



## YEAR IN REVIEW



# STATE OF THE RRC

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# INTRODUCTION





In 2025, the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) continued to build on its proud history as the state's oldest regulatory agency, reinforcing its reputation for environmental stewardship and public safety. At the same time, the Commission advanced initiatives that position the agency to meet the demands of Texas' rapidly changing and growing energy sector.

This Year in Review highlights the accomplishments and dedication of more than 1,000 employees across the state and illustrates how the RRC is preparing for the future while remaining steadfast in its mission to serve Texans.

The achievements spanned new milestones in innovation, improved public access to records, strengthened outreach to Texans and operators and the RRC's expanded global impact. The Commission continued to meet and exceed the high standards set by the Legislature, surpassing key performance benchmarks in multiple areas including inspections of critical natural gas facilities and pipeline safety oversight. Recognizing this performance, the Texas Legislature committed additional funding, investing millions more into the agency's programs to ensure we remain equipped to serve the state's growing energy needs.

Here you'll read about Texas being granted primacy over Class VI wells and how enhanced guidelines for Permian Basin disposal wells are strengthening environmental protections. You'll also read about new milestones in geothermal energy regulation that position Texas at the forefront of innovation and how the Commission's leadership in environmental stewardship was recognized by the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission.

Together, these stories reflect the agency's continued commitment to safeguarding Texans while providing a consistent regulatory framework for one of the most productive energy regions in the world.

Of course, the agency's impact extends far beyond the highlights featured here. Day in and day out, RRC staff carry out the essential work that keeps Texas' energy industry safe and reliable. You'll also find statistics that reflect the success of our divisions across the board, a testament to the dedication of the employees who proudly serve Texans every single day.

This edition starts off with our three Commissioners' reflections on the past year.

# COMMISSIONER VIDEOS

## CHAIRMAN JIM WRIGHT



## COMMISSIONER CHRISTI CRADDICK



## COMMISSIONER WAYNE CHRISTIAN



# NOTABLE NEWS





## **WRIGHT ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF RAILROAD COMMISSION**

Railroad Commissioner Jim Wright was unanimously chosen to lead as Chairman of the Commission, a role that carries significant responsibility in guiding Texas' energy future. The Chairman helps to set the vision and priorities of the Commission, ensuring that regulatory decisions not only uphold safety and environmental standards but also foster innovation in emerging technologies. Chairman Wright has continued to champion the agency's mission and has kept Texas at the forefront of energy innovation.

Following the vote, Chairman Wright expressed gratitude to his fellow Commissioners and reaffirmed his dedication to supporting Texas' vital energy industry with the following statement:

"It is a high honor to serve the citizens of Texas as Railroad Commissioner and a true privilege to be able to do so alongside my two highly accomplished and devoted colleagues, Commissioners Craddick and Christian. I want to thank them for their dedication to the residents of our state and for entrusting me to serve as Chairman of this Commission.

As Chairman, I look forward to working with my fellow Commissioners, state leadership and our federal partners to ensure Texas energy continues to be the envy of the world. Working together, our state's clean and abundant natural resources will fuel America's economy and help secure the growing energy needs here at home and abroad."



## RRC REACHES NEW ENERGY MILESTONE

The Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) took an important step into the future of energy. In Atascosa County, south of San Antonio, the agency issued its very first permit for a deep geo-pressured geothermal well to Sage Geosystems, marking a historic moment in Texas' energy landscape.

Located south of San Antonio in the Anaconcho Formation, this well permit is the first of its kind since the Legislature transferred regulatory authority for geothermal wells from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to the RRC. It represents not just a new regulatory responsibility, but a bold expansion of Texas' leadership in energy innovation.

San Miguel Electric Cooperative quickly put the permit to work, using the well to generate electricity to power local homes and businesses. The cooperative partnered with Sage Geosystems through a land use agreement to develop a cutting-edge three-megawatt Geopressured Geothermal System energy storage facility. Together, these efforts mark

a bold step forward in how Texas communities benefit from reliable, sustainable energy solutions.

"Texas has been at the forefront of energy regulation and innovation for more than a century, and this transition has streamlined the permitting process for geothermal wells and reinforced the Commission's leadership in emerging energy technologies," said RRC Executive Director Wei Wang. "We remain dedicated to adapting our regulatory approach to facilitate the growth of new energy technologies while upholding the highest standards of environmental and public safety as we have done for more than a century."

With this milestone, the RRC continues to uphold its rigorous environmental and safety standards while supporting the growth of the geothermal industry which will continue to build on Texas' deep expertise in oil and gas.

# RRC RECORDS ADVANCES DIGITIZATION EFFORTS

**T**he Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) continues to advance its efforts to digitize oil and gas records, enhancing both transparency and efficiency in daily operations.

The Central Records Division digitized nearly 100 million records, a major accomplishment that saves staff thousands of hours and shortens the turnaround time for routine records requests. This efficiency allows employees to dedicate more attention to complex tasks that require more time and care.

The RRC holds nearly a century's worth of oil and gas records and staff have worked tirelessly to digitize and upload this vast collection of paper and microfilm information. Digitizing these documents makes them readily accessible to the public, who can now search records online instead of traveling to the RRC's Central Records office in Austin or hiring a consultant to search through records for them.

"This milestone represents a major step forward for the Railroad Commission and for government transparency and efficiency," said Chairman Christi Craddick.

"When I took office, the agency relied on decades-old technology. Modernizing our IT systems has been a top priority of mine — increasing efficiency within the agency and ensuring greater transparency and easier access to data and records for all Texans. Reaching nearly 100 million digitized records is a clear sign of our continued success in fully bringing the world's oldest regulatory agency into the 21st century."

"For years now, the Railroad Commission has been rapidly modernizing our agency to meet the demands of the technological age. Texas oil and gas leads the industry in innovation, so it's imperative that its regulator does the same," said Commissioner Wayne Christian. "I want to commend our agency's staff for their hard work digitizing the RRC, which will streamline government allowing our producers more time to do what they do best — produce cheap, affordable and reliable energy."

"Agency efficiency is a priority for the Railroad Commission," said Commissioner Jim Wright. "This digitalization effort not only improves the efficiency of Commission staff but allows greater access for all Texans to review and search the Railroad Commission's vast trove of records. I want to thank the Railroad Commission staff involved in this effort for their tireless work to improve access to this important information."

Digitized documents include oil and gas production reports, well completion records, hearing files, well status reports and a variety of other permits. These records are routinely accessed by researchers, landowners, royalty owners, energy companies and public information requesters.

Records that have been digitized can be found on the RRC's website.

**VISIT WEBSITE**



# RRc'S ENHANCED GUIDELINES FOR PERMIAN BASIN DISPOSAL WELLS

Utilizing scientific and engineering analysis, the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) issued new guidelines in May that strengthen permitting of disposal wells in the Permian Basin.

In order to further enhance the integrity of the underground disposal of produced water, the new requirements apply to saltwater disposal well permit applications in the region. Produced water, a byproduct of oil and gas production, is injected into Saltwater Disposal Wells (SWD) for safe management.

New and amended permit applications in the Permian Basin are now evaluated based on three primary factors:

- An expanded Area of Review (AOR) at the injection site;
- Limits on the maximum injection pressure at the surface based on geologic properties; and
- Limits on the maximum daily injection volume based on reservoir pressure.

As part of the AOR, operators are required to assess old or unplugged wells to ensure produced water cannot escape through those wellbores. The new guidelines expand the AOR radius from a quarter mile to a half a mile.

The enhanced permitting criteria also require operators to demonstrate that their injection pressure will not fracture the confining strata of the reservoirs where produced water is injected. In addition, the RRC placed limits on the maximum volumes that SWDs can inject, based on the disposal reservoir pressure.

These changes strengthen the Commission's disposal well permitting requirements by ensuring injected fluids remain confined to the disposal formations, safeguarding both ground and surface fresh water.

The new SWD permitting guidelines in the Permian Basin took effect on June 1 and apply to all new and amended permit applications for deep and shallow disposal wells. Applications for disposal wells that are located within 25 kilometers of a seismic event will continue to be reviewed under the agency's seismicity guidelines.







IOGCC  
CHAIR'S  
STEWARDSHIP  
AWARD  
2025

ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP  
Railroad Commission of Texas

# RRRC CHAIRMAN WRIGHT ACCEPTS ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD

In September, Chairman Jim Wright was honored to accept the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC) Chair's Stewardship Award for Environmental Partnership on behalf of the agency during the IOGCC Annual Conference in Anchorage, Alaska.

This award recognized the Railroad Commission of Texas' (RRC) work in collaboration with the U.S. Department of the Interior's (DOI) Orphaned Wells Program Office, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service, the Texas General Land Office and Crescent Energy Services in the successful completion of one of the most complex offshore plugging and abandonment operations ever undertaken on orphan wells in U.S. waters.

Over the course of four months, the team worked to plug eight offshore orphaned wells, some working more than 60 feet below the surface, while contending with tropical storms and hurricanes, including Category 5 Hurricane Beryl. Despite the challenges, the operation underscored the importance of environmental stewardship and demonstrated the power of partnership in tackling this complex maritime operation.

Throughout the project, operators remained attentive to marine wildlife, pausing operations when protected species appeared to ensure the animals' safety and maintain compliance with environmental regulations.

"Completion of the plugging not only eliminated an ongoing environmental threat but

also demonstrated leadership, innovation and collaboration between the Railroad Commission, the U.S. Department of the Interior and the Texas General Land Office under the leadership of Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham," said RRC Chairman Jim Wright. "This is the third time the Commission has won the Stewardship Award for Environmental Partnership, and we gratefully accept it in recognition of our work to protect public lands and for our expertise in well plugging."

Upon completion, the total project cost was \$11.68 million, fully funded by the U.S. DOI.

The RRC's orphaned well plugging program is highly regarded nationwide and remains a cornerstone of the agency's mission to protect public safety and the environment.



# TEXAS GRANTED PRIMACY OVER CLASS VI WELLS

**T**he 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 the website below.

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)



“

**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.**

”

— Wei Wang, RRC Executive Director



# CAPITOL RECAP



# HISTORIC INVESTMENT FROM TEXAS LEGISLATURE FUELS RRC'S MISSION

The Texas Legislature made history with a landmark investment in the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC), setting the stage for major progress in regulatory oversight and environmental protection. The Legislature approved more than \$593 million for the agency over the next two years. Their support reflects the critical role the RRC plays in safeguarding communities and natural resources across Texas.

One of the most notable highlights in the funding was appropriating over \$100 million of the funds to the RRC's State Managed Plugging Program (SMP). Since its inception in 1984, the SMP has plugged more than 46,000 wells preventing environmental hazards. This appropriation marked the largest one-time infusion ever made by the Legislature for well plugging, ensuring the agency can continue to protect the state's natural resources.

This funding helps address the high number of emergency well pluggings across the state where immediate action is required. These sites are often more expensive and challenging than others. In addition, another portion of the funding will allow the RRC to take proactive steps, plugging high-risk wells in areas like Hydrogen Sulfide fields and offshore sites, before they become emergencies. It's a forward-looking approach that helps prevent problems before they start.

Beyond well plugging, the Legislature also recognized the importance of modernization. More than \$16.7 million was dedicated to upgrading data systems that track produced water, authorized pit registrations and regulatory filing and permitting. Another \$2 million was allocated to enhance the agency's GIS Cloud systems. Both of these improvements mean faster and more transparent reporting and oversight, a win for the oil and gas industry and the citizens of Texas.

And in a move to strengthen environmental safeguards, the Legislature approved \$1.3 million to create an Underground Injection Well Investigation Team. This specialized team will ensure injected fluids stay confined in their disposal formations, protecting both ground and surface fresh water supplies and continuing to support the agency's ongoing efforts to reduce seismic activity and protect residents in regions like West Texas.

In short, 2025 was a year of historic investment and forward momentum for the RRC. From tackling emergency well pluggings to modernizing data systems and protecting water resources, the Legislature's actions set the stage for a safer, more resilient energy future for Texas.



# RRC EXCEEDS MAJOR LEGISLATIVE PERFORMANCE MEASURES

At the beginning of Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25), the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) once again found itself at a familiar crossroads: the Texas Legislature set ambitious performance measures, and the agency rose to the challenge of living up to them. Staff across the Commission leaned into the task, from inspectors in the field to teams digitizing documents behind the scenes.

By the time the results were tallied, the RRC had not only met expectations but exceeded multiple measures, extending its long record of success.

What began as a year of hard work and determination ended as another demonstration



of going above and beyond in regulating the oil and gas industry while reinforcing its commitment to public safety, environmental protection and energy leadership.

"Being able to not only meet but exceed these performance measures is a direct reflection of the Commission's commitment to supporting the Legislature and serving all Texans," said Wei Wang, RRC Executive Director. "As the state continues to lead the nation in oil and gas production, we will continue to maintain a consistent regulatory framework and protect public safety and the environment."

Crucial legislative goals the RRC exceeded in FY25 include:

CATEGORY	TARGET	ACHIEVED
Number of critical natural gas facility weatherization inspections	7,100	7,408
Number of oil and gas well and facility inspections	360,000	460,388
Number of pipeline safety inspections	1,750	2,812
Number of coal mining permit actions processed	300	446
Number of alternative fuels qualifying examinations, licenses, certifications and registrations	33,000	42,632
Number of Railroad Commission records imaged from non-digital formats	3,000,000	17,856,443

# STOP THEFT

## STATE TASK FORCE ON PETROLEUM THEFT

In 2025, Texas took a major step forward to protect its energy sector and taxpayers with the creation of the Texas Critical Task Force on Petroleum Theft, known as STOPTheft. Established by Senate Bill 494 and overseen by the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC), this multi-agency effort brings together industry experts and law enforcement at every level to confront a growing threat: organized and sophisticated petroleum theft that costs Texans millions each year.

Petroleum theft has surged recently, evolving into coordinated operations that undermine state tax revenues, harm producers and pose serious safety risks. STOPTheft was created to directly address these challenges. The task force is responsible for studying existing state, federal and international theft laws; analyzing the economic and safety impacts of petroleum theft; and developing recommendations to strengthen prevention strategies and law enforcement training across Texas. Its findings will be formally reported to the Governor and Texas Legislature.

The composition of the task force reflects both the scope of the problem and the expertise needed to solve it. Members include leaders from energy companies such as ConocoPhillips, Diamondback Energy and Ring Energy; trade associations; and law enforcement agencies including the FBI, the Texas Department of Public Safety and the Howard County Sheriff's Office.

RRC leadership emphasized the importance and urgency of the initiative, highlighting the need for coordinated action to combat petroleum theft across Texas.

"According to the Dallas Federal Reserve, more than 40% of oil and gas operators indicated that theft has impacted their operations in the past year. Petroleum theft not only impacts producers, but it also impacts our state coffers – and it must STOP. I look forward to working with the STOPTheft members to identify and recommend improvements to the legislature that will protect our natural resources and Texas taxpayers from further harm," said RRC Chairman Jim Wright.

Commissioner Christi Craddick highlighted the increasing sophistication of oilfield theft and the value of statewide coordination. "Oilfield theft has become increasingly organized and sophisticated, costing Texans

millions and threatening the integrity of our state's energy sector. The STOPTheft Task Force brings together law enforcement, industry leaders and local officials to coordinate a comprehensive strategy to stop these crimes. Protecting Texas energy means protecting Texas jobs, communities and taxpayers – and this task force is a critical step in that effort."

Commissioner Wayne Christian underscored the broader security issues tied to petroleum theft. "Petroleum theft isn't petty crime – it's organized, often tied to border security failures and it threatens Texas' economic security and America's reliable energy supply. I stand with the STOPTheft task force to send a clear message: Texas will protect its producers, defend taxpayers and bring criminals to justice."

With STOPTheft now in motion, Texas is taking decisive action to safeguard its energy resources, enhance public safety and shield the state's economic foundation against criminal activity.



# RRC'S GLOBAL IMPACT



# RRC'S GLOBAL IMPACT IN ENERGY REGULATION

The Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) strengthened its role as a global leader in energy regulation through a series of high-level international engagements.

In May, the RRC met with a division head from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action to discuss Texas' leadership in hydrogen production. With more than 1,000 miles of dedicated hydrogen pipelines operating safely in the state, Texas remains at the forefront of this rapidly emerging sector.

The German visit was one of several international meetings held throughout the year. In June, RRC leaders met with more than 30 Argentine legislators, government officials and industry executives participating in an American Chamber of Commerce tour.

The Argentine delegation received a briefing on the agency's operations and engaged in discussions on pipeline safety, seismicity, produced water, carbon capture and how the RRC collaborates with industry and government partners. Staff also highlighted key initiatives, including the Boots on the Ground training program and the agency's use of drone technology in emergency response.

Most recently, the agency hosted senior representatives from major Canadian pension funds and banks at its Austin headquarters. The Canadian delegation received an overview of the RRC's regulatory responsibilities and engaged in discussions on gas rate determination, hydrogen production, economic development and recent legislative actions affecting the agency.

From Germany to Argentina to Canada, the RRC's outreach demonstrates its continued commitment to sharing expertise, strengthening partnerships and reinforcing Texas' position as a global leader in responsible energy development.



# TOP MEDIA MOMENTS



# RRC LAUNCHES



TEXAS  
**ENERGY**  
**ON TRACK**  
AN RRC PODCAST



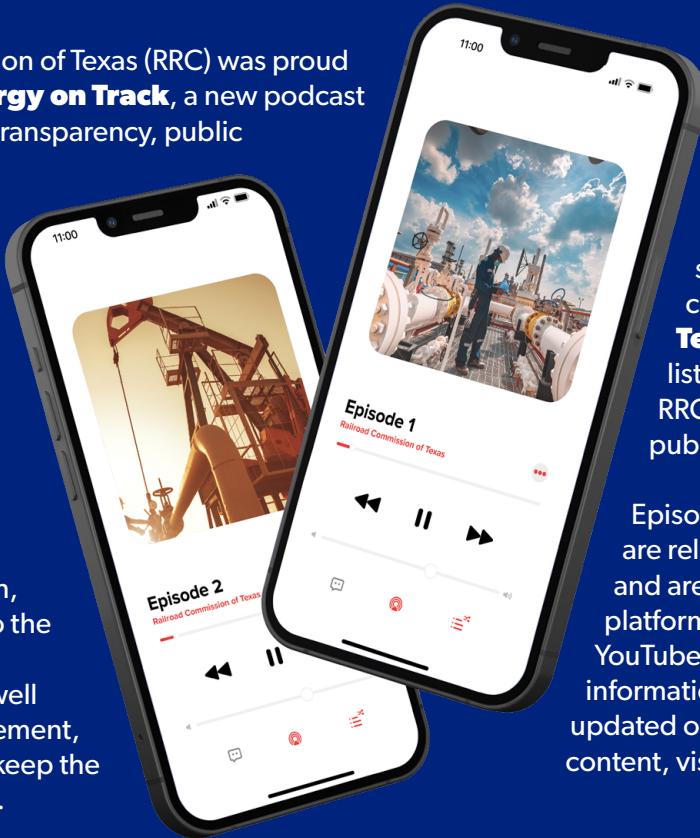
 Listen on  
Apple Music

 Listen on  
Spotify



The Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) was proud to launch **Texas Energy on Track**, a new podcast designed to expand transparency, public education and engagement around the state's energy regulation efforts.

Co-hosted by RRC Spokesperson Bryce Dubee and Multimedia Manager Nick Kraynok, the podcast features in-depth conversations with agency subject matter experts, frontline staff and leadership. Each episode, approximately 30 minutes in length, highlights a timely topic relevant to the state's energy landscape, offering insight into issues such as orphan well plugging, produced water management, seismicity and the operations that keep the agency running behind the scenes.



The podcast supports the RRC's broader initiative to connect with Texans through accessible, modern communication tools. By sharing internal expertise and showcasing the people who carry out the agency's mission, **Texas Energy on Track** helps listeners better understand the RRC's vital role in protecting the public and the environment.

Episodes of **Texas Energy on Track** are released every other Wednesday and are available on all major podcast platforms, including Apple Music, YouTube and Spotify. For more information about the podcast or to stay updated on new episodes and exclusive content, visit [www.rrc.texas.gov](http://www.rrc.texas.gov).



# RRC COMMUNICATIONS HOSTS WELL PLUGGING MEDIA DAYS

The Railroad Commission of Texas' (RRC) Communications Division launched a new initiative to strengthen relationships with media and increase engagement by providing reporters with firsthand insight into emergency and orphan well plugging.

Staff from the Communications Division traveled to Luling in March and Midland in September to host media days where members of the press, including reporters from *The Texas Tribune*, *Houston Chronicle* and *Midland Reporter-Telegram*, observed orphaned wells being plugged. These events give journalists the opportunity to speak directly with subject matter experts from local district offices, including district directors Travis Baer and Jeffrey Morgan. Hosting these media days highlights the Commission's commitment to transparency and its mission to safely address orphan wells across Texas.

Lead pluggers Nick Harrel and Alexis Vigil contributed to the event by assisting with site selection, coordinating with local contractors and landowners and sharing their invaluable expertise during interviews with reporters.

As the Communications Division continues to foster its relationships with the press, these in the field experiences remain a vital way to further educate the public on the Commission's mission of protecting public safety and the environment.





# THE POWER OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT





## STRENGTHENING CONNECTIONS ACROSS TEXAS

The Railroad Commission of Texas' (RRC) Office of Public Engagement (OPE) traveled across Texas connecting with communities large and small. From local rotary club meetings to statewide industry forums, our team has worked tirelessly to share information on the Commission's jurisdiction, the resources available to the public and to highlight the everyday work that keeps Texas energy strong and sustainable. Each stop was more than an event, it was an opportunity to build trust, foster understanding and strengthen the connection between Texans and the Commission.

To maximize impact, OPE coordinated outreach across multiple divisions within the RRC including, Oil and Gas, Oversight and Safety, Critical Infrastructure and Pipeline Safety and Damage Prevention.

Partnering with these divisions ensures that attendees receive insights directly from subject matter experts.

OPE team members Scott Sroufe, Tiffany Cotledge and Rafael Navas traveled to 36 cities for 50 events reaching more than 21,000 attendees. This included 32 speaking engagements that reached over 1,000 attendees and 17 booth exhibits that drew in nearly 20,000 attendees.

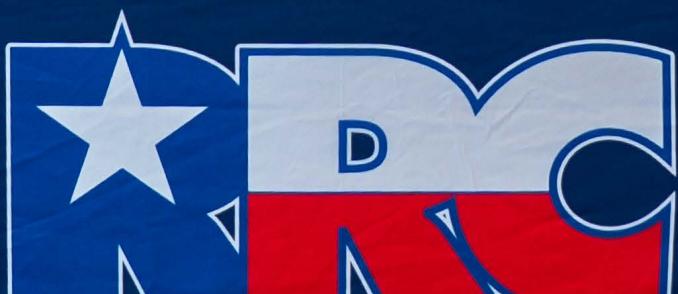
Beyond OPE's efforts, RRC staff participated in an additional 54 events across the state, engaging with over 14,000 attendees.

These figures reflect a broader impact: 35,000 Texans engaged directly with the Commission to ask questions and see firsthand how we regulate our state's vital energy resources while protecting the environment.



### Contract Management

- Contract Management provides support services statewide to business areas in soliciting, contract creation, award, and administration of contracts.
- Contract Management is an integral part of any procurement cycle and ensures the agency is compliant with federal, state, CPA, and agency guidelines.



# 2025 REGULATORY CONFERENCE: A RECORD-SETTING YEAR

One of the year's major accomplishments for the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) was successfully hosting the 2025 Regulatory Conference, held July 14–16 at the Kalahari Resort and Conference Center in Round Rock. The event brought together over a thousand operators, industry professionals, regulators and guest speakers to discuss the latest developments in oil, gas and pipeline regulation.

The conference began with a luncheon where Commission Chairman Jim Wright welcomed attendees and encouraged active engagement with RRC regulatory staff. He also introduced the keynote speaker, Senator Brian Birdwell, who provided an overview of recent legislative efforts, including Senate Bills 1150 and 1146, which are aimed at advancing statewide orphan well plugging. Senator Birdwell also highlighted opportunities arising from the new presidential administration, noting the potential impacts of expedited permitting and expanded liquefied natural gas exports on Texas' energy sector.

Throughout three days, participants attended more

than 75 breakout sessions focused on reporting procedures, pipeline safety, emergency response and the RRC's online tools such as LoneSTAR and PIPES. Highlights included a produced water panel led by RRC Chief Engineer Ted Wooten and a well-regarded session on wildfire mitigation and response in West Texas.

The conference also featured 43 exhibitors, more than double the number from the first year. These exhibitors offered attendees valuable opportunities to discover innovative technologies, products and services shaping the industry.

By the final afternoon, attendees and exhibitors had packed up as RRC staff cleared materials and wrapped up another successful event. The conference continued to demonstrate the RRC's commitment to industry education, regulatory clarity and meaningful engagement with stakeholders. With preparations for the 2026 conference already underway, the Commission is taking yet another step forward in supporting a safe, responsible and thriving energy sector.





# Listening Sessions

## RRC LAUNCHES REMOTE LISTENING SESSIONS

The Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) took an important step forward in strengthening transparency and public engagement by launching its inaugural remote Listening Session on November 12. Texans from across the state joined virtually to share perspectives, ask questions and engage directly with RRC subject matter experts.

The success of the first session demonstrated Texans' strong interest in engaging with the Commission. Thank you to all who participated, your feedback helps the agency improve how it serves the public and reinforces its commitment to openness.

Building on this momentum, the RRC will host bi-monthly Listening Sessions to ensure ongoing opportunities for dialogue between the Commission and the public. These sessions provide a platform for residents to learn more about the Commission's regulatory functions, ask questions and express their opinions in real time.





“Thanks very much for today’s Listening (& Talking!) Session. It was nice of you all to reach-out to the public in this way, and I learned some helpful things about the Railroad Commission’s (wide!) scope of concerns, operations and procedures.”

- **Live Oak County Resident**

“I don’t have a comment other than to thank you all for starting this program. I think it’s very beneficial for the residents of the city to understand what the Railroad Commission does, so thank you very much.”

- **Harris County Resident**

Organized by the Office of Public Engagement (OPE), each session begins with a brief overview of the Commission’s responsibilities, followed by a segment where participants can make comments and interact with RRC experts. Registration is required to ensure every voice is heard and every comment is addressed.

The Commission remains committed to listening, learning and leading with transparency. Together, we are building stronger connections with the communities we serve.

The RRC looks forward to continuing these conversations in 2026 and encourages residents from across Texas to join in. Please visit the website below for more information on upcoming Listening Sessions.

**MORE INFORMATION**

# EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE



# BOOTS ON THE GROUND

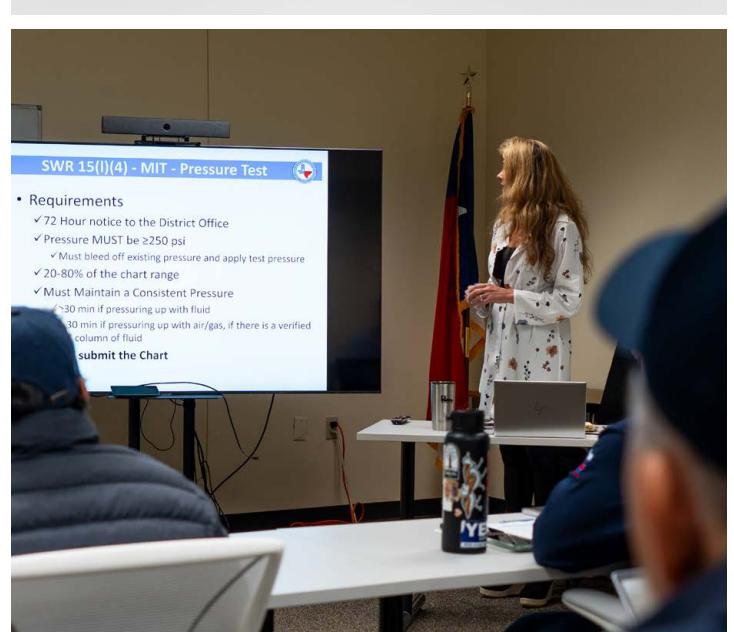
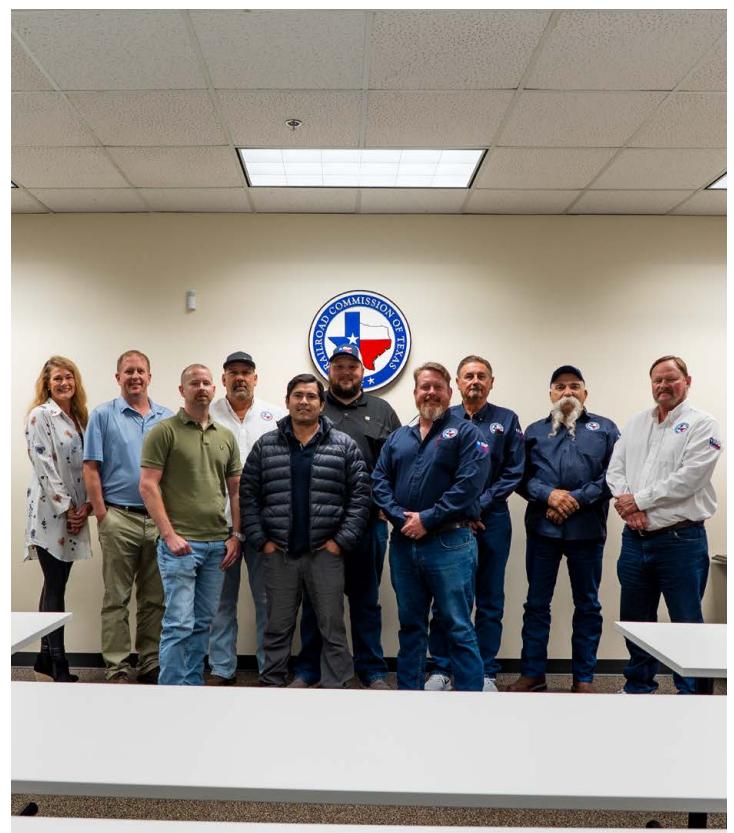
The Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) achieved a milestone in one of its key instructional programs, the Boots on the Ground initiative. During Phase I of the program the RRC trained more than 300 employees. The training combined in-depth discussion with a collaborative classroom environment, helping inspectors understand how their field work has a lasting impact.

The RRC's Oil and Gas Division regulates the exploration, production and transportation of oil and natural gas in Texas; to accomplish their goals they must perform field inspections, monitor industry activities, remediate abandoned wells and more. With such broad responsibilities, the Boots on the Ground initiative was launched to bring consistency across all the districts in training on how to apply Commission rules and processes. Phase I, Introduction to Statewide Rules, equipped inspectors and technical staff with the foundational knowledge they need to navigate the regulations most often encountered in day-to-day fieldwork. By focusing on clarity and consistency, the program helped align practices across all districts, reinforcing the Commission's mission of safeguarding communities while supporting responsible energy production.

The initiative is led by Dana McClendon, division trainer in the RRC's Oil and Gas Division. McClendon emphasized the importance of the program's collaborative classroom environment, where inspectors not only learn the rules but also explore how their work directly impacts safety and compliance statewide.

"This program brings clarity and understanding to the rules which helps inspectors do their job well," McClendon shared. "Our goal is to make sure everyone leaves more confident to do the inspections the state relies on to ensure operators are complying with safety regulations."

By investing in robust training programs like Boots on the Ground, the RRC continues to build a workforce prepared to meet the challenges of today's energy landscape. The milestone reflects the agency's commitment to consistency and safety, while reinforcing continuous learning. These efforts not only protect Texans and the environment but also support responsible energy production that generates billions of dollars in tax revenue for Texas.



# Thank you!



## FUNDS RAISED: \$9,695

### RRC STAFF RAISE FUNDS FOR FLOOD RELIEF EFFORTS

Employees across the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) came together in a powerful show of compassion and public service by raising \$9,695 to support relief efforts for communities devastated by the severe flooding in Central Texas.

Through a voluntary fundraising campaign, staff from across the state contributed directly to organizations providing critical rescue operations, immediate relief and long-term recovery services in the hardest-hit areas.

Funds were distributed to the Community Foundation of the Texas Hill Country's Kerr County Flood Relief Fund, which supports local groups in communities like Boerne, Hunt, Ingram, Kerrville, Center Point and Comfort. Additional contributions went to Texas Search and Rescue a statewide 501(c)(3) based in Austin that deploys at the request of authorities to provide search and rescue, flood response, K9 operations, disaster relief and aerial support.

"This initiative reflects the strong spirit of service and solidarity among our employees and their dedication to serving fellow Texans in a time of need," said Wei Wang, Executive Director of the Railroad Commission. "We are grateful for their willingness to step up and make a tangible difference in the lives of those recovering from the devastating floods. We remain deeply saddened by the loss and appreciate those — including the first responders and volunteers — who are assisting in the recovery efforts."

The employee-driven fundraiser ran from July 10 through July 31, and reflected the Commission's commitment to supporting Texas communities in times of crisis.



## RRC EMPLOYEES SPREAD HOLIDAY CHEER ACROSS TEXAS

The Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) staff came together in a strong display of generosity and community spirit during the annual Holiday Wishes Gift Drive. In partnership with the Governor's Commission for Women, the State Agency Council, and Partnerships for Children, staff from offices statewide sponsored gifts for more than 120 children in foster care.

Through this employee-driven effort, RRC staff contributed time, resources and energy to fulfill wish lists and prepare deliveries. Their participation directly supported foster youth across Texas, providing moments of joy and comfort during a time of year that can be especially challenging.

This strong participation by RRC employees reflects the Commission's broader commitment to strengthen and uplift communities, serving Texans beyond its regulatory responsibilities. These acts of kindness helped to brighten the holidays for thousands of foster children statewide and highlighted the compassion and dedication that define the RRC.



# RRC DIVISION ACCOMPLISHMENTS



# OIL AND GAS FIELD OPERATIONS

The Oil and Gas Division continued to play a vital role in overseeing Texas' energy industry, ensuring safe and responsible exploration and production while protecting natural resources. As the Commission's largest division, its work spanned compliance oversight, technical permitting and extensive field operations across the state.

**460,388**

oil and gas well and facility inspections performed

**2,446**

average number of oil and gas well and facility inspections performed by district office staff

**.59%**

of wells not inspected in the last five years

**1,101**

orphaned wells plugged using state-managed funds

**48.8%**

of total well population inspected

**2 days**

average time for drilling permits to be processed

**282**

abandoned pollution sites investigated, assessed or cleaned up using state-managed funds

**1,615**

vertical drilling permits processed

**8,582**

horizontal drilling permits processed

# PIPELINE SAFETY

Pipeline Safety continued its focus on program and new construction inspections, while ensuring comprehensive inspection intervals were maintained. In 2025, inspectors worked tirelessly and exceeded all inspection performance measures.

**5,500**

pipeline safety inspections completed

**110**

average number of pipeline field inspections per field inspector



# PIPELINE SUPPORT AND DAMAGE PREVENTION

The Pipeline Damage Prevention Program continued to deliver strong outreach results in Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) through expanded outreach, enforcement and permitting efforts across Texas.

**6,000+**

participants reached through Excavator Safety workshops and major industry events

**12,743**

total industry contacts in FY25, up from 10,590 in Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24)

**\$5.34 M**

collected in permitting fees

**\$11.06 M**

collected in penalties

**4,561**

pipeline permit actions processed

**5,333**

enforcement dockets issued



# GAS SERVICES DEPARTMENT

The Gas Services Department ensures just and reasonable natural gas utility rates that promote safe, efficient, reliable and cost-based service for Texans. Within the department are two key sections: Market Oversight and Utility Audit, both of which play critical roles in protecting consumers and maintaining industry accountability.

The Market Oversight section monitors rates, reviews filings and resolves complaints. Its work protects consumers, strengthens industry accountability and ensures transparency in natural gas utility operations.

In 2025, the Market Oversight section:

Responded to 1,046 customer complaints and inquiries

Reviewed approximately 150,000 tariffs

Participated in 5 statement of intent cases

Reviewed 48 administrative gas utility filings

The Utility Audit section administers the gas utility tax, conducts audits to verify proper computation and billing of authorized rates and determines gas utility status. With staff based across three district offices, the section ensures compliance and financial integrity through its audit program.

In 2025, the Utility Audit section:

Collected \$49,515,987 in gas utility tax, a 15% increase from FY24

Conducted a total of 134 audits; an average of 16.75 audits per auditor

# ALTERNATIVE FUELS SAFETY

The Alternative Fuels Safety Department protects public safety by licensing companies, certifying operators and inspecting propane, CNG and LNG installations. It also provides training, conducts exams and investigates complaints to ensure safe and compliant operations across Texas.

## CURRENT STATS

Licensed/registered companies/individuals	<b>7,725</b>
Certified individuals	<b>17,416</b>
Registered individuals	<b>3,846</b>
Alternative fuel installations	<b>92,471</b>

## CATEGORY

## TARGET

Inspections performed	<b>19,995</b>
Violations cited	<b>22,650</b>
Number of individuals attending LPG Training/CE	<b>3,693</b>
Completion reports processed within 30 business days	<b>99.7%</b>
Completion reports processed	<b>3,854</b>
Plans processed within 30 business days	<b>100%</b>
Plan applications processed	<b>45</b>
Total Exams/licenses/certifications/registrations	<b>42,632</b>
Exams administered	<b>8,852</b>
New exempt registrations	<b>566</b>
Certification renewals	<b>14,910</b>
Registrant renewals	<b>3,397</b>
Licenses issued/renewed	<b>7,611</b>
Trucks registered/renewed	<b>7,296</b>



# SURFACE MINING AND RECLAMATION DIVISION

The Abandoned Mine Land Program successfully completed two important reclamation projects in Milam County. The Milam Rockdale 1 – Hicks and Weaver site was finished in February, followed by the Milam Rockdale 1 – Beckham and Barker site in December. Together, these efforts highlight the Commission’s commitment to reclaiming abandoned mine lands, protecting communities and ensuring that the legacy of mining is balanced with stewardship of the environment.



**446**

**COAL MINING  
PERMIT ACTIONS  
PROCESSED**

**402**

**COAL MINING  
INSPECTIONS  
PERFORMED**

**100%**

**OF COAL PERMITTING  
ACTIONS  
COMPLETED**

**33**

**URANIUM  
EXPLORATION  
INSPECTIONS  
COMPLETED**

# CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE DIVISION

The Critical Infrastructure Division (CID) is committed to ensuring the integrity of the natural gas supply chain, which is vital for reliable power generation across the state. CID staff strengthened their role in safeguarding Texans during critical weather events and continue to build on past successes. A major milestone was the launch of RRC MAP, a new operating system that enables CID to gather, track and deliver real-time data to the Public Utility Commission during weather emergencies. By enhancing coordination and response capabilities, RRC MAP serves as an essential safeguard during periods of extreme cold and heat, reinforcing CID's dedication to resilience and public safety.

## Additional noteworthy metrics from 2025:

Total Form CI-D Submissions: **79,832**

Total Form CI-X Submissions: **3,425**

Weather Preparedness Inspections Conducted: **7,408**

Confirmed Supply Chain Connections (RRC MAP): **7,301**

## CENTRAL RECORDS

The District Office Imaging Project concluded FY25 with **17 million** original documents imaged and added online. The Files Team alone processed **4.4 million** images for digitization in FY25, bringing the total to more than **99 million** images now available online. With this milestone, they are just shy of having **100 million** images digitized and available to the public through the agency's online systems.

Demand for public data remained strong, with **13.1 million** dataset files downloaded in FY25, totaling **42.5 petabytes** of information. The Research Team completed **622** total requests, including **299** external requests and **323** internal requests, requiring **4,923** hours of research time.

The Public Sales Department processed **\$7.3 million** in payments, spanning **9,999** individual receipt items.

# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

The Information Technology Services Division experienced a highly productive year, marked by significant accomplishments in technology modernization, infrastructure and critical support, as well as staff training and development.

## TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION EFFORTS:

The journey away from mainframe technologies continues to gain momentum as the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) moves into the LoneSTAR platform. Among the latest highlights are a few key additions to LoneSTAR:

- Submitting Form P-18 online provides key benefits including automated data audits to reduce errors, streamlined electronic communication from the RRC for approvals or corrections and pre-populated monthly details to minimize manual entry. Within LoneSTAR, users can also view all submitted P-18 forms and related correspondence in one place.
- Waste Hauler Forms WH-1, WH-2 and WH-3 can now be filed online through LoneSTAR. Operators may apply for new permits, renew, amend or cancel existing permits electronically. Once submitted, LoneSTAR generates a print-friendly PDF, and all filings and related records are accessible within the system.
- P-5 Organization Report Renewal Packets have been transitioned from the mainframe to LoneSTAR. Each packet provides details on fees, financial assurance, well listings and any 639 violations. Operators can now conveniently view and download their renewal packets directly within LoneSTAR.
- The H-8 Crude Oil, Gas Well Liquids or Associated Products Loss Report has been transitioned to LoneSTAR and is now available for online filing. Operators can complete submissions electronically and upload supporting documents, which staff can review directly within the LoneSTAR system.

## OTHER MODERNIZATION EFFORTS:

- In August 2025, in partnership with the Surface Mining and Reclamation Division, ITS officially launched MINERS. This new online application modernizes inspection and permitting processes, replacing outdated manual methods with a more user-friendly platform. Through MINERS, the Surface Mining Industry can efficiently submit documentation related to active and completed mining permits, as well as bond releases.
- In June 2025, ITS, in partnership with the Alternate Fuels Safety Department, launched the Alternative Fuels Online Filing System. Replacing the legacy LIS system, AFOS automates core business processes, enhances reporting and improves usability through key integrations and expanded functionality. The system optimizes capabilities, introduces new operational tools and provides a user portal that allows stakeholders to review, submit and track applications with greater accessibility and engagement.
- In September 2025, ITS implemented SnapPay, a new payment services solution supporting all online payments made through the Texas.gov Hosted Payment Page via credit cards and electronic checks. Partnering with the Texas Department of Information Resources and First Data Merchant Services, ITS delivered a more reliable, scalable and secure payment processing system. This initiative underscores RRC's commitment to modernization, efficiency and enhanced customer service.

## INFRASTRUCTURE AND CRITICAL SUPPORT:

The Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) relies on GIS for mapping well locations, survey lines, pipelines, seismicity research, groundwater determination and more. The backbone of these functions was updated to ArcGIS Pro. This transition is more than a software upgrade, it's part of broader modernization efforts to retire legacy technologies and streamline workflows across the agency. With ArcGIS Pro and cloud computing, RRC gains improved performance, modern data management tools and a stable GIS foundation for the future.

The State Operations Center (SOC) map is activated during weather emergencies to support response efforts.

In 2025, the RRC enhanced the SOC map by adding predictive weather pattern layers including:

- Wildfire Perimeters
- Base Radar Reflectivity
- Peak Storm Surge
- Tropical Weather
- Storm Surge Risk
- Hazards Drought and Wildfire
- Watches, Warnings and Advisories

These layers provide more comprehensive situational awareness and improved decision-making capabilities in times of emergency.

Each fiscal year, ITS participates in the Department of Information Resources/Shared Technology Services Disaster Recovery program. The RRC once again achieved 100% compliance, matching its 2024 performance. The agency continues to serve as the 'gold standard' among all state agencies in the DIR/STS Disaster Recovery program.

## STAFF TRAINING AND SUPPORT:

Technology is advancing rapidly and ITS is committed to keeping pace by continuing to partner with other agency divisions to deliver essential training. These trainings ensure staff remain equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to support evolving technologies.

ITS staff developed and coordinated ArcGIS Pro training sessions to equip internal teams with the skills needed to effectively use the upgraded GIS platform.

Data is one of the agency's most valuable assets. To support better decision-making, ITS offers a Data Science Learning Series for staff. This training equips employees with the skills and tools needed to maximize the use of the agency's data warehouse.

2025 was a dynamic and productive year for the ITS Division. The team remains committed to advancing modernization efforts and building on this momentum in the years to come.

# HUMAN RESOURCES

Human Resources strengthened the foundation of the agency by ensuring workforce activities remained compliant with Texas statutes and oversight requirements. Beyond compliance, the division advanced employee engagement, supported community initiatives and streamlined administrative processes to boost efficiency and service delivery.

A highlight of the year was welcoming two new HR team members, including a dedicated onboarding specialist to ease the transition for new employees and enhance the overall employee experience.

## BY THE NUMBERS, IN FY25:

**107**

**NEW EMPLOYEES  
WERE HIRED**

**109**

**SEPARATIONS  
COORDINATED**

**189**

**JOB POSTINGS  
PUBLISHED**

**21**

**NEW MANAGERS  
TRAINED**

**124**

**EMPLOYEES HOSTED  
AT AGENCY OVERVIEW**

**130+**

**VETERANS  
EMPLOYED**



