2024. Table 2 defines each of the categories listed in Table 1. The Commission began the fiscal year with 7887 orphaned wells, as shown in Table 1. While Commission plugging operations, operator changes, P-5 renewals, and other factors decreased the aggregate orphan well population throughout the year, other factors, principally operators with delinquent P-5s, contributed more wells to the state’s orphaned well counts. The Commission ended FY 24 with 8,347 orphaned wells. This represents an increase of 460 wells during fiscal year 2024.

*Table 1: Change to orphaned well population FY 24*

| Month of activity                          | Sep-23 | Oct-23 | Nov-23 | Dec-23 | Jan-24  | Feb-24 | Mar-24 | Apr-24 | May-24 | Jun-24 | Jul-24 | Aug-24 | Summary |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Beginning Population (from previous month) | 7,887  | 8,240  | 8,108  | 8,184  | 9,313   | 8,280  | 8,409  | 8,580  | 8,660  | 8,674  | 8,577  | 8,410  | 7,887   |
| Plugged                                    | (89)   | (135)  | (91)   | (122)  | (125)   | (84)   | (63)   | (41)   | (32)   | (149)  | (207)  | (89)   | (1,227) |
| Returned to Active Status                  | (2)    | (1)    | (6)    | (12)   | (14)    | (1)    | (1)    | (1)    | (2)    | 0      | 0      | 0      | (40)    |
| Operator Change                            | (11)   | (22)   | (1)    | (27)   | (20)    | (26)   | (18)   | (10)   | (73)   | (31)   | (4)    | (7)    | (250)   |
| P-5 Renewal                                | (176)  | (425)  | (116)  | (221)  | (1,299) | (323)  | (122)  | (151)  | (90)   | (98)   | (4)    | (11)   | (3,036) |
| Other Reasons                              | 0      | 0      | (1)    | 0      | 0       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | (1)     |
| Originally Delq P5 > 12 months             | 0      | (1)    | 0      | 0      | 0       | (29)   | (2)    | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | (72)   | (104)   |
| Originally Delq P5 < 12 Months             | 129    | 106    | 35     | 199    | 400     | 345    | 79     | 266    | 64     | 142    | 41     | 87     | 1,893   |
| Wells Added to Population                  | 502    | 346    | 256    | 1,312  | 25      | 247    | 298    | 17     | 147    | 39     | 7      | 29     | 3,225   |
| Ending Population                          | 8,240  | 8,108  | 8,184  | 9,313  | 8,280   | 8,409  | 8,580  | 8,660  | 8,674  | 8,577  | 8,410  | 8,347  | 8,347   |

*Table 2: Well Categories*

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Plugged                          | Plugged and abandoned   |
| Returned to Active Status        | Active producing or service well  |
| Operator Change                  | P-4 Operator Change was filed and approved. An operator change will not be approved unless the new operator has sufficient bond amount on file to cover the new wells and has an active P-5.  |
| P-5 Renewal                      | The operator of record renews their P-5.  |
| Other Reasons                    | Supporting documentation filed to correct shut-in date, well activity, etc.   |
| Originally a Delq P5 > 12 Months | The P-5 for the operator of these wells had originally been shown delinquent for more than 12 months but data now reflects the delinquent date is less than 12 months. (The last P-5 filed date was revised and is now delinquent less than 12 months.) |

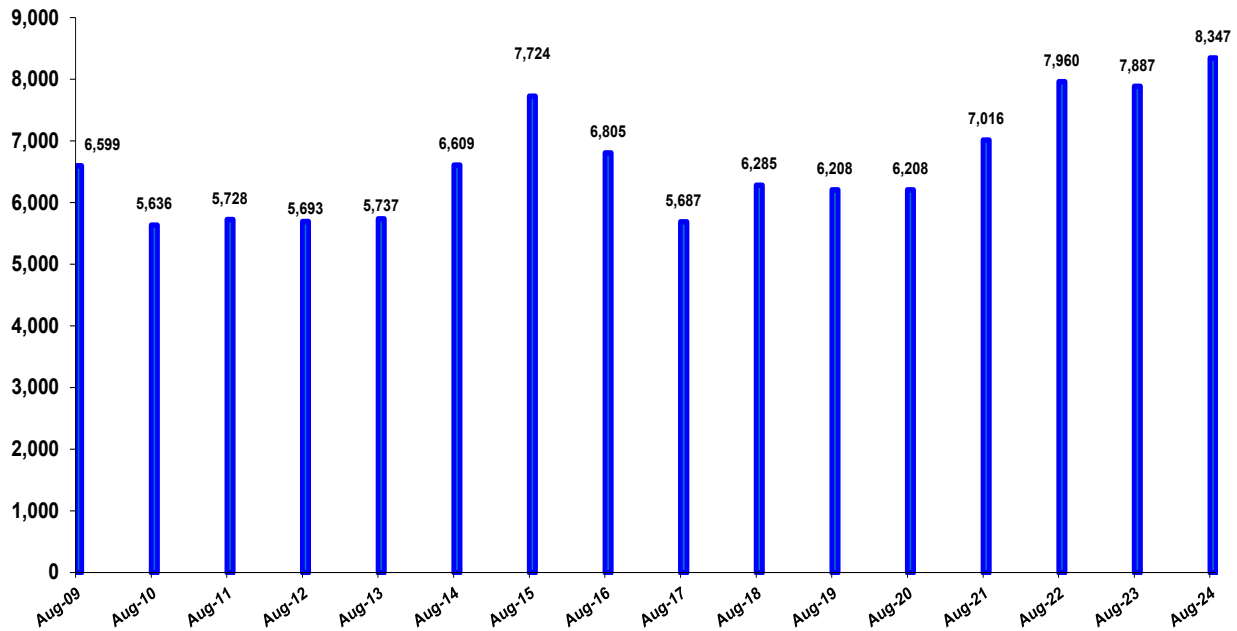
|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Originally Delq P5 < 12 Months | The P-5 for the operator of these wells had originally been shown delinquent for less than 12 months but data now reflects the delinquent date is greater than 12 months |
| Wells Added to Population      | Wells not considered orphaned at the end of the previous month but are considered orphaned at the close of this month.   |

Table 3 highlights the changes in the state’s orphaned well population from September 1, 2008 through August 31, 2024 (FY 2009 to FY 2024). Since fiscal year 2009, 32,173 orphaned wells were removed from the inventory, while 33,178 new orphaned wells were added to the inventory. One of the Commission's regulatory goals is to eliminate the threat of pollution posed by orphaned unplugged wells and to minimize the number of orphaned wells requiring plugging with OGRC funds, or other state and federal funds. Figure 2 illustrates that despite the Commission’s effort towards reducing the number of abandoned wells in Texas, there has been a persistent influx of wells to the orphan population. From the start of fiscal year 2009 to the end of FY 2024 in August, the population has increased from 6,599 to 8,347. The population increased substantially during the COVID-19 pandemic with 1,700 wells added to the population during fiscal years 2021 and 2022. At the end of fiscal year 2020, there were 6,208 wells in the population. In the years since, the population increased by 34 percent as the delayed impacts of the pandemic and other geopolitical events have affected the oil and gas industry.

*Table 3: Change to orphaned well population FY 09–FY 24*

| Fiscal year                                       | FY 2009 | FY 2010 | FY 2011 | FY 2012 | FY 2013 | FY 2014 | FY 2015 | FY 2016 | FY 2017 | FY 2018 | FY 2019 | FY 2020 | FY 2021 | FY 2022 | FY 2023 | FY 2024 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| <b>Beginning Population</b><br>(from previous FY) | 7,342   | 6,599   | 5,636   | 5,728   | 5,693   | 5,737   | 6,609   | 7,724   | 6,805   | 5,687   | 6,285   | 6,208   | 6,208   | 7,016   | 7,960   | 7,887   |
| <b>Plugged</b>                                    | (1,278) | (1,139) | (317)   | (878)   | (197)   | (200)   | (287)   | (1,957) | (2,417) | (1,254) | (1,698) | (1,361) | (1,279) | (1,137) | (1,553) | (1,227) |
| <b>Returned to Active Status</b>                  | (6)     | (5)     | (3)     | (1)     | (7)     | (3)     | (93)    | (12)    | (9)     | (8)     | (5)     | (4)     | (40)    | (7)     | (12)    | (40)    |
| <b>Operator Change</b>                            | (359)   | (214)   | (114)   | (183)   | (230)   | (169)   | (229)   | (188)   | (310)   | (273)   | (1,118) | (326)   | (354)   | (407)   | (365)   | (250)   |
| <b>P-5 Renewal</b>                                | (42)    | (84)    | (56)    | (395)   | (59)    | (8)     | (43)    | (162)   | (101)   | (77)    | (43)    | (185)   | (347)   | (65)    | (1,496) | (3,036) |
| <b>Other Reasons</b>                              | (2)     | (6)     | (13)    | 0       | (1)     | 0       | (73)    | (1)     | (5)     | 0       | (1)     | (1)     | 0       | 0       | 0       | (1)     |
| <b>Originally Delq P5 &gt; 12 months</b>          | 0       | 0       | (1)     | (14)    | 0       | (1)     | 0       | (1,213) | (5)     | 0       | (1)     | (33)    | (3)     | (625)   | (347)   | (104)   |
| <b>Originally Delq P5 &lt; 12 months</b>          | 902     | 443     | 501     | 1,030   | 494     | 1,177   | 1,715   | 2,472   | 1,601   | 1,987   | 2,614   | 1,640   | 2,201   | 2,740   | 1,337   | 1,893   |
| <b>Wells Added to Population</b>                  | 42      | 42      | 95      | 406     | 44      | 76      | 125     | 142     | 128     | 223     | 175     | 270     | 630     | 445     | 2,363   | 3,225   |
| <b>Ending Population</b>                          | 6,599   | 5,636   | 5,728   | 5,693   | 5,737   | 6,609   | 7,724   | 6,805   | 5,687   | 6,285   | 6,208   | 6,208   | 7,016   | 7,960   | 7,887   | 8,347   |

Figure 2: Orphaned well population August 2009–August 2024



### State Managed Cleanup Program

In addition to plugging orphaned wells, the Commission administers a state-managed cleanup program. This program is also funded with OGRC dollars. The program is responsible for the assessment and cleanup of oil field wastes and pollution at abandoned oil and gas sites. The majority of cleanups typically involve removing waste from surface equipment (tank batteries, separator, etc.) and remediating affected soils at abandoned well sites. Cleanup activities often follow well plugging activities. Funds are also used to cleanup abandoned pits, reclamation facilities and other types of sites such as abandoned natural gas processing plants, leaking pipelines, unidentified/illegal dumping of waste, and emergency cleanups.

Sites may enter the program as orphaned wells are identified, through a referral from the Operator Cleanup Program or State Funded Plugging Program, or as complaints from members of the public. When a new site enters the program, District Office Cleanup Coordinators perform a Site Assessment, detailing what pollution threats exist at each site. After the assessment phase, the SMCU team along with its contractors develop a work plan and a work order is issued to the contractor to complete the work under the oversight of the District Office Cleanup Coordinator (DOCC). The program also utilizes contracts with professional engineering firms to provide engineering design services and complex environmental investigations.

### Oil and Gas Regulation Cleanup Fund (OGRC)

OGRC Fund revenue is derived primarily from regulatory and permitting fees paid by the oil and gas industry. The Fund also includes revenue from certain enforcement penalties, reimbursements, and proceeds from the sale of equipment and hydrocarbons salvaged from well plugging and site

remediation operations. Additionally, the Commission seeks other funding sources from state and federal agencies to supplement the activities of the Oil Field Cleanup Program. Although the OGRC Fund finances most of the Oil Field Cleanup Program activities, several site remediations documented in this report were funded with federal monies under Subtitle C of Brownfields Revitalization Act and Section 319 of the Clean Water Act Non-Point Source grant.

## Oil Field Cleanup Activities Data

The following information on the Oil Field Cleanup Program is reported annually as required by §81.069, Natural Resources Code.

*1. Performance Goals for the Oil and Gas Regulation and Cleanup Fund.*

Through the legislative appropriations request process, the Commission established performance goals for fiscal year 2024 as detailed in Table 4. In FY 2024 the Commission exceeded each performance goal relating to well plugging and site remediation.

*Table 4: Fiscal Year 2024 Performance Goals*

| Measure  | Performance Target | Actual Performance | Percent of Target Achieved |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Number of orphaned wells to be plugged with state funds                          | 1,000*             | 1,012              | 101.2%                     |
| Number of abandoned sites investigated, assessed, or cleaned up with state funds | 400                | 417                | 104%                       |
| Number of surface locations to be remediated                                     | 2,000              | 2,362              | 118%                       |

\* Target is 1,000 per Rider 16 (House Bill 1, General Appropriations Act, 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023)



2. Number of Orphaned Wells Plugged with State-Managed Funds, by District:

In fiscal year 2024, the Commission plugged and closed files on 1,256 wells with OGRC funds and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The total number of wells plugged represents those wells that were physically plugged, invoiced by the plugging contractor, and approved for payment through August 31, 2024. A total of 1,490 wells were physically plugged during fiscal year 2024 with 1,256 invoiced and paid during fiscal year 2024.

The Commission plugged wells in every agency district in FY 2024. Figure 3 identifies the boundaries of all agency districts. Figure 4 details the numbers of wells plugged by district during fiscal year 2024.

Figure 3: Regional map of Railroad Commission district offices

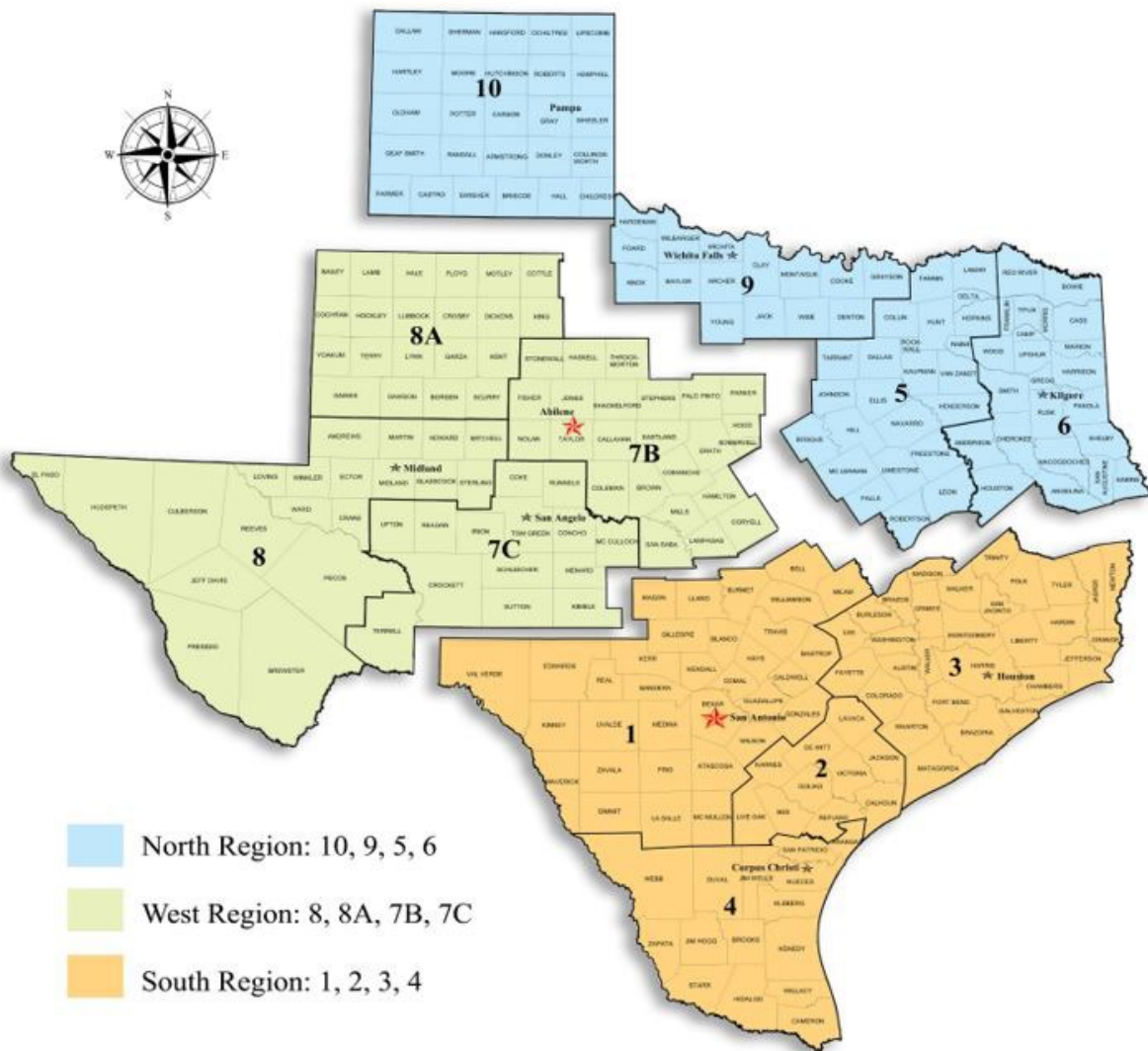
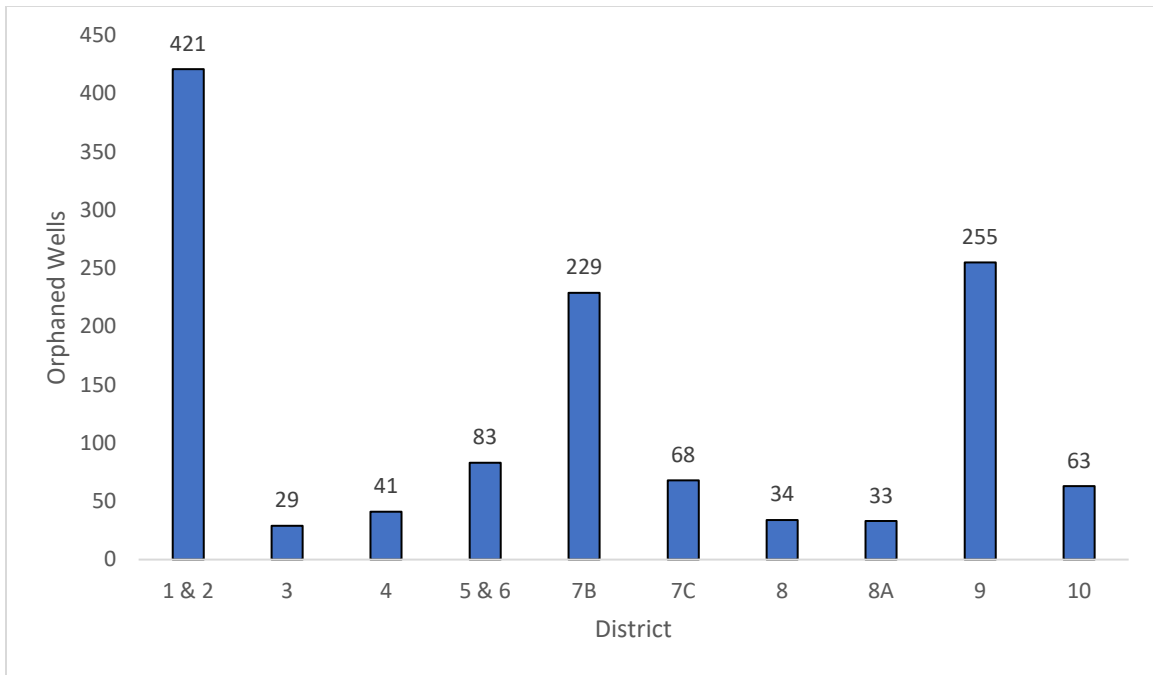


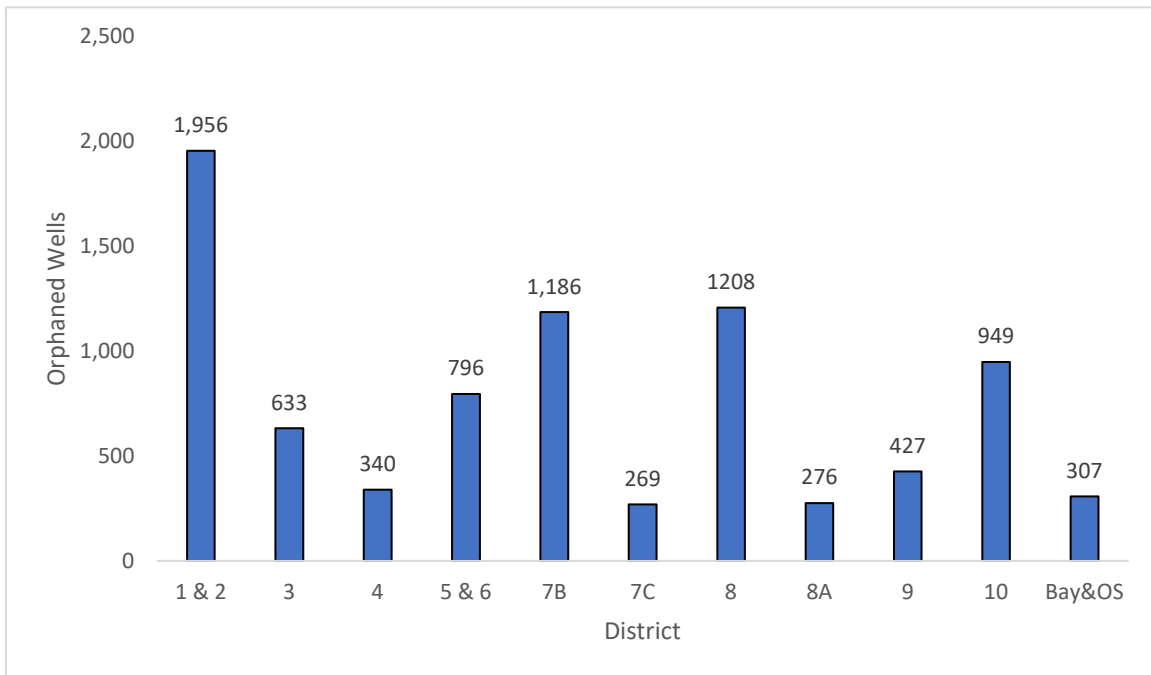
Figure 4: Wells plugged and paid by RRC district FY 2024



**3. Number of Wells Orphaned, by District:**

As of August 2024, the Commission’s count of abandoned, orphaned wells equaled 8,347. Figure 5 illustrates the number of orphaned wells by agency district at the end of August 2024.

*Figure 5: Orphaned wells by district, FY 2024*

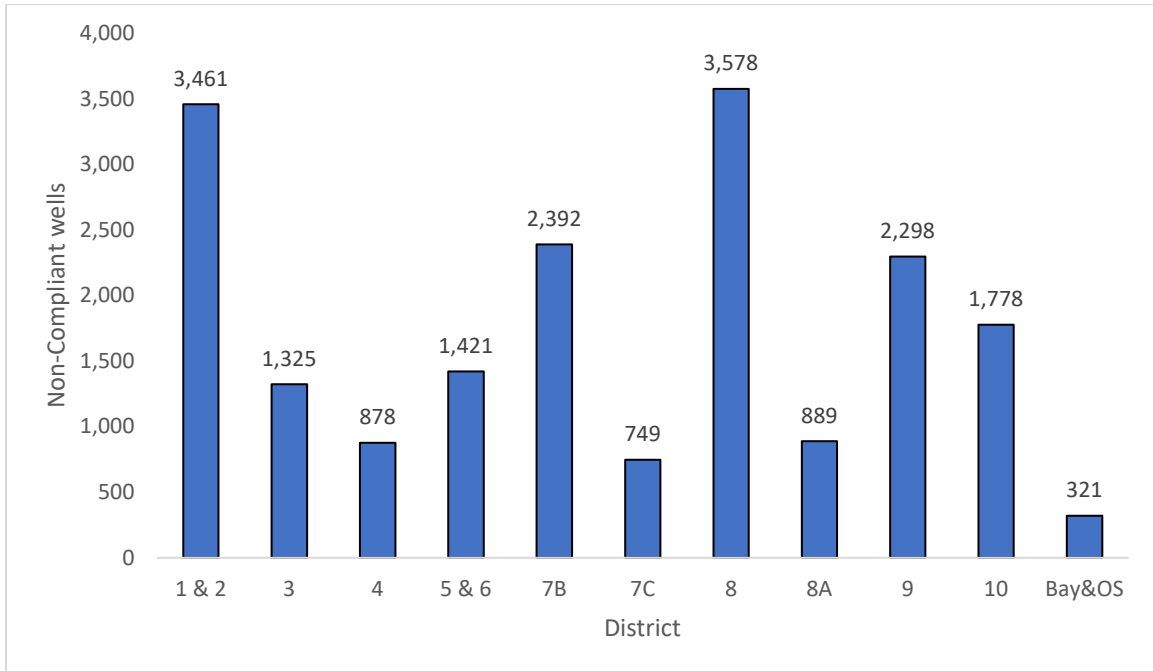


In addition to the 8,347 orphaned wells, there are also an unknown number of old, unidentified wells in Texas that were not recorded with the Commission. These include historical wells that were dug in the decades following Spindletop. As these wells are located, the Commission initiates plugging operations in accordance with the well plugging priority system, which is based on the threat the well poses to the environment and public safety. In fiscal year 2024, 86 previously unidentified abandoned wells were plugged. These unidentified wells accounted for 6.8 percent of all wells plugged by the Commission for that fiscal year.

4. Number of Inactive Wells Not Currently in Compliance with Commission Rules, by District:

The number of known inactive wells not in compliance with Commission rules as of August 2024 totals 19,090. The number represents wells that remain shut-in beyond the initial 12-month shut-in period authorized by Commission 16 Texas Administrative Code §3.14(b)(2) [Statewide Rule 14(b)(2)] and do not have a plugging extension, regardless of whether the operator’s Organization Report is active or delinquent. Figure 6 shows the number of non-compliant wells by district at the end of August 2024.

Figure 6: Non-compliant wells FY 2024



5. Status of Enforcement Proceedings for Wells in Violation of Commission Rules, by District:

In fiscal year 2024, the Commission referred a total of 898 non-compliant wells to the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) for collection. Table 5 depicts the number of wells, by district, in violation of the Commission's plugging rule that have been referred to the Office of General Counsel—Legal Enforcement Section for enforcement and/or the OAG for collection. The wells referenced here are in various stages of enforcement/collection.

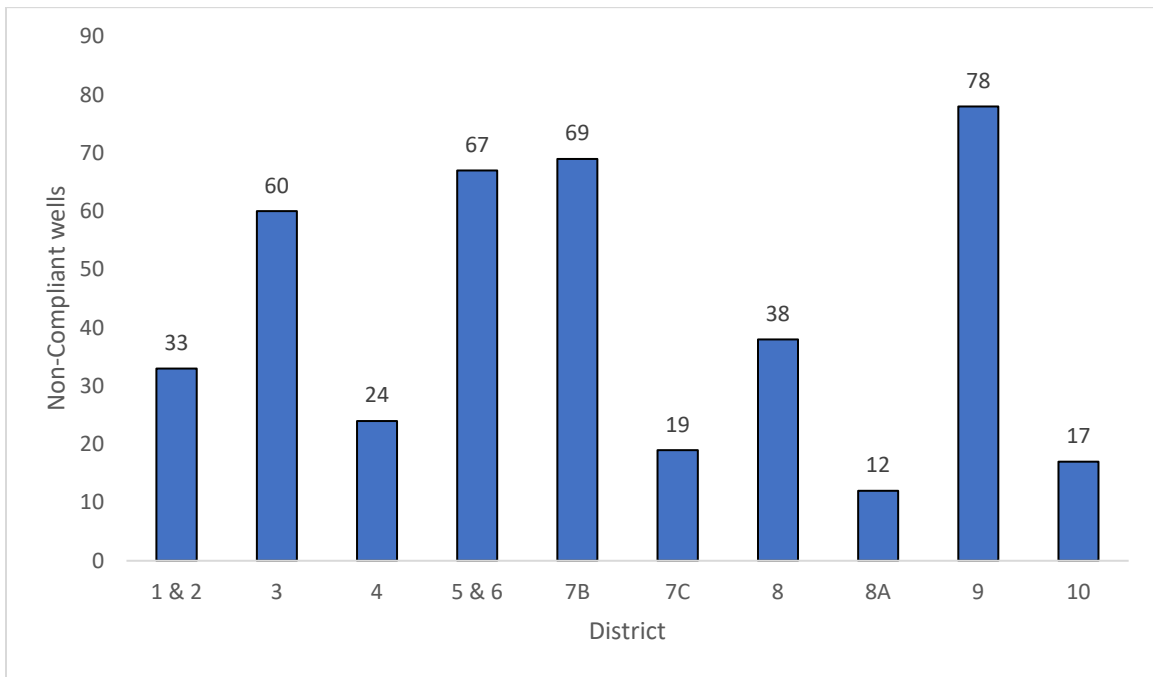
Table 5: Enforcement proceedings by district

| <b>ENFORCEMENT PROCEEDINGS</b>                     | <b>1/2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5/6</b> | <b>7B</b> | <b>7C</b> | <b>8/8A</b> | <b>9</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|--|------------|----------|----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|----------|-----------|--------------|
| <b>STATUS</b>                                      |            |          |          |            |           |           |             |          |           |              |
| <b>1. Awaiting RRC review</b>                      | 10         | 12       | 8        | 5          | 18        | 0         | 10          | 20       | 0         | 83           |
| <b>2. Awaiting Hearing</b>                         | 7          | 12       | 0        | 12         | 31        | 25        | 58          | 5        | 0         | 150          |
| <b>3. Awaiting Final Order</b>                     | 29         | 65       | 28       | 21         | 64        | 37        | 63          | 88       | 213       | 608          |
| <b>4. Wells Referred to AG</b>                     | 17<br>3    | 83       | 5        | 32         | 171       | 21        | 161         | 200      | 52        | 898          |
| <b>Total Wells Still in Violation</b>              | 21<br>9    | 17<br>2  | 41       | 70         | 284       | 83        | 292         | 313      | 265       | 1739         |
|  |            |          |          |            |           |           |             |          |           |              |
| <b>TIME PERIOD</b>                                 |            |          |          |            |           |           |             |          |           |              |
| <b>5. In Enforcement &lt; 2yrs</b>                 | 42         | 75       | 26       | 38         | 105       | 61        | 98          | 61       | 213       | 719          |
| <b>6. In Enforcement &gt; 2yrs &amp; &lt; 5yrs</b> | 4          | 14       | 10       | 0          | 8         | 1         | 32          | 52       | 0         | 121          |
| <b>7. In Enforcement &gt; 5yrs</b>                 | 0          | 0        | 0        | 0          | 0         | 0         | 1           | 0        | 0         | 1            |
| <b>Total Wells Still in Enforcement</b>            | 46         | 89       | 36       | 38         | 113       | 62        | 131         | 113      | 213       | 841          |

**6. Number of Surface Locations Remediated, by District:**

During fiscal year 2024, the Commission conducted 417 cleanup activities through the State Managed Cleanup Program. This includes all remediation activities invoiced by contractors that were approved and processed by the Commission before August 31, 2024. State-managed remediation activities included 392 routine remediation operations and 25 site assessment investigations. Figure 7 depicts these 417 activities by district for fiscal year 2024.

*Figure 7: Remediation Activities FY 2024*



*7. Oil and Gas Regulation and Cleanup Fund Expenditures for Oil Field Cleanup Activities:*

The Commission spent \$78,426,112.70 on oilfield cleanup activities in FY 2024. These included expenditures for abandoned well plugging through the State Managed Plugging Program, and for site remediation activities through the State Managed Cleanup Program. In addition to these expenditures, \$11,655.65 of funds were encumbered for cleanup activities in FY 2024. Table 6 provides a line-item description for expenditures and encumbrances for FY 2024.

*Table 6: FY 2025 Expenditures for Oil Field Cleanup Activities\**

| Category  | Expenditures           | Encumbrances       | Total                  |
|---|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Salaries and Wages</b>                         | \$7,220,717.89         | \$-                | \$7,220,717.89         |
| <b>Payroll-Related Benefits</b>                   | 2,264,435.21           | -                  | 2,264,435.21           |
| <b>Professional Fees</b>                          | 1,405,540.43           | -                  | 1,405,540.43           |
| <b>Travel</b>                                     | 124,045.36             | -                  | 124,045.36             |
| <b>Training</b>                                   | 1,280.91               | -                  | 1,280.91               |
| <b>Motor Vehicle</b>                              | 681,753.65             | -                  | 681,753.65             |
| <b>Other Operating Costs</b>                      | 508,842.49             | 11,655.65          | 520,498.14             |
| <b>Well Plugging / Site Remediation Contracts</b> | 66,255,496.76          | -                  | 66,255,496.76          |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b>                                | <b>\$78,462,112.70</b> | <b>\$11,655.65</b> | <b>\$78,473,768.35</b> |

\*All FY 2024 OGRC expenditures for Well Plugging and Site Remediation strategy excludes indirect costs.

- Includes expenditures for Site Remediation, architectural and other contracted services.
- Includes OGRC, General Revenue, and Federal Funds
- Financial Information current as of January 15, 2024.

### *8. Orphaned Well Plugging Prioritization Methodology:*

The Commission uses a priority methodology to rank wells for plugging to ensure that those wells posing the greatest threat to public safety and the environment are plugged first. The priority system includes four factors relating to the threat a wellbore poses to public safety and the environment:

1. Well Completion;
2. Wellbore Conditions;
3. Well Location with respect to sensitive areas; and
4. Unique Environmental, Safety, or Economic Concern.

Table 7 lists the factors used in this prioritization system. The sum of all factors provides a total weight, which determines a well's plugging priority. Wells receive a priority of 1, 2H, 2, 3, or 4, where 1 is the highest priority. Plugging priority 1 and 2H can also be dictated based upon definition; listed below.

Definitions:

Leaking well: is defined as a well that is leaking oil, gas or salt water in an amount that poses an immediate, or imminent threat to public safety or the environment.

Higher risk well: applies to wells where usable quality water is not protected and the fluid at the surface (bradenhead) is not of usable quality, or when an H2S well impacts a public area as defined by Statewide Rule 36



Table 7: Well Plugging Priority System

|          | FACTOR  | Weight |
|----------|---|--------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Well Completion</b>  |        |
| A        | Unknown (no well records)   | 15     |
| B        | No surface casing or set above base of deepest usable quality water                                 | 10     |
| C        | Additional casing string not adequately cemented to isolate usable quality water                    | 5      |
| D        | Injection or Disposal Well  | 10     |
| E.       | Well penetrates salt/corrosive water bearing formation or abnormally pressured formation            | 5      |
| F.       | Well in H2S Field   | 5      |
| G        | Age: Well drilled $\geq$ 25 years ago   | 5      |
|          | <b>Total: (40 points max)</b>   |        |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Wellbore Conditions</b>  |        |
| A        | Well is pressured up at the surface (tubing or prod casing)   | 10     |
| B        | Bradenhead pressure exists *  | 5      |
|          | <b>Auto 2H if UQW not protected and fluid at BH is not UQW</b>                                      |        |
| C        | Measured fluid level  |        |
| D        | Fluid level at or above the base of deepest usable quality water.                                   | 50     |
| E.       | Fluid level less than 250' below base of deepest usable quality water (NA if 2D applies)            | 15     |
| F.       | MIT Failure   | 5      |
| G        | H-15 (MIT) never performed or test > 5 years old (NA if F applies)                                  | 3      |
| H        | Inadequate wellhead control/integrity   | 5      |
|          | <b>Total: (75 points max)</b>   |        |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Well location with respect to sensitive areas:</b>   |        |
| A        | H2S well with Public area ROE** <b>Automatic Priority 2H</b>  |        |
| B        | In Marine Environment   | 10     |
| C        | Within 100' or river, lake, creek, or domestic use fresh water well (NA if B applies)               | 5      |
| D        | Between 100' and 1/4 mile of river, lake, creek, or domestic use fresh water well (NA if C applies) | 3      |
| E.       | Located within agricultural area.   | 2      |
| F.       | Well located in known sensitive wildlife area.  | 3      |
| G        | Well located within city or town site limits.   | 10     |
|          | <b>Total (20 points max)</b>  |        |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Unique environmental, Safety, or Economic Concern</b>  |        |
| A        | Adjacent to active water flood or disposal well at or above completion interval.                    | 5      |
| B        | Logistics (poor roads, encroaching public, etc.)  | 5      |
| C        | Well contains junk.   | 5      |
| D        | P-5 Delinquent > 5 years  | 5      |
| E.       | Other (attach explanation)  | 1-20   |
|          | <b>Total: (20 points max)</b>   |        |

Total Weight

|  |
|--|
| <b>Priority 1 = Leaking Well [ based upon definition]</b>                              |
| <b>Priority 2H = Higher Risk well [based on definition and/or total weight of 75+]</b> |
| <b>Priority 2 = Total Weight of 50-75</b>  |
| <b>Priority 3 = Total Weight of 25-49</b>  |
| <b>Priority 4 = Total Weight &lt; 25</b>   |

\*BH pressure is sustained.

\*\*2H if public areas could be impacted based on 16 Texas Administrative Code §3.36 [Statewide Rule 36] definition.

Undetected/continuous leak possible.

Table 8 shows the number of wells plugged by priority during fiscal year 2024 and between fiscal years 1992 and 2024. In September 2001, the Commission implemented the High Risk Well Testing Program, established by SB 310 (77<sup>th</sup> Legislature, 2001) and began concentrating its well plugging efforts on priority 1 and 2 wells. This continued through fiscal year 2024.

*Table 8: Number of wells plugged by priority*

|             | Fiscal Year 2024 | Fiscal Years 1992 – 2024 |
|-------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Priority 1  | 49               | 3,660                    |
| Priority 2H | 681              | 7,641                    |
| Priority 2  | 198              | 12,568                   |
| Priority 3  | 327              | 9,880                    |
| Priority 4  | 1                | 4,064                    |
| Priority 5* | 0                | 1,651                    |
| Total       | 1,256            | 39,464                   |

\*No longer used (Priority 5 category eliminated in fiscal year 2001)

*9. Projection of the amount of money needed for the next biennium for plugging orphaned wells, investigating, assessing, and cleaning up abandoned sites, and remediating surface locations.*

Senate Bill 1, the General Appropriations Act, provided \$125.94M for fiscal year 2024 and \$126.49M for fiscal year 2025 to plug 2,000 wells per year and remediate 400 sites per year.

*10. Number of Sites Successfully Remediated Under the Voluntary Cleanup Program, by District:*

During fiscal year 2024, the Commission issued Certificates of Completion for one site in the Voluntary Cleanup Program. The number of sites completed by Commission district are as follows:

- District 3: 1