

JUNE 2026

ENERGY NEWS

FROM THE FIELD
PHOTO BY JIMMY HERNANDEZ



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LETTER FROM THE RRC

ENERGY NEWS

Welcome to the June edition of *Energy News*.

This month highlights the Railroad Commission of Texas' (RRC) ongoing work to strengthen environmental stewardship, expand global energy dialogue and share regulatory insight with partners across the industry. From hosting foreign delegations to contributing expertise at major conferences, June reflects the agency's commitment to responsible regulation, informed policymaking and meaningful partnerships that support a resilient energy future for Texas.



Railroad Commission Chairman Jim Wright Elected to IOGCC Leadership

Jim Wright, Chairman of the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC), was elected to serve as the Second Vice Chair of the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC) during the organization's annual business meeting in Oklahoma City on May 20.

The IOGCC is a multi-state government entity comprised of the governors of oil and gas producing states, including 31 member states and seven affiliate states, along with affiliates from select federal agencies and seven Canadian provinces.

Together, members work to address shared challenges and exchange best practices for effective industry regulation, supporting the conservation and efficient recovery of oil and natural gas resources while protecting health, safety and the environment.

Representing Texas at the IOGCC, Chairman Wright will assume the position of Second Vice Chair, succeeding Jessie Chmielowski, Commissioner of the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission.

Jim Wright is a life-long South Texan and a fifth-generation Texas rancher. He was elected to the RRC in November 2020 and was unanimously elected to serve as Chairman of the Commission in 2025.

Wright believes that the long-term strength of both the Texas economy and the Texas energy industry are fundamentally linked, emphasizing that greater access to global energy markets will help secure Texas' position as an energy and economic powerhouse for years to come.

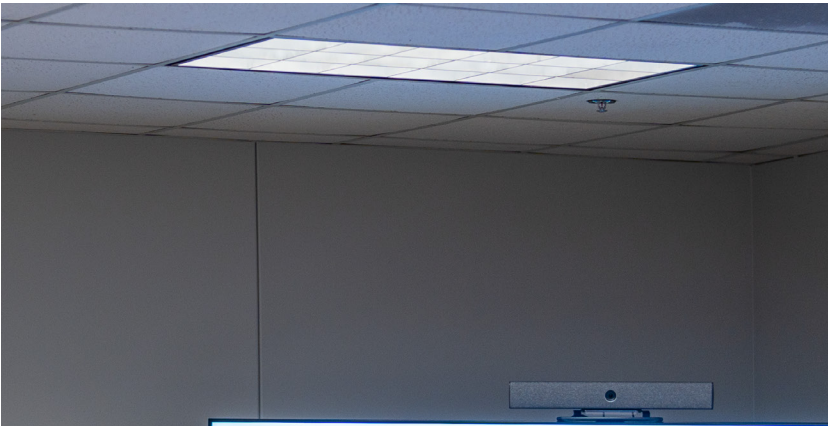
As Railroad Commissioner, he has championed solution-oriented leadership and encouraged the industry and the public to engage collaboratively with the Commission for the long-term benefit of Texans.

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It is a privilege to step into this leadership role at such a pivotal time for American energy. The IOGCC demonstrates that states are best positioned to regulate their natural resources effectively. As Second Vice Chair, my focus will be to foster collaboration among member states, share best practices and ensure our collective voice is heard on the national stage. Together, we will continue to support common-sense policies that drive economic growth, ensure energy security and protect public safety.

- CHAIRMAN JIM WRIGHT

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American Chamber of Commerce in Argentina Meets With RRC Leadership

Railroad Commissioner Christi Craddick welcomed members of the American Chamber of Commerce in Argentina (AmCham Argentina) at the Commission's Austin headquarters on May 19. During the visit, AmCham Argentina members met with Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) subject matter experts for an in depth discussion of the agency's role in energy regulation.

As a global leader, the RRC routinely hosts foreign delegations eager to learn from the Commission's experience in overseeing one of the world's most dynamic energy economies.

Commissioner Craddick provided opening remarks to the delegation, highlighting the RRC's regulatory responsibilities and the importance of international engagement.

"We are honored to welcome back AmCham Argentina members to Texas, and to engage with them in thoughtful dialogue on energy policy," said Commissioner Craddick. "The RRC remains a key player in maintaining Texas' position as a global leader in responsible energy development, and discussions like these strengthen our efforts."

Following the presentation, representatives asked the assembled panel of RRC subject matter experts about a variety of topics, including Texas' regulatory framework, operational safety, pipeline infrastructure and produced water management.

This visit marks the second time in less than a year that an AmCham Argentina delegation has met with the RRC. In June 2025, more than 30 members of the national legislature, government officials, industry executives and municipal leaders visited the RRC in Austin as part of a broader tour of Texas' energy sector.

The Commission has also recently hosted Canadian Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre as well as senior representatives from four leading Canadian pension funds and five major Canadian banks, all interested in learning more about Texas' leadership in energy development.



The Railroad Commission of Texas Hosts the Environmental Protection Agency's Region 6 All-States Quarterly Meeting

The Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) hosted the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) South Central Region (Region 6) All-States Quarterly Meeting at its headquarters in Austin on May 13. The gathering brought together more than 50 federal and state environmental leaders representing 12 agencies across Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

The meeting featured a presentation from EPA's Office of the Inspector General on fraud awareness, along with updates from the Office of Enforcement and Compliance. It also included policy updates and state roundtable discussions.

The event emphasized the ongoing commitment to cooperative federalism, the shared governance model through which EPA and state agencies collaborate to protect public health, manage natural resources and promote responsible economic growth. Region 6 leadership stressed the importance of strengthening interagency coordination as regulatory environments evolve and energy-producing states balance environmental and economic priorities.

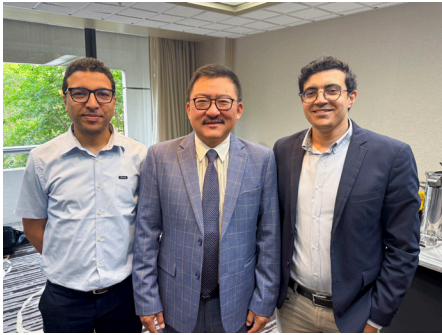
EPA Region 6 Regional Administrator Scott Mason joined agency leaders, including Travis Voyles, Jeffrey Hall and Craig Pritzlaff, along with directors and senior staff from TCEQ, the Texas Water

Development Board and other state partners. Discussions centered on regulatory updates, air quality, water management, permitting and other issues affecting communities and energy producing regions.

Chairman Jim Wright welcomed attendees to the RRC headquarters and emphasized the value of open dialogue between state regulators and federal partners, as well as the importance of continued collaboration. Chairman Wright highlighted the significance of meetings like this, stating, "It is important to acknowledge that over the years, this partnership has evolved into a shared commitment to conserving natural resources while promoting responsible energy development. Today, we demonstrate that state and federal agencies can work together to promote successful environmental management and economic growth for Texas and the nation."

By hosting the All-States Quarterly Meeting, the RRC helped advance a collaborative approach that supports responsible energy development while safeguarding natural resources. The continued partnership between EPA and its state counterparts demonstrates how cooperative federalism can deliver practical, durable solutions for the region's environmental and economic challenges.

RRC Executive Director Discusses Global Energy Opportunities



In May, the Railroad Commission of Texas' (RRC) Executive Director Wei Wang met with a delegation hosted by the U.S. Trade and Development Agency to discuss Texas' expanding role in global energy security.

Executive Director Wang emphasized how the agency's Commissioners' commitment to a stable and predictable regulatory framework has supported significant growth in Texas energy production and strengthened the state's economy.

During the meeting, he also underscored the strategic importance of Texas natural gas in supplying reliable, affordable energy to U.S. partners and allies worldwide. The discussion reflected growing international interest in Texas' energy leadership and the state's ability to contribute to global energy stability.

Strengthening Energy Collaboration at the Third Bilateral Energy Summit

Earlier this month, the Railroad Commission of Texas' (RRC) Executive Director Wei Wang participated in the Third Bilateral Energy Summit, a strategic dialogue bringing together leaders from Argentina and the United States to examine the future of energy cooperation.

The summit convened government officials, industry representatives and energy experts for an in-depth discussion on innovation, regulatory approaches and emerging opportunities for international collaboration. The conversation underscored shared priorities as both countries work to advance secure, reliable and sustainable energy systems.

The RRC appreciates the Argentina-Texas Chamber of Commerce for its leadership in guiding the discussion and for its continued efforts to strengthen cross-border energy partnerships.



RRC General Counsel Delivers Keynote at North American Petroleum Accounting Conference

The Railroad Commission of Texas' (RRC) General Counsel, Alex Schoch, served as the keynote speaker at the University of North Texas' North American Petroleum Accounting Conference (NAPAC) in Dallas in May, addressing an audience of financial and accounting professionals from across the petroleum industry.

The conference featured engaging educational discussions with industry leaders on emerging trends, key legislative updates and the future of the petroleum sector. Attendees participated in both broad general sessions and detailed technical tracks, reflecting the depth and complexity of today's energy and accounting landscape.

NAPAC brings together financial professionals from across the petroleum industry for sessions enriched by dynamic and productive dialogue. The conference is widely regarded as the premier oil and gas accounting event, known for its exceptional speakers from both government and the private sector, as well as informative exhibits from leading industry vendors.



RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS



REGULATORY CONFERENCE

Regulation, Innovation and Insight: What to Expect at the 2026 RRC Regulatory Conference

The Texas energy sector will gather this summer for one of the state's most anticipated regulatory events. The 2026 RRC Regulatory Conference, taking place July 13–15 at Kalahari Resorts in Round Rock, Texas, will bring operators, regulators and industry leaders together for three days of focused discussion and collaboration. Designed to help stakeholders navigate a rapidly evolving regulatory landscape, the conference offers a rare opportunity to hear directly from the decision makers shaping the future of Texas energy.

This year's program features 80 breakout sessions led by Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) experts and seasoned professionals. Attendees will gain practical updates on the latest laws, rules and compliance procedures governing hydrocarbon production in Texas, knowledge that continues to grow in importance as the regulatory landscape evolves.

The conference also includes two high-profile keynote sessions. Day 1 features a fireside chat with

State Representative Drew Darby, Chairman of the House Committee on Energy Resources and RRC Chairman Jim Wright.

On day 2, Todd Staples, President of the Texas Oil and Gas Association, joins State Representative Cody Harris, Chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, for an in-depth discussion on produced water.

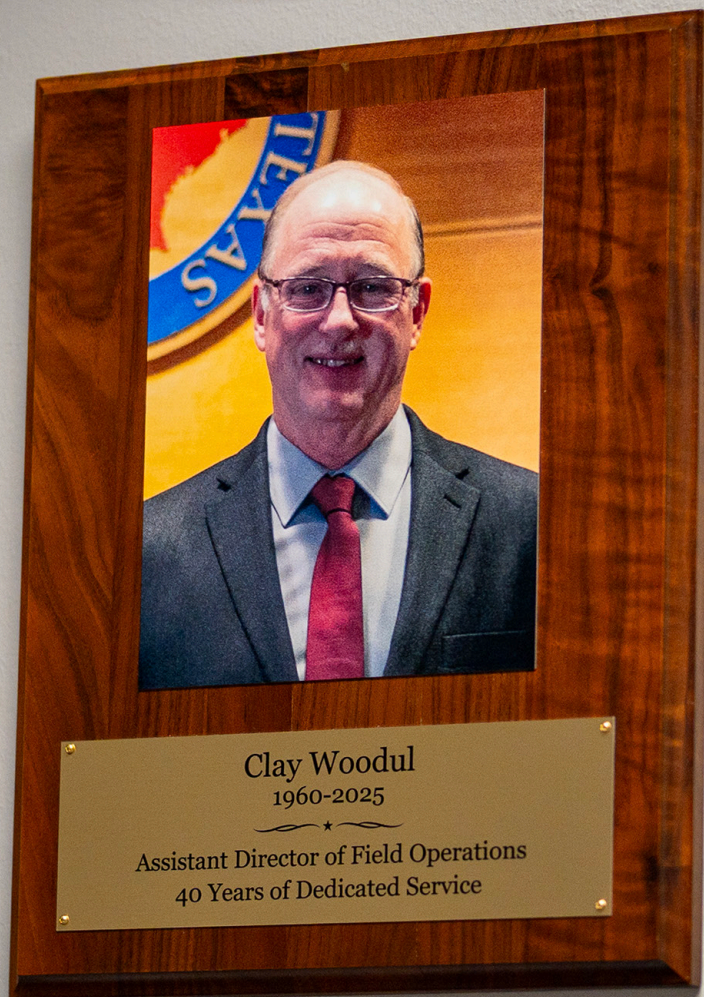
In addition to educational programming, attendees will have the opportunity to connect with more than 50 exhibitors, showcasing innovative technologies, services and solutions that support safe and compliant operations across the Texas oil and gas industry.

With its blend of technical training, policy insight, networking and direct access to RRC leadership, the 2026 conference promises to be a valuable forum for anyone working in Texas oil and gas operations.

Secure your spot today!

REGISTER NOW!





Honoring the Legacy of Clay Woodul

On April 29, the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) gathered to celebrate the life and legacy of Clay Woodul, former Assistant Director of Field Operations in the Oil and Gas Division. Clay dedicated 40 years to the agency, and his influence continues to shape the work we do every day.

In recognition of his service, the 11th floor training room in the William B. Travis Building has been officially named the Clay Woodul Training Room, a lasting tribute to his leadership, mentorship and commitment to the Commission.

During the ceremony announcing the newly named training room, staff shared memories of Clay's steady guidance and generous spirit. His family was present and received a commemorative plaque and a Texas flag flown over the State Capitol, honoring his decades of dedication to the people of Texas.

Clay's legacy lives on in the work he championed and the colleagues he inspired.

Upcoming Listening Session and Texas Energy on Track Podcast



The Railroad Commission of Texas' (RRC) Communications Division and Office of Public Engagement completed their fourth Listening Session in May, continuing the agency's effort to foster open dialogue and gather public perspectives. These remote sessions provide Texans with an opportunity to learn about the RRC's regulatory responsibilities, ask questions and share comments directly with subject matter experts.

The Listening Sessions series will pause briefly for the summer and resume in September. Additional details and registration information will be shared soon, so stay tuned!



EPISODE 19: STOPTHEFT TASK FORCE

In this episode of *Texas Energy on Track*, host Bryce Dubee and co-host Nick Kraynok speak with RRC Director of Agency Projects, Jason Clark, about the new STOPTheft Task Force. The discussion includes why the state needs the task force, what it monitors, how it came together and more!

EPISODE 20: HEARINGS DIVISION

In this episode of *Texas Energy on Track*, Director of the Hearings Division at the RRC and Chief Administrative Law Judge Dana Lewis joins Bryce Dubee and Nick Kraynok. Their discussion includes types of hearings brought before the Commission, how they differ from court cases, day-to-day operations and more!



Stay Connected with the RRC

Stay informed between newsletter editions by following the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) on social media.



RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

NOW ACCEPTING PROPOSALS:
WELL PLUGGING SERVICES

With major new funding, the RRC has opened the largest well plugging solicitation in our history. We're looking for experienced teams ready to step in and make a real impact across Texas.

If your crew has the expertise, equipment and know-how, submit your proposal using the link in the caption.

Deadline to submit is Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 2 PM CST.

42 likes
Now Accepting Proposals!
With major new funding, the RRC has opened the largest well plugging solicitation in our history.
View all 7 comments

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RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

412 DRILLING PERMITS

were issued by the RRC in November. Each application was reviewed to ensure safe and responsible oil and gas development across Texas.

42 likes
The RRC issued 412 drilling permits in November. Each application was reviewed to ensure safe and responsible oil and gas development across Texas.
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RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

DON'T MESS WITH TEXAS!

42 likes
TEXANS, TODAY IS OUR BIG DAY! IT'S NATIONAL TEXAS DAY, A CELEBRATION OF TEXAS' HISTORY, HERITAGE AND PRIDE.
View all 7 comments

COMMISSIONERS' CORNER



CHAIRMAN WRIGHT



Chairman Wright hosted the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Region VI All States Quarterly Meeting at the Railroad Commission Headquarters in Austin. These quarterly meetings, which bring together federal and state leaders from across the South-Central Region, are focused on strengthening collaboration to advance the shared goals of environmental protection and continued natural resource development.

Later in May, Chairman Wright was honored to be elected as the Second Vice Chair of the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC) at the organization's annual business meeting.

"It is a privilege to step into this leadership role at such a pivotal time for American energy," emphasized Chairman Wright. "As Second Vice Chair, my focus will be to foster collaboration among member states, share best practices and ensure our collective voice is heard on the national stage. Together, we will continue to support common-sense policies that drive economic growth, ensure energy security and protect public safety."



COMMISSIONER CRADDICK



RRC's regulatory leadership continues to draw international interest. Commissioner Christi Craddick welcomed AmCham Argentina to the agency for an in-depth discussion with subject matter experts on Texas' regulatory framework, operational safety, pipeline infrastructure and produced water management.

The visit was part of AmCham Argentina's annual Energy Program in Texas, connecting Argentine public officials and industry leaders with key institutions across the state's energy sector.



COMMISSIONER CHRISTIAN



Oil and gas regulator Commissioner Wayne Christian joined the Texas Public Policy Foundation to discuss key issues affecting the oil and gas industry and the future of American energy. Christian also traveled to Washington D.C. to attend a United States Oil and Gas Association board meeting. During his visit to the nation's capital, he and his staff met with members of the Texas and national congressional delegation, including Congressman August Pfluger, to coordinate advocacy efforts and discuss issues impacting rural Texas communities and the state's energy industry.

Commissioner Christian penned an op-ed for the *Washington Examiner*, pushing back against the growing anti-data center rhetoric. "As leaders, we should welcome scrutiny and ensure our natural resources are protected. That is unequivocal," Christian wrote. "But at what point does responsible oversight become fear-driven obstructionism? The reality is simple: Artificial intelligence is here. The question is not whether AI will exist, but who will control it."

READ THE FULL OP-ED AT THE WASHINGTON EXAMINER

Commissioner Christian was also quoted in *The Center Square*, emphasizing that Texas remains central to America's energy future. "As prices rise at the pump here at home and abroad, the path forward is clear: further unleash Texas energy," Christian said. "We need to lower taxes, cut regulations and eliminate green energy subsidies because this surge in oil and gas production should not be short-lived. Texas should remain the cornerstone of global energy supply, delivering affordable, reliable energy to Americans and our allies around the world."

READ THE FULL ARTICLE AT THE CENTER SQUARE

OPEN MEETING

Tues. August 18 | 9:30 AM

Join us in Austin at the William B. Travis Building or online by visiting the link below.

[VIEW WEBSITE](#)

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.

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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](#)