



June 2025

# Energy News



**From the Field Photo**

Sunrise in Odessa

Photo by Mark Ehrlich



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## Upcoming Events

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RRC Open Meeting

August 19, 2025

[VIEW OPEN MEETING WEBCASTS](#)





# RRC Trains Staff on State Fire Prevention Rules

The Railroad Commission of Texas recently hosted a series of webinars to reinforce commission standards on key fire prevention guidelines.

The curriculum consisted of three sessions training 242 RRC staff and seven participants from the Public Utilities Commission and focused on Statewide Rule 21 (I) Fire Prevention.

The goal of this training is to provide staff with the knowledge of identifying potential fire hazards in the field, explained Dana McClendon, the division trainer with the RRC's Oil and Gas Division.

During the webinar instructors reviewed multiple elements of Texas Administrative Code, Texas Natural Resources Code,

and the National Electrical Code providing students with guidance on factors an inspector should consider when they see a potential electrical hazard or violation while performing their jobs.

They also covered topics such as the safe disposal of debris, the maintenance of electrical power lines, and details on the disconnection of electrical service at inactive well sites.

“We are looking at everything from wiring to pole conditions on the lease,” she explained.

These training sessions ensure that RRC staff remain informed and aligned with Texas laws and are committed to maintaining a safe work environment in the field.





# Texas Legislature Makes History

The Texas Legislature took major action this legislative session with historic funding for the Railroad Commission of Texas, appropriating more than \$593 million for the agency over the next two fiscal years.

This appropriation includes \$100 million for oil and gas well plugging to be used by the RRC's renowned State Managed Plugging Program (SMP) to address critical plugging projects. This is the largest one-time infusion of funds from the Legislature to support the SMP, which has plugged more than 46,000 wells since its inception in 1984.

The \$100 million approved by lawmakers will help address the high number of emergency well pluggings across the state where immediate action is required. These emergency wells are often more expensive and technically challenging than other plugging projects. In addition to emergency pluggings, a por-

tion of the funding will be earmarked to plug non-emergency high priority wells, such as those in Hydrogen Sulfide fields, as well as offshore wells. Plugging these wells as a preventative measure helps mitigate any potential risks before they escalate into an emergency.

The Legislature also addressed other funding needs at the RRC, signing off on support to multiple modernization initiatives to improve the efficiency of the RRC. This includes investments of more than \$16.7 million into data reporting systems to track produced water, authorized pits registrations and oversight and safety regulatory filing and permitting. More than \$2 million was also allocated for upgrades to the agency's GIS Cloud systems.

The RRC will also receive \$1.3 million to establish an Underground Injection Well Investigation Team to help ensure injected fluids remain confined to the





# c Investments in RRC's Mission

disposal formations and safeguard ground and surface fresh water. This team will supplement the RRC's ongoing measures to mitigate seismicity and protect residents in areas including West Texas.

"The significant investment made by the Texas Legislature over the next biennium provides the Commission with the necessary resources to ensure that Texas energy is produced safely and efficiently," said RRC Chairman Jim Wright. "The development of our natural resources plays a vital role in our state's economy, and I thank the Legislature for their continued commitment to the Railroad Commission to carry out our important mission."

"This funding is critical toward the Railroad Commission's goals to reduce the number of orphan wells across the state, improve and modernize agency technology and promote transparency and efficiency within the industry," said RRC Commissioner Christi Craddick. "I deeply appreciate

the Legislature's support of our important mission to regulate responsibly while continuing to keep Texas' energy industry and economy thriving."

"The Railroad Commission of Texas is one of the world's most respected regulatory agencies for oil and gas production, and this funding serves to further that mission," said RRC Commissioner Wayne Christian. "The industry generates so much in tax revenues for Texas, that for every \$1 appropriated by the Legislature to the Commission the industry returns \$47 – talk about a return for the taxpayer! I want to congratulate Commissioner Craddick and the Commission staff for all their hard work this session on the agency's budget and thank all the legislators and staff for efforts to make Texas the nation's powerhouse for oil and gas."

The state's biennial budget passed in Senate Bill 1 takes effect on Sept. 1, 2025.





# RRC Hosts Argentine Delegation to Share Energy Expertise

Building upon the agency's reputation as a global leader in oil and gas regulation, Railroad Commission of Texas leadership shared their knowledge and expertise with an Argentine delegation, June 24.

The delegation consisted of more than 30 members of the national legislature, government officials, industry executives and municipal leaders who were visiting Texas as part of an

American Chamber of Commerce in Argentina (AmCham Argentina) tour of the state.

The visit to the RRC headquarters included an overview of the agency's history and jurisdiction of the energy landscape and discussion of the operations of the different RRC divisions, before diving into an in-depth question and answer session with the guests.

Members of the dele-

gation asked about a variety of topics, including pipeline safety, seismicity, produced water, carbon capture and how the agency engages with both members of industry and government partners at the local, state and federal levels.

"The meeting gave us the chance to explain how our role as a regulator is to help ensure a predictable regulatory environment," said RRC Executive Director Wei





Wang. "Texas has a great story to tell the world about how we are able to develop uniform regulation across the state that promotes economic growth while also protecting Texans and the environment."

RRC leaders also took time to highlight the Commission's training initiatives such as its "Boots on the Ground" program, and innovations in emergency responses through the use

of drone technology.

This visit is just the latest example of how the RRC remains a leader in the global conversation on energy production and regulation.

Last month, the commission held a meeting with a division head at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action. That discussion centered around hydrogen production and

supply in the Lone Star State.

Thanks to Texas' safety and compliance regulatory framework, the state stands as a leader in conventional hydrogen production, and pure hydrogen pipelines – extending more than 1,000 miles – have been operating safely in Texas to support the industry's infrastructure.



A portrait of Chairman Jim Wright, a middle-aged man with grey hair and a goatee, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a blue patterned tie. He is smiling slightly. In the background, a portion of the Railroad Commission of Texas seal is visible, featuring a star and the words "RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS".

# Chairman Wright

COMMISSIONERS' CORNER

During the June 17 open meeting of the Railroad Commission of Texas, Commissioner Jim Wright was unanimously elected to serve as Chairman of the Commission. Following the vote, Chairman Wright released 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.”



# Commissioner Craddick

COMMISSIONERS' CORNER



Last month I was honored to hand the gavel over to Commissioner Jim Wright as he enters his first term as Chairman of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Over the past two years, we've seen historical oil and gas production. This has led to a record-breaking \$27.3 billion in state and local tax revenue in 2024 alone. These are incredible, game-changing numbers for the betterment of Texas and our world.

I'm also proud to report that with the EPA's recent proposed approval, Texas is well on its way to securing Class VI Primacy.

In the months ahead, I look forward to continuing our important work here at the Railroad Commission, focusing on important priorities that both protect our state's natural resources and moves Texas energy forward.

# Commissioner Christian

COMMISSIONERS' CORNER



This month Commissioner Christian released a statement regarding President Donald Trump's EPA rolling back the Biden Administration's rules dictating carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions for fossil fuel-based power plants.

"President Trump is continuing his promise to roll back Biden's onerous regulatory regime and put America back on a path toward Energy Dominance. The Obama-Biden policies that were waging a war against fossil fuels would have left our power grids vulnerable and our national security weakened. CO<sub>2</sub> is not the existential threat that radical environmentalists would have you believe, and it shouldn't be dictating our energy policy. This reversal marks a return toward a more balanced regulatory environment that prioritizes energy reliability, economic growth, and state-level flexibility."

Read more [here](#).





# Railroad Commission of Texas Launches Podcast: Texas Energy on Track

To further foster transparency, education and public engagement, the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) has launched its new podcast, [Texas Energy on Track](#).

Co-hosted by Bryce Dubee, RRC Spokesperson and Nick Kraynok, RRC Multimedia Manager, the show will feature in-depth conversations with the agency's many subject matter experts, frontline staff and leadership. Each approximately 30-minute episode will explore a timely topic, with discussions on key regulatory issues including orphan well plugging, produced water management and seismicity, as well as behind-the-scene insights on how the agency operates.

"Texas Energy on Track is part of the Railroad Commission's broader effort to connect with the public and other audiences in new and accessible ways," said Wei Wang, Executive Director of the Railroad Commission. "This podcast is an opportunity for people to learn more about the RRC team and the vital work we are doing to protect public safety and the environment."

Episodes of Texas Energy on Track will be released the first Wednesday of every month and will be available on all major podcast platforms, including [Apple Music](#) and [Spotify](#).

# Oil and 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 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 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](#) ▶