



NOVEMBER 2024

Energy News



From the Field Photo
Cattle at wellhead in Midland County
Photo from Reed Wimberly



Contents

- 3** RRC Attends the Texas Municipal League Conference
- 4** RRC's Digitally Imaged Oil & Gas Records Top 83 million
- 6** More than \$2 Billion of Oil and Gas Tax Revenue Added to Texas' Rainy Day Fund
- 8** Commissioners' Corner

Upcoming Events

RRC Open Meeting..... December 17, 2024

[VIEW OPEN MEETING WEBCASTS ▶](#)

RRC Attends the Texas Municipal League Conference

With thousands of local government leaders in attendance, the Texas Municipal League Conference was a great opportunity for RRC staff from different divisions to meet with those local officials and discuss important regulations and initiatives the agency oversees.

Nearly 4,000 community leaders were at the conference, and Commission staff from our Brownfields Response Program (BRP), Oversight and Safety Division, Office of Public Engagement and Alternative Fuels Department represented the agency to talk about our extensive safety oversight as well as beneficial RRC projects across Texas.

BRP staff took the opportunity to inform officials about how the program helps local communities throughout Texas redevelop former oil and gas sites into viable spaces that can benefit residents. The BRP team provides environmental site assessments and assists with remediation and revitalization of those properties. Examples of successful projects include a bird park, baseball fields, an arts preserve and a middle school!



The RRC attends the annual event to help attendees understand the critical work the RRC does and address any questions on how we ensure safe and reliable energy production while protecting the safety of the Texas environment and residents.

RRC'S DIGITALLY IMAGED OIL & GAS RECORDS TOP 83 MILLION

With more than 15 million records digitized in the past year, the Railroad Commission of Texas now has 83.4 million oil and gas records that can be searched and viewed online from anywhere in the world.

The enormous amount of work is part of the RRC's ongoing success, increasing transparency and making the vast trove of information held at the agency easily available to the public.

As the oldest regulatory agency in Texas, the RRC has oil and gas records dating back to the 1930's on paper in district offices and on microfilm. The agency has been digitizing those records and placing the images online for several years, allowing anyone with internet access to view them.

Documents that have been digitized include oil and gas production records and well completion records that contain information such as well depths and producing fields of a well. These records are used often by researchers, landowners, royalty owners, energy companies and public information requesters.

"Putting millions and millions of oil and gas records online is a win-win for the public and the agency," said Danny Sorrells, RRC Deputy Executive Director. "Not only does it give the public easy access to historical information dating back almost 100 years, but our staff can now devote the time they would have spent tracking those records for the public for other tasks at the agency."



RRC District Office paper records transported for digitization

District office paper records and microfilm records that have been digitized can be found on the RRC website.

VISIT THE RRC IMAGED RECORDS MENU



MORE THAN \$2 BILLION OF OIL AND GAS TAX REVENUE ADDED TO TEXAS' RAINY DAY FUND

The Texas Economic Stabilization Fund (ESF), also known as the Rainy Day Fund, has been an essential part of the state's budget since its inception in the late 1980's. The Legislature has used it to cover costs for a wide array of agencies, including expenditures when emergency situations arise.

Appropriations made by the Legislature from the ESF have financed important aspects of state agencies. A few examples of programs that have been funded over the years include:

- Hurricane recovery funds for school districts disbursed by the Texas Education Agency;
- State Water Plan funding for the Water Development Board; and
- State hospital construction funds for Health and Human Services.



Top 5 Oil and Gas Production Tax Revenue Deposits into Rainy Day Fund

1. Fiscal Year 2023: **\$3.64 BILLION**
2. Fiscal Year 2024: **\$3.06 BILLION**
3. Fiscal Year 2025: **\$2.74 BILLION**
4. Fiscal Year 2014: **\$2.51 BILLION**
5. Fiscal Year 2009: **\$2.24 BILLION**



The oil and gas industry, a proven powerhouse of the Texas economy, contributes the major portion of funds into the Rainy Day Fund each Fiscal Year. This fall, the Texas Comptroller made

the annual deposit of oil and gas tax production revenue into the ESF totaling \$2.74 billion. This year marks the third largest deposit ever made into the Rainy-Day Fund

Chairman Craddick

COMMISSIONERS' CORNER



With roughly a month and a half before the 89th Texas Legislature convenes in Austin, Chairman Christi Craddick has been active in meeting with key legislators at the Capitol in support of the Railroad Commission's legislative priorities. Some of the agency's key issues include increased funding for critical roles such as orphaned well plugging, a new system for operators to report produced water data, and an underground injection well investigation team. Chairman Craddick looks forward to more discussions with the legislature and continuing to advocate on behalf of the Railroad Commission in the coming days. The legislative session begins January 14, 2025.

In addition, the Texas Hydrogen Production Policy Council met this month to finalize a report to the Texas Legislature outlining actionable steps to bolster Texas' leadership in the hydrogen industry. The 11-member council, chaired by Craddick, has been tasked with making recommendations to lawmakers on updates necessary for the oversight and regulation of production, pipeline transportation, and storage of hydrogen. The report is expected to be released in early December.

Finally, with Thanksgiving fast approaching, Chairman Craddick extends her sincere gratitude for the hard work and dedication of the Railroad Commission's employees and for their service to the Great State of Texas.



Commissioner Christian

COMMISSIONERS' CORNER



This month, Commissioner Christian released two new episodes of his podcast, “Wayne’s World: Energizing Texas,” featuring reporter Brad Johnson and Canadian Parliament Member Greg McLean.

[LISTEN TO THE LATEST PODCAST EPISODE](#)





Commissioner Wright

COMMISSIONERS' CORNER

In November, Commissioner Wright participated in a panel discussion entitled “*Strange Bedfellows? Oil, Gas and Nuclear*” at the 2024 Texas Nuclear Summit held in downtown Austin.

In his remarks, Commissioner Wright discussed the need for more reliable baseload power generation throughout Texas and highlighted the growing electrical demand throughout the Permian Basin. He noted that this increased demand is spurred in part by energy producers opting to power equipment through electrification as they seek to comply with stricter emissions standards.

Commissioner Wright also highlighted how Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) have a role to play with respect to securing new water resources in our state, specifically through the treatment of produced and brackish water in areas west of the 98th meridian.







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 ▶](#)