

FEBRUARY 2026

From the Field Photo
Winter Storm Fern
Photo by Landin Hardy

ENERGY

NEWS



RRC Central Records
Digitization Milestone

2025

RRC Year in Review



03 Upcoming
Events

TABLE OF

CONTENTS



Chance Karshens and Darius Phillips,
Safety Officers, at the State Operations
Center during Winter Storm Fern

Page 3
Upcoming Events

Page 4
Letter from the RRC

Page 5
Year in Review

Page 6
Winter Storm Fern

Page 8
**Central Records Division
Milestone**

Page 10
Listening Sessions
Register for the event

Page 11
Texas Energy on Track Podcast

Page 12
COMMISSIONERS' CORNER

UPCOMING EVENTS

Listen to a
New Episode
Every Other
Wednesday!

Texas Energy On Track
Episodes 11 and 12
Out Now



Wednesday, Noon

Listening Sessions:
Understanding the
RRC

Remote via Microsoft
Teams.

MAR
11
2026

MAR
25
2026

Open Meeting

Join us in Austin at the
William B. Travis Building or
online by visiting:
[https://www.rrc.texas.gov/g.
eneral-counsel/open-
meetings/](https://www.rrc.texas.gov/general-counsel/open-meetings/)

Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.





FROM THE RRC

ENERGY NEWS

Welcome to the February edition of *Energy News*. As we move through the winter months, the agency remains committed to facilitating the consistent flow of natural gas for home heating and to the Texas electric grid, supporting the safety and well-being of Texans.

Thank you for reading and for staying engaged with the work of the Railroad Commission. We look forward to sharing new updates, insights and accomplishments with you in the months ahead.

YEAR IN REVIEW

IF YOU MISSED THE 2025 YEAR IN REVIEW, READ IT HERE!
[HTTPS://WWW.RRC.TEXAS.GOV/RESOURCE-CENTER/REPORTS-AND-PUBLICATIONS/YEAR-IN-REVIEW/](https://www.rrc.texas.gov/resource-center/reports-and-publications/year-in-review/)

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."

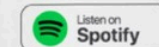
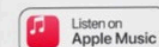
With STOPTheft now in motion, Texas is taking decisive action to safeguard its energy resources, enhance public safety and shield the state's economic foundation against criminal activity.



RRC LAUNCHES



TEXAS
**ENERGY
ON TRACK**
AN RRC PODCAST



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.



THANK YOU

to the frontline oilfield workers, first responders, linemen and all those who worked tirelessly across Texas during Winter Storm Fern to keep the state operational.



Railroad Commission Chairman Jim Wright, Commissioner Christi Craddick and Commissioner Wayne Christian would like to thank the frontline oilfield workers, first responders, linemen and all those who worked tirelessly across Texas during Winter Storm Fern to keep the state operational. Because of their efforts, the Texas natural gas supply chain remained stable throughout the event, delivering critical fuel to homes and power generators.

During the event, the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) actively supported industry partners by conducting daily meetings to oversee field operations and provide guidance to essential infrastructure operators.

The agency also maintained a continuous, 24/7 presence at the State Operations Center, collaborating closely with partner agencies to support response efforts and facilitate an adequate natural gas supply to keep Texans safe this winter season.

The RRC will continue its critical infrastructure inspections throughout the remainder of the winter to help ensure the reliability and safety of Texas' energy system. We remain committed to working alongside industry and state partners to maintain critical facilities and keep energy flowing, regardless of conditions.

For more information on weather emergency resources, please visit rrc.texas.gov/weather.



“ Texas’ response to the recent winter storm shows how much the state has improved over the past five years. I’m proud of the progress we’ve made through the efforts of Texas energy producers, pipeline operators, and RRC staff who put in the work to weatherize and prepare our infrastructure. Because of them, we were able to help ensure homes stayed warm and the electric grid remained stable during Winter Storm Fern.

— Jim Wright, Railroad Commission Chairman ”

“ Texas’ energy system is strongest when preparation meets execution, and that’s exactly what we saw during this winter weather event. Thanks to the dedication of frontline workers and the close coordination between the Railroad Commission, industry, and our state partners, natural gas continued flowing to homes and power generators when Texans needed it most. Our focus remains on vigilance, reliability, and ensuring critical infrastructure performs under any conditions.

— Christi Craddick, Railroad Commissioner ”



“ While a winter storm bore down on Texas, thousands of workers were out in the cold, around the clock, making sure oil and natural gas kept flowing. Because of their grit, professionalism, and sacrifice, millions of families were able to stay warm, safe, and secure in their homes. These men and women are the backbone of our energy system, and Texas owes them a debt of gratitude.

— Wayne Christian, Railroad Commissioner ”



RRC Completes Digitization of 100 Million Records

The Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) began 2026 by surpassing a major milestone: digitizing more than 100 million oil and gas records.

This monumental effort by the Commission's Central Records office is a direct reflection of the agency's commitment to improved transparency and efficiency.

With nearly a century's worth of documents digitized and available online, researchers will be able to access the 100,205,204 files from anywhere in the world rather than having to travel to the RRC headquarters in Austin. This includes a wide variety of documents, such as oil and gas well records, hearing files, permits and reports - all routinely used by researchers, landowners, energy companies and public information requesters.

In addition, this improves the efficiency of RRC Central Records staff, who are able to focus on larger and more complex records research requests, improving overall response time and saving man hours.

These accomplishments are part of a broader effort to enhance the Commission's digital capabilities, building on its agency-wide achievements in efficiency to support responsible energy production and to protect Texans and the environment. Other recent improvements include the use of new online tools like the Online Inspection Lookup (RRC OIL) and the Pipeline Inspection Permitting and Evaluation System (PIPES). These cloud-based systems allow operators to file applications and reports electronically and enable 24/7 public access to inspection and violation data.

Records that have been digitized can be found on the RRC's website at <https://www.rrc.texas.gov/resource-center/research/research-queries/imaged-records/imaged-records-menu/>.



“

Digitizing 100 million records represents a significant achievement in the Railroad Commission's ability to better serve Texans, streamlining access to our vast library of files and continuing to expand our modernization efforts.

”

— Wei Wang, RRC Executive Director

CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION

The Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) continues to advance its commitment to public engagement and transparency through its remote Listening Sessions. These important sessions offer Texans an accessible forum to learn more about the agency's mission and regulatory responsibilities. Held bimonthly, the sessions are coordinated by the RRC's Office of Public Engagement (OPE) and include an overview of the RRC followed by discussions led by the agency's subject matter experts.

During our first two sessions, attendees posed thoughtful questions and comments on topics such as orphaned well management, natural resource stewardship and other key regulatory priorities.

“**Thank you all for starting this program. It's very beneficial for the residents of the city to understand what the Railroad Commission does. Thank you very much.**”

— Houston, TX Resident



UPCOMING SESSION DETAILS:

Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2026

Time: Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Format: Microsoft Teams, with dial-in option. Spanish translation will be provided.

Registration: Register in advance here:

<https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/8889c3fe-3384-46f3-9c89-934493333d69@a3b01f75-ff4a-4001-9d68-9ba9ec5ea0bc>

TEXAS ENERGY ON TRACK PODCAST

EPISODE 11

Site Remediation

Host Bryce Dubee and co-host Nick Kraynok sit down with Peter Pope, Site Remediation Manager at the RRC. Their discussion ranges from cleaning up pollution in the oilfield and protecting the environment to how the RRC repurposes abandoned oil and gas sites.

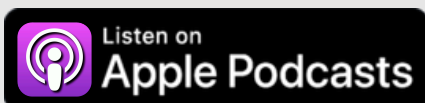
EPISODE 12

Pipeline Damage Prevention

Bryce and Nick are joined by Miles Kirk, Pipeline Safety Support Manager at the RRC, to discuss Chapter 18 requirements for digging underground, the importance of calling 811 before you dig, what to do when an underground line is damaged and more.



CHOOSE YOUR FAVORITE PLATFORM





CHAIRMAN WRIGHT

COMMISSIONERS' CORNER

In January, Chairman Wright traveled to Midland, Texas, joining representatives of the EPA's Water Division for a tour of produced water recycling facilities.

Later in the month, Chairman Wright traveled to Houston, where he addressed members of the Texas Pipeline Association and thanked them for their efforts to ensure that the state's critical natural gas infrastructure is weatherized and prepared to meet Texas' heating and electricity demands during the winter season.

Following the tour, Chairman Wright led a roundtable discussion where he emphasized the importance of treating produced water and to highlight how alternatives to underground injection can strengthen domestic energy production while supplying a new water source for drought-stricken regions of Texas.





COMMISSIONER CHRISTIAN

COMMISSIONERS' CORNER

This last month, Commissioner Christian traveled to speak to constituents in Smith County, Grand Prairie, and Austin to share a message focused on the importance of maintaining access to energy that is affordable, abundant, and dependable for Texans and businesses alike.

His remarks emphasized how reliable energy underpins everyday life, from keeping homes comfortable and hospitals operating to supporting manufacturing, transportation, and food supply chains. Christian highlighted that energy reliability is not just an abstract concept, but something people notice most when it is disrupted.

Consistent access to power and fuel helps families plan their budgets with confidence and allows employers to operate efficiently and create jobs. He also pointed to the role that domestic energy production plays in providing price stability and reducing exposure to global supply disruptions. In his message, Christian stressed that long-term planning and continued investment are essential to ensuring energy systems can meet demand during periods of extreme weather and population growth.

OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY RESOURCES

OIL & 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 CURRENT PRODUCTION STATISTICS](#)

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS



THE COMMISSION HAS PRIMARY
OVERSIGHT AND ENFORCEMENT OF
THE STATE'S OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY
AND INTRASTATE PIPELINE SAFETY.

[VIEW LATEST 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](#)

FEBRUARY 2026

ENERGY

NEWS

A RAILROAD COMMISSION PUBLICATION



2026 • ISSUE NO. 2