

# Transcript

March 11, 2026, 4:56PM

**KK** Katherine Kopec 0:34

All right. Welcome, everyone. We're so glad to have you all here for today's listening session. We'll give folks a few more minutes to join so we can get started right at 12. All right. Thank you everyone for being here. Umm Bryce, if you're ready to kick us off.

**BD** Bryce Dubee 4:16

Absolutely. And good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to our third Railroad Commission of Texas listening session. Honestly, we're thrilled to have you guys here joining us today. Before we jump into this, for anyone who would prefer a Spanish language option, you should see a pop-up when you first join asking for language options and that.

Will allow you to switch to Spanish audio. My name is Bryce Duby. I'm the Railroad Commission Agency spokesperson and I will be your host for today's event. The schedule for today's session will start with a brief overview on RC jurisdiction and move into our public comment period. If time allows, then we'll move into a Q&A session and allow for comments from any remaining attendees.

Before we begin, just want to roll through a couple little bits of housekeeping here. As you may have noticed when you logged on, all participants, cameras and microphones are turned off. For those who have registered to provide a comment or question later in the meeting when we open up our comment section.

I will call you by name when it's your time to speak and one of our staff will temporarily turn on your camera and microphone. After you have spoken, your microphone camera will be turned off. And I would know if you don't want your camera on while speaking, that's totally fine as well. And all we do ask is that all your comments be made in a respectful manner towards our staff and all present.

Here today, I will also note that with our Spanish language option, I'm going to hand this over right now to my colleague Rafael Navas with the Office of Public Engagement, and he's going to briefly explain how some of those things work. So over to you, Rafael.

Thank you so much. At this time, I would like to introduce you to our subject matter

experts here at the Railroad Commission who are representing their divisions and will take your feedback back to their respective offices. From the Oil and Gas Division, we have Paul Dubois.

David Lindley and Jared Ware from Surface Mining Reclamation. We have Kimberly Jackson from the Office of Communications and Public Engagement. We have Madison Giorgito and Scott Srof from Oversight and Safety.

We have Kendall Smith replacing Stephanie today, Marzi Bolazani and Eric Gardner. And from Sherman Wright's office we have Erin Kraji.

And most importantly, we do have all of y'all here and we do want to thank you for participating and taking time out of your day to join us and for your interest in the Railroad Commission. At this time, I will hand things over to Scott, who will provide a brief overview of the Commission.

**SS** **Scott Sroufe** 7:15

Thank you, Bryce. I want to go ahead and make sure that I think we missed Kimberly Jackson from our Surface Mining and Reclamation Department. She's with us on the call as well as Keith May from our Oil and Gas Division. Thank you both for being here as subject matter experts and we're going to go ahead right on into our presentation. I'm going to tell you a little bit about the agency.

Itself, beginning with our mission. Our mission can be summed up in one word, and that word is serve. We want to serve Texas by our new stewardship of natural resources and the environment, our concern for personal and community safety, and also our support of the enhanced economic economy for the benefit of all Texas.

And we have been serving. We're proud to have been serving for the last 135 years as the oldest Regulatory agency in the state, established in 1891. Today we are led by three statewide elected commissioners.

Each one of our commissioners serves a six year staggered term, which means that one seat is up for election or reelection every two years.

Today at the Railroad Commission, we have jurisdiction over the exploration and production of oil and natural gas, intrastate pipeline safety, alternative fuels such as propane, compressed natural gas and liquefied natural gas, critical natural gas infrastructure, natural gas utilities and coal and uranium surface.

Mining operations. We also have jurisdiction over hydrogen and geothermal industries within the state.

There are some things that are commonly considered part of the oil and gas industry

that are not our jurisdiction. However, those are roads and traffic, the siting of oil and gas facilities, including the siting of pipelines and pipeline facilities, noise, odors and lighting, mineral interest, royalty agreements and lease.

Agreements, air quality issues and railroads. The last of our railroad authority was transferred to the Texas Department of Transportation in 2005.

Texas is the largest oil and gas producing state in the nation. Today we produce over 4.75 million barrels of oil each day and over 30.1 billion or 30.8 billion cubic feet of natural gas daily.

We have 4 regulatory divisions within the Railroad Commission. First is our Oil and Gas Division, our Oversight and Safety Division, Critical Infrastructure Division and our Surface Mining and Reclamation Division. I'm going to take the next few minutes and just tell you a little bit about each one of those divisions, beginning with Oil and Gas Division.

Our oil and gas division consists of three distinct departments. Administrative compliance is really the record keeping arm of the oil and gas division. They process operator reports and financial assurance for operators working within the state. They also process drilling permits.

Production reports and other regulatory required forms. Our technical permitting section is much like the name implies. They provide or process our technical permits, including those for Class 6 carbon storage wells and other underground injection permits.

They also handle waste and permitting, waste and recycling permits and technical permitting houses our Geologic Advisory Unit, which works to protect our underground sources of drinking water. Field Operations is by far the largest group within our oil and gas division, and it consists of inspectors. Across the state who work out of district offices and respond to incidents and complaints. They perform inspections and work in the areas of cleanup, site remediation and well plugging.

Our Oversight and Safety Division also has three departments. Pipeline safety inspectors do not only routine inspections of pipelines and facilities, but they also complete a number of special inspections, including new construction inspections, pipeline integrity inspections.

And even drug and alcohol inspections of operator staff, our pipeline and safety.

Inspectors are trained to the standards of the Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, or PHMSA, who's the federal agency regulating Interstate pipelines. Our regulation of intrastate pipelines meets or exceeds PHMSA standards.

Our Alternative Fuels department provides training, testing, certification and licenses for all

employees within the alternative fuels industry. Our alternative fuels inspectors inspect storage and dispensing facilities and they also investigate incidents.

Our market oversight team works to ensure that Texans have a continuous safe supply of natural gas at the lowest reasonable price. They review appeals on natural gas and distribution company rate requests. They administer the gas pipeline utility tax and they perform utility audits on the gas.

Distribution, distribution companies, excuse me, like our oil and gas division, we have 7 pipeline safety regional offices throughout the state so that we are ready and able to serve you. In addition, we have 17 alternative fuels.

Offices throughout the state as well. Another section within our Oversight and Safety Division is our Pipeline Damage Prevention team. This team provides education and outreach to professional excavators and homeowners alike to help prevent pipeline incidents or pipeline damage by calling 811 before any excavators.

And they also process damage reports when that damage does occur.

Our Critical Infrastructure division exists to ensure that an uninterrupted supply of natural gas is available throughout the year, especially during the times of energy emergencies. They do this in three ways. First, they ensure that all natural gas suppliers who meet certain requirements for electrical production.

Are designated as critical. They also process reports of critical entities that include their operating procedures of in case of a stoppage and weatherization plans to prevent stoppages. They also provide inspections of facilities to ensure that those weatherization plans are in place. Our inspectors will visit over 7000 facilities to prepare for the winter season alone. Our inspection or inspectors, excuse me, for critical infrastructure work out of four regional offices through the state.

Finally, our Surface Mining and Reclamation Division is really living out the mission of stewardship of our natural resources and the environment. They are responsible for both mining and reclamation permits as well as inspections of those mine facilities.

In Texas, we mine for a lignite coal, which is primarily used for the production of electricity. The abandoned mine land program oversees procedures on mines and completes restoration and safety procedures on mines that have been left as safety hazards. We currently have no active uranium mines in the state of Texas, but our team is involved in overseeing any exploration projects.

Reclamation of Mines takes former mining sites like the Jewett Mine in Jewett, Texas, and turn them into usable land space, such as the Dewey Prairie Garden, which now sits on approximately 10 acres of this former mine, and the IT provides food for over 3000 residents in Freestone and Limestone.

Counties. If you would like to know more about the activity of the Railroad Commission of Texas, we have several one-page briefs available on our website at [www.rrc.texas.gov](http://www.rrc.texas.gov). Of

course, you can always feel free to contact us at any time using any of the methods you see here.

Thank you for your attention. Thank you for being here today. We look forward to your comments. And now I'm going to turn it back over to Bryce.

**BD** Bryce Dubee 15:41

Thank you so much, Scott. We're now going to open the floor for your comments. And again, we would ask that they be presented with dignity, dignity, courtesy and respect for all Commission, agency staff and other participants here. Participants will have approximately 3 minutes to speak, but we will have a ton of registered comments, so we got a little wiggle room on that.

So we we can be flexible, but if you do start to exceed your time, you'll be asked to quickly conclude your comments so that others do have an opportunity. We will call participants by name. As your name is called, please allow us just a moment to turn on your microphone. Again, you don't have to turn on your camera if you don't want to, but you will have the opportunity to do so once your mic and camera are reactivated.

They will be turned off again at the conclusion of your comments. We also have a couple comments. Yep.

**SS** Scott Sroufe 16:26

Bryce, may I interject here just a moment? Make sure that when you when your mic is unmuted on our end, you also still have to unmute your mic on your end as well. So give us just a moment to unmute your mic and then you may also unmute your mic as well. Then we will mute you when your comments are finished.

Thanks, Bryce.

**BD** Bryce Dubee 16:46

Perfect. And then we do have a comment that was submitted in advance that will we will have someone here read during our comment period. And with that being said, our first comment, we're going to go to Arena who's joining us from Dripping Springs. Go right ahead.

**KK** Katherine Kopec 17:22

Irina, you should be unmuted if you're able to unmute on your end now.  
OK.

**BD** Bryce Dubee 17:44

And it would just be the we can keep you on there. It should be the just click the microphone button. There should be an op a spot up there to unmute in the meantime.

**KK** Katherine Kopec 17:52

Yeah.

**BD** Bryce Dubee 17:56

We can wait here, Katie. I know we have a comment that was submitted in advance, so we can go over to that one if you want to.

**KK** Katherine Kopec 18:04

Yes, I will be reading this on behalf of David. This is his comment. Oil and or gas wells drilled in Texas must not be allowed to become orphaned. Ownership and responsibility must be maintained in perpetuity. The issue of leaking orphaned wells is an extremely serious issue in Texas as well as anywhere else in this country and the rest.

Of the world where oil and gas drilling, excuse me, has occurred for that matter. This issue must be addressed more seriously by the Texas RRC going forward.

**BD** Bryce Dubee 18:36

And we thank you for that comment again. Arena, if you want to give a shot with your microphone to, we should have you on mute. You should be able to speak. If not, you feel free to type your question into the chat as well. I know we had another person registered to speak. I'm not seeing them.

On here yet, so we can stand by for them as well. What we can do in the meantime, we do have time here for some brief feedback or questions from other folks who are participating today. If you do have something you would like to ask, click either the raise your raise hand button.

Or you can click the Q&A button both. You should see it on the top of teams and you can either type in your question or we can unmute you to speak so we can leave

that open for folks if anyone does have a question or comment at this time. And I'll just give a few seconds here if folks are typing anything in Q&A or again, if you want to click uh, raise, raise your hand, we will get you unmuted. Um. To provide your question or comment for staff here. And again, we do appreciate everyone's turn out coming to join us today. Oh, I've got one right there from Julie. Hold on one second. We will get you unmuted.

**KK** **Katherine Kopec** 20:04  
OK, Julie, you should be able to unmute your mic from your side.

**20:15**  
Did that work?

**JR** **Julie Range** 20:17  
That work.

**SS** **Scott Sroufe** 20:19  
Yes.

**JR** **Julie Range** 20:19  
You can hear me great. OK. So I I've been very concerned about produced water injection in the Class 2 disposal wells and I've spoken to the Commission at the last open meeting.

**BD** **Bryce Dubee** 20:19  
We've got you.

**JR** **Julie Range** 20:35  
I it seems like we need a a rule making to strengthen the rules around the state and I just wanted to see if there is discussion internally about that.  
And what would it take to to push for a stronger rule?  
That's based on science and not just but like one of the things like the area review for example in in my personal opinion, we should be looking at where the injection is going and set the area of review based on where we anticipate.

this going and not just some arbitrary guidelines of 1/2 mile or two miles even. I'll stop there.

**BD** Bryce Dubee 21:32

OK, great. Thanks for that. I know we do have some folks on here. I know we can't get too ahead of ourselves on rulemaking, but I think we probably have some good insight. I see Paul popped on, so go right ahead, Sir.

**PD** Paul Dubois 21:43

Yeah. Hi, Julie. Um. So first of all, um.

Under, I believe, the Administrative Practices Act or Administrative Procedures Act, a member of the public can petition the the Commission to undertake rulemaking. So that's an option for any member of the public. I do know with regard to Rules 9 and 46.

Staff. The Commission staff does anticipate requesting.

The Commission allow us to open a rulemaking.

Soon. I'm not sure exactly when. I know there are some issues with Rules 9 and 46.

We don't know yet exactly the scope of that rule making, but we do know there are a number of issues on those rules that that staff believe need to be addressed. So.

I would look for some aspect of that coming up. This is something I know in public speaking that I've done at conferences and whatnot that that I've made mention of in the past, so it's not really a secret.

But we don't really have a time frame yet or an official start date or necessarily the blessing of the Commission to get going. So it but I would look for it to happen.

Soon.

**BD** Bryce Dubee 23:20

OK. Thank you for that. I do see we were able to get Arena back on. Julie, was that was that just before I wanted to make sure we closed out with you first before we go on if that worked for you, if you have any follow-ups, OK.

**JR** Julie Range 23:30

Yeah. Thank you. That's helpful. Thank you.

**BD** Bryce Dubee 23:34

OK, Arena, apologies for the technical issues on our end. Let's give that another shot. Looks like you are unmuted, so go right ahead.

I'm not hearing you on our end. Again, if anyone has a question, if we're having a technical issue with this, you feel free to type your question into the chat as well. And if anyone else has any questions or comments they would like to do, I'll just hit the raise your hand button and we are more than happy to.

Take care of those. So just gonna see if we can get anything else going on here with Arena. Nothing heard yet. Give you one second. Go right ahead.

And again, I apologize for these technical issues with that. You are unmuted. I'm not sure. I'm looking at my end here, not seeing anything.

**KK** Katherine Kopec 24:40

Yeah, we're seeing the same thing here. Apologies. Oh, wait, what?

**BD** Bryce Dubee 24:41

No, I'm. Yeah, I I we're seeing the same thing here. Apologies. Oh, wait, go ahead. Still can't hear anything.

But if you have, if you have a question, feel free to put it into the chat. I did see your note in the chat here, so we can go from there. Does anyone else who is joining us have any other questions or comments as well?

You have a comment on carbon capture. You were prepared to me OK.

Let me see.

**SS** Scott Sroufe 25:30

Irina, I see that you have two profiles open here. If you don't mind if you would log out and just try to log back in again. I'm not sure why we're having this issue, but you are unmuted so.

Um.

**BD** Bryce Dubee 25:57

OK, we will stand by for you. We're definitely not going to disconnect.

So we will wait for that. In the meantime, if anyone else has anything they would like have a question about or any comments, please let us know. You can either raise your hand or tap into the Q&A and we can.

Do all of that. In the meantime, Scott, I know we have another listening session lined up. When is the date for that one?

**SS** **Scott Sroufe** 26:24

That next one will be held on May. You caught me off guard there.

**KK** **Katherine Kopec** 26:30

Oh.

**SS** **Scott Sroufe** 26:31

It is. Let me up. Let me check my calendar. That's OK. I should have had this. I'm sorry.

**BD** **Bryce Dubee** 26:35

Sorry about that. Um.

**KK** **Katherine Kopec** 26:37

May 13th, I think.

**IK** **Irina Kopponen** 26:39

Now.

**KK** **Katherine Kopec** 26:40

May May 13th.

**BD** **Bryce Dubee** 26:41

Oh yeah, we can hear you.

**SS** **Scott Sroufe** 26:43

Yes, May 13th. Thank you.

**BD** **Bryce Dubee** 26:45

And I just heard Arena, we've got you on here. Yes, yes, we can.

**IK** **Irina Kopponen** 26:47  
Can you hear me now?

**KK** **Katherine Kopec** 26:48  
Yes.

**SS** **Scott Sroufe** 26:48  
Yes, thanks, Arena.

**BD** **Bryce Dubee** 26:55  
Go right ahead.  
Hmm, OK.

**IK** **Irina Kopponen** 27:13  
Can you hear me?

**BD** **Bryce Dubee** 27:14  
And you dropped off. Oh, are you there? There we go.  
I apologize, you're dropping in and out. I'm seeing you on there, but I just can't. It's.  
I'm not sure what the.  
Trick is here. Um.  
We will stand by on that end.  
No, we still can't hear you. Unfortunately, you popped in for a second and then it disappeared. So I'm not sure we've got a question in the comment, yes.

**IK** **Irina Kopponen** 27:50  
Can you hear me now?  
OK, I use teams all the time. I don't know what's going on with this.  
OK, if you can hear me, let me know when you're ready for.

**BD** **Bryce Dubee** 28:05  
You are ready. You have the floor.

**IK** **Irina Kopponen** 28:07

OK. Thank you so much. So my name is Irina Kopponen. I'm commenting on behalf of myself as a taxpayer in Texas and a citizen who loves nature. My question concern how the Texas Railroad Commission will ensure responsible carbon capture and sequestration in Texas since being granted primacy in late.

2025 over to Class 6 wells. I hope there is a commitment to to the requirements and best practices set by set up by EPA for Class 6 wells to ensure long term storage of carbon dioxide, also known as CO<sub>2</sub>, without allowing exceptions.

EPAS regulations include considerations of which the following three at least need to be specific to CO<sub>2</sub> to ensure permanent containment. So those are #1 ensuring the injection is into a suitable formation that is capable of containing CO<sub>2</sub> permanently. Two, ensuring proper well design including CO<sub>2</sub> resistant materials of construction and three ensuring monitoring throughout the active life plus 50 years post injection monitoring. So these requirements and others are critical and they would be covered in the Class 6 permits.

It would be concerning if the 45 Q tax credits for carbon capture and sequestration were allowed for enhanced oil recovery. That my understanding is that the enhanced oil recovery currently occurs in Class 2 wells that don't have those requirements, so it wouldn't be ensured that CO<sub>2</sub> would be permanently.

Captured. So allowing enhanced oil recovery, you get the carbon credits would be unfair to taxpayers, especially when there's no carbon tax. So the single reason for carbon capture and sequestration is to remove and prevent additional CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere and so whether the CCS or.

Carbon capture is a transitional technology only used until low carbon future happens or as a permanent technology that is allowed to continue after you know the use of fossil fuels into the future. That reporting and monitoring would be important to ensure that technology works as intended.

So recap, it's critical that the Railroad Commission apply the EPA Classics well requirements to all CO<sub>2</sub> injection without exception, and then the data should be made available to the public to be transparent.

Does that make sense?

**BD** Bryce Dubee 30:33

That does. Thank you so much for your feedback on that. Do we have anyone on the Railroad Commission side who would like to provide comment on that? Oh, Paul, go right ahead.

**PD Paul Dubois** 30:44

Yes, hi. Hi, Irina. The the Classics program is under my direction and the the the three points you raised are on the requirements of the EPA program. Those points are all requirements of our program in fact.

EPA would not have granted us primacy unless the elements of the of of our program did not satisfy. We're not at least as strict as the EPA program, so.

Those issues, the injection into a suitable formation for confinement, suitable well designed to handle the corrosive and other properties of the carbon dioxide and appropriate monitoring. Those are all things that our program will ensure and maintain.

So we have experienced and trained staff. We are working diligently on this. We've issued one permit and there are I believe 17 other permit applications in process currently.

O.

**IK Irina Kopponen** 32:00

What about the enhanced oil recovery use?

**PD Paul Dubois** 32:05

So carbon dioxide has been used in enhanced oil recovery for many years. There are separate tax credits or tax benefits for that under a state program with regard to I I'm personally not sure about how 45Q plays into that.

Um.

But that would not be class 6. That would you're right, that would be Class 2.

But we have separate state tax severance tax benefits under our under the state tax code and statewide Rule 50 that pertain to enhanced oil recovery which may use. CO2.

**IK Irina Kopponen** 32:55

But that would not get credit for carbon capture per SE.

**PD Paul Dubois** 32:59

I am not sure it may if the carbon is anthropogenic CO2. Now it would it would still it

would not be under the class 6 program.

I could look into that question and get back with you.

**IK** **Irina Kopponen** 33:22

I would be interested in that would be my concern like it was injected into a Class 2 well, how would it be ensured that that CO2 stays contained, stays sequestered because.

It wouldn't be reviewed in the Class 6 process.

**PD** **Paul Dubois** 33:40

Yeah, I understand what you're saying. I'm not sure if, I'm not sure if that's something that actually exactly where or how that falls into the program or not. So I do know that CO2 is used and injected.

**IK** **Irina Kopponen** 33:41

Yeah.

OK.

**PD** **Paul Dubois** 33:55

I'm generally that is not considered sequestration that is considered enhanced or recovery.

But I I can't say for sure if that is always the case, but I I will look into that and I can communicate a response to you.

**IK** **Irina Kopponen** 34:16

Thank you. I appreciate that and I hope that, you know, future developments are made available to the public so everyone can learn. Thanks.

**PD** **Paul Dubois** 34:24

OK.

**BD** **Bryce Dubee** 34:26

Thank you for that. We have another question here in the chat. Can the Commission provide a current count of active wells producing under 15 BOE a day, IE stripper

wells? And is that data publicly accessible in a downloadable format?

I will refer back over to oil and gas who is on the call. Go ahead.

**KM** **Keith May** 34:54

So, so we do have that information on the website. I'm trying to go find the link for it, but on our website we have this chart with all these kind of blue boxes that kind of breakdown how many wells are active, what their kind of expected output is. It's not, you know, we don't have barrels of oil per day.

For every day, it's kind of like for monthly and this chart is based off like what they tested out when they first became active. So there could be some variability in what they're producing now, but I'll find the link to it. I'll put it in the chat so you can go see it. It's updated every month.

I think the February one will get it updated soon, but I'll put it in the chat for you to see.

**BD** **Bryce Dubee** 35:38

Perfect. Thank you for.

**DL** **David Lindley** 35:38

So to add on to what Keith just said that that is posted on the website, but I don't think that it is and I will have to check, but I don't think it's posted in a downloadable format by well, if that's what you're looking for, Mr. Gonzalez.

We have the number. I'll have to dig in and see if it's a data file that we could.

We could send out in a downloadable format, so let me double check on that, but we should easily get the number of wells.

**KM** **Keith May** 36:16

OK. Yeah, so I might have misunderstood. If you're looking for specific, which ones are the wells? Yeah, this chart just has like like David said, just the number. If you're looking for specifics, I think that'd be an open records request because that would be a little more.

In depth of getting that data to you, pick the back end data that's feeding that chart.

**SS** **Scott Sroufe** 36:40

And Mr. Gonzalez also let me speak to this as well. Any down in the forms that you're

asking for to be downloaded that have that information such as this, if you can't find it on our website already, if you will use that contact us form and or the.

**BD** Bryce Dubee 36:41

OK. And you get that comment there, we would be.

**SS** Scott Sroufe 37:00

The public assist e-mail inbox which is public assist at RRC dot texas.gov and just request this. We will get with digital who would be the person, the department that would be managing that download for you and we would see if that is available and they will respond to you whether or not they.

They can provide that information.

**BD** Bryce Dubee 37:26

And I see, Julie, you've got your hand raised. Let's get you unmuted and go right ahead. And there's the link that is put put in the chat for the well breakdowns.

**JR** Julie Range 37:39

Yeah, on the this prompted me to remember on produced water. It's hard to find reports on spills and clean up and like what? What?

Yeah.

Just numbers around that, like how much is filled, how much is cleaned up, where things are in the cleanup process. Is there is there somewhere to go to look for that information? That would be really helpful.

And actually similarly water volumes that are injected, that would be another one I would appreciate saying and I know, I know y'all are planning to do some things with the better tracking of produced water. I know y'all got some additional funding to improve your tracking on that and I.

I guess I'm curious as to where you see all of that going. Will that allow for better reporting availability for spill data and clean up data and injection data and just just general balances around all of the?

Roduce water.

Check out there.

**PD Paul Dubois** 38:53

So Julie, I can answer some of that. So the injection.

**JC Jose Corpus** 38:56

OK.

**PD Paul Dubois** 39:01

Currently, injection volume data can be found on our website under the Research Queries tab for under Forms H10. There's a series of queries that you can identify how much.

Of various types of fluids are injected on a monthly basis in a number of ways. We are in the process of developing 2 systems one.

To have operators report the amount of water produced, water produced every month and a second system that will improve the amount of water injected, the amounts and pressure, volume and pressure.

Injected. Those systems won't be.

Operational for another year or so, probably until about June of 2027. They're fairly robust systems.

That will be managing large volumes of data, but those are currently under development and those are coming along with regard to spill information. I I would defer that to our field operations folks.

Probably either at the district level or in site remediation to answer information on spills.

**KM Keith May** 40:38

I think so do you like to add to the spills? I I'm sure you're kind of familiar with the H8 forms, so that can give you, you know, some insight into the the spills that have been reported to us. And if you don't have the link to that, I'll put that in the chat too to see.

It's kinda we we aggregate it into an Excel file and that gets posted on the website. I think every quarter is when that data's run, so I'll put that in the chat as well. And if you have more questions you can always e-mail and get some deeper information.

**JR Julie Range** 41:11

Yeah, that would be helpful to have a more robust system for tracking spills. We'd appreciate that, but I'll see what you got. Thank you.

**JC** **Jose Corpus** 41:19  
OK.

**BD** **Bryce Dubee** 41:23  
Thank you. I know we still got some folks on here. If anyone else has any other questions or comments, I think we're maybe getting towards the end of this here. So this may be sort of a last call. If you have anything you'd like to add, feel free to raise your hand, put it in the chat or go through the Q&A option and we'll be happy to field it.

**JC** **Jose Corpus** 41:25  
So.  
I.

**BD** **Bryce Dubee** 41:42  
As best as we can. So I'm going to keep sort of stalling and tap dancing here while I'm talking with y'all. Again, we appreciate everyone coming out to join us today for these listening sessions. These are held every other month, so our next one will be. In not April, May and we will be coming back. So if you know anyone else who might have any questions or feedback or comments for the Royal Commission, they are always welcome to participate. Not seeing any hands at this time. We do have a couple things put into the chat from our subject matter experts here. That have some of those links to the different volumes and things, but more than happy to feel any other questions at this time. Not seeing anything else, so I will hand this over to Scott to round out today's event.

**SS** **Scott Sroufe** 42:31  
All right. Thank you again, Bryce. And thank you for all of you who participated today, either by making public comment or just being here with us. Thanks to our subject matter experts who help us understand what is going on. As Bryce mentioned, there are several things in listed in the chat, links to different things that have been.

Discussed here in this meeting today. Please make sure you grab those before you take off today. Make sure that you get those and this recording of this presentation will be available on our website on the Public Engagement webpage. If you'll look there at [rrc.texas.gov](http://rrc.texas.gov), look for the Public Engagement icon.

And then Scroll down toward the bottom of the screen, you'll see the listening sessions button. Tap on that listening sessions button and you'll see recordings of all past listening sessions that we've had, as well as written transcripts of this meetings. So make sure you get those if you're interested or share those with anyone else who may be interested.

Interested in learning more about the work of the Railroad Commission. Once again, hope to see you in May. If you would like to join us in May, it will be May 13th. Again, same time. The registration is already open and live on the website there, same place you'll find the recordings and transcriptions.

**JC** **Jose Corpus** 43:31  
Yes.

**SS** **Scott Sroufe** 43:49  
Just look for us there, register today and we'll see you next time. Thank you so much.

**BD** **Bryce Dubee** 43:55  
And oh, before we go, we've got one more person. The reason I think we missed him right at the end there from Jose has a question, so apologies for that.

**KK** **Katherine Kopec** 43:55  
Oh, before we go, we've got one more person...

**JC** **Jose Corpus** 44:00  
OK.

**SS** **Scott Sroufe** 44:01  
OK. Sorry, Jose.

**JC** **Jose Corpus** 44:05  
Yes, thank you. Can you all hear me? I apologize. I'm not too familiar with Teams yet,

so I apologize for that. But I have one last question and my name is Jose Corpus. I'm a community recognizer for Commission Chief and I really appreciate, you know, your efforts to opening this platform.

**KK** Katherine Kopec 44:07  
Like this?

**BD** Bryce Dubee 44:07  
Loud and clear.

**SS** Scott Sroufe 44:07  
Yes, we can.

**JC** Jose Corpus 44:24  
For discussions, right? And issues that impact our communities. But one of my concern is, is you know, we know that the real Commission of the meetings are conducted once a month in Austin, right? They usually happen during the day on a time with more working Texas cannot attend a meeting or cannot afford. There's also a lot of concerns about the elderly and disabled with mobility issues, right? So there's a lot of barriers to in public participation when these meetings are happening, you know, at the rubber Commission now. I now see that this living inventions are also conducted during when most work indexes are on the clock, right? So are there any future plans that this living invention will be extended to maybe evenings? To give, you know, those impacted community members the opportunity to participate, let's say maybe at 6:00 PM, right, when most people are at home and then to give them time to, you know, to rest and be ready to participate. And also, are there any plans to extend this? What is intention to an in person session in those affected communities and and I'm sorry and lastly are there aren't any plans for the rural Commission to allow remote public import for those impact community members that live in remotely rural communities right in. Cannot afford to travel to Austin for a 3 minute and no public comment. Thank you.

**SS** Scott Sroufe 46:02

Thank you, Jose, for those comments and I will answer some of these questions for you here. We provided these listening sessions as an alternative to those public open meetings. Like you said, we do have the open meeting process. Anyone who wishes to travel to Austin and speak directly to the commissioners is able able to do so. Through that open meeting. But we realize that there are many Texans across the state who cannot do that, either by because of travel or because of the work schedule for the day. They can't take the time or needed or the travel needed to be here in Austin.

So that's why we provided these listening sessions. We've started them off on a every other month basis. We do hope to expand these to more often as we continue to grow and so we continue to see a need for these. But right now we have options available for virtual attendance as well.

As by phone, so you don't even have to have an Internet access to join these listening sessions. You may join by phone. We did that to specifically include all of those without broadband access. The listening sessions were designed to meet at noon.

Hopefully to alleviate the the situation of, you know, people during the work day, we hope to catch people during their lunch hour at the during these listening sessions. Right now there is no current conversation about expanding these to other times, although.

We we're still in the beginning stages of these sessions, so we're going to see how they go and move forward from there. And as far as in person meetings, these listening sessions are really meant to be just virtual and by phone only.

To make sure that people can attend as best as possible. That way it gives everybody an opportunity no matter where you live. We could have people from El Paso and Orange County, all at Orange, TX all at the same time here and during one of these virtual sessions where we could not do that and are.

We don't have the resources or staff available to travel the entire state to host in-person meetings. So that's just out of our reach right now. Our public engagement division or office is available to do public meetings. So if there is a request to have a Public engagement speaker in your community or in communities. They may request that speaker directly through the Office of Public Engagement webpage. On our website, there is a request a speaker button. We're more than happy to entertain options to visit within communities to meet with community groups or organizations. Or however, we can do that to answer questions and listen to concerns and provide a

presentation of who we are, what we do and how we do it. I hope that answers your question. Are there anything? Is there anything else?

**JC** **Jose Corpus** 49:07

Yes, any any plans from River Commission to allow remote public input, you know, remotely.

**SS** **Scott Sroufe** 49:08

Before we close.

Remotely at this time, this is the only option we have other than when we ask for public comment here in the next couple of weeks, we will be opening for public comment on our oil and gas monitoring and enforcement plan.

**JC** **Jose Corpus** 49:18

Yes.

**SS** **Scott Sroufe** 49:35

And that will be available. That will all be through via e-mail or mail in letters so we can accept comments there. Any other parts of our public comment process on rule making or permitting processes, those are all available via e-mail or make public or standard.

Ostal mail.

**JC** **Jose Corpus** 49:55

Yeah, what? What I meant? I'm sorry, let me let me rephrase that again. Are there any plans for River Commission to open remote public commit during the monthly River Commission open meetings?

**SS** **Scott Sroufe** 50:08

Not at this time. Um

Maddie or Katie, do you want to address that?

I know we've done some investigating into that.

**MJ** **Maddison Jaureguito** 50:26

To my knowledge, Scott, we don't have any intention to do so at this time. We have been looking into it, but as far as right now, we don't intend to do that.

**SS** **Scott Sroufe** 50:33

Right.

Right. We've researched other agencies that are regulatory agencies that have open meetings such as ours and right now we're we're not finding a any others that are opening to remote comment.

So you know right now we don't have the availability or the facilities that are able to do that.

**JC** **Jose Corpus** 51:02

Thank you.

**SS** **Scott Sroufe** 51:04

All right. Thank you, Jose.

**JC** **Jose Corpus** 51:05

Yes.

**SS** **Scott Sroufe** 51:09

All right. Thank you again for your attendance. We appreciate you being here and hope to see you in May. Please join us using the registration link and we look forward to seeing you again. We look forward to hearing from you again. Thank you.

□ stopped transcription