



# Site Remediation Overview & History

Oil and Gas Division



The Site Remediation Section was formed in 1991 when the 72nd Texas Legislature adopted Senate Bill 1103, which enhanced the Railroad Commission's ability to plug orphaned oil and gas wells and to remediate abandoned oil field sites throughout the State of Texas by establishing the Oil Field Cleanup Fund, presently the Oil and Gas Regulation and Cleanup Fund (OGRC). These efforts came to be known as the State Managed Plugging Program and the State Managed Cleanup Program, respectively. Both programs are funded from regulatory fees, permit fees, enforcement penalties, and bond fees paid by the oil and gas industry into the Cleanup Fund.

Over the years, the section's responsibilities have grown to include the oversight of responsible party cleanups in environmentally sensitive areas, which is now known as the Operator Cleanup Program; the oversight of environmental cleanups by innocent landowners through the creation of the Voluntary Cleanup Program; and the assessment and remediation of abandoned oil field sites for community based redevelopment projects through Brownfield Grant funds obtained from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Since the creation of the Site Remediation Section, from 1992 through fiscal year 2019, the Commission has assessed, investigated, and/or completed clean-up activities at 6,821 sites at the cost of approximately \$107 million. Funding sources for these sites include the OGRC Fund as well as other state and federal sources, such as the Brownfield Response Program, Non-Point Source Program, and the State of Texas Coastal Impact Assessment Program. The Site Remediation Section has also overseen the investigation and successful cleanup of approximately 3,272 sites under the Operator Cleanup Program and 82 sites under the Voluntary Cleanup Program. The assessment and cleanup of sites under the Operator and Voluntary Cleanup Programs are at cost to the operator(s) and applicant(s), respectively.

The Site Remediation Section supports the Railroad Commission of Texas' mission to be stewards of natural resources and the environment in Texas by assessing and cleaning up abandoned oil field sites and providing oversight and incentives for responsible operators or other responsible parties to take corrective action for contamination discovered or caused by their activities.

For more information, visit: [bit.ly/RRCSiteRem](https://bit.ly/RRCSiteRem)