

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

Oversight and Safety Division



NOTICE TO PIPELINE OPERATORS

Recent Amendments 16 TAC §3.70 and Updates to the Pipeline Online Permitting System

On September 1, 2020, the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) will require pipeline operators to file for the renewal of their pipeline permits by the last day of their designated month. This is in accordance with amendments to 16 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §3.70 which were adopted by the RRC on January 6, 2020 and take effect on September 1, 2020.

By changing the renewal dates, the RRC has made it more efficient to track and submit renewals for pipeline operators. Every permit must be renewed annually, online using the Pipeline Online Permitting System (POPS) available in the RRC Online System. The month that renewal is due is determined by the first letter of the operator's name. To view the renewal schedule, visit the Texas Secretary of State website at

[https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=16&pt=1&ch=3&rl=70](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=16&pt=1&ch=3&rl=70). The POPS user manual is available on the RRC website at <https://stage2.rrc.texas.gov/media/myxib4ls/pops-user-guide.pdf>.

In addition, the amended rule outlines that late charges for mileage fees due in 2021 or later are reduced for companies who operate less than 50 total miles of permitted pipelines. The updated late charges are \$125 for less than 30 days late, \$250 for more than 30 but less than 60 days late, and \$350 for greater than 60 days late.

Amendments to 16 TAC Chapter 8 were also adopted by the RRC on January 6, 2020. The term lease line was removed as a qualifier to determine if a pipeline needs a (T-4) permit to operate in Texas. The RRC has clarified the definition of a gathering line for permitting purposes. The changes outlined in 16 TAC Chapter 8 and §3.70 together determine which pipelines need a permit.

The designated security administrator may create accounts with appropriate rights for staff within their organization enabling those designees to file forms electronically through the RRC Online System available at <https://webapps.rrc.texas.gov/security/login.do>. For additional information on the RRC Online System, visit the RRC website at <https://www.rrc.texas.gov/forms/online-filing-at-rrc/>.

Existing users with accounts in the RRC Online System do not need to designate a new administrator. The organization's security administrator needs only to assign rights for filing online through their administration accounts to grant their users access.

If you have questions regarding this notice, please contact the Pipeline Permitting Section of the RRC's Oversight and Safety Division at POPS@rrc.texas.gov or 512-463-6802 for assistance.

Please Forward to the Appropriate Section of Your Company