The Railroad Commission of Texas is widely recognized as the global leader in the regulation of energy exploration and production. The RRC is the oldest regulatory agency in the state, and 2021 marked the agency's 130th year of serving Texas. Originally formed to regulate the rail industry, the RRC no longer has any jurisdiction over railroads with the last of these functions transferring to the Texas Department of Transportation in 2005.

The RRC's highest priority is protecting public safety and the environment by ensuring safe, responsible energy production through a number of programs.

Today RRC Regulates:

Oil and Gas Exploration and Production

Intrastate Pipelines

Alternative Fuels

Natural Gas Utilities

Surface Mining Operations

Critical Natural Gas Infrastructure

Inspection and enforcement of oil and gas activities

- Require permits for all drilling activities
- Perform field inspections on oil& gas operations and intrastate pipelines
- Enforce RRC rules through compliance and penalties
- Inspect weatherization of critical natural gas operations to protect Texans in energy emergencies

Protect groundwater:

- Geologic Advisory Unit (GAU) determines well construction requirements necessary to protect usable quality water
- RRC requires groundwater and additional isolation zones be protected for a well or multiple wells within a specified area

Reclaim land impacted by oil and gas development:

- Plug abandoned oil and gas wells with money from regulatory fees, permit fees, and bond fees paid by the oil and gas industry.
- Restore land impacted by oil and gas operations

Regulate mining and reclaim lands:

- Regulate surface mining for coal and uranium and require companies mining coal/lignite in Texas to have a permit and post a bond for each site they operate
- Ensure that mined land is returned to a condition as good or better than, it was before mining
- Reclaim dangerous or environmentally harmful abandoned sites that were mined prior to the federal surface mining law.

Find us on:

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RRC
LEADING TEXAS ENERGY
OIL & GAS ★ COAL ★ PIPELINES