

JANUARY 2026

ENERGY

NEWS



From the Field Photo
Martin County
Photo by Sarah
Schmidt

2025

RRC Year in Review
Sneak Peak



TEXAS ENERGY ON TRACK

With special guest

RRC Director of Public Affairs, Christian Goff

03 Upcoming
Events

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COMMISSIONERS' CORNER

UPCOMING EVENTS

Listen to a
New Episode
Every Other
Wednesday!

Texas Energy On Track
Episode 10 Out Now
Featuring Chairman Jim Wright



Wednesday, Noon

Listening Sessions:
Understanding the
RRC
Remote via Microsoft
Teams.

JAN
14
2026

JAN
27
2026

Open Meeting

Join us in Austin at the
William B. Travis
Building or online here
[https://www.adminmo
nitor.com/tx/rrc/](https://www.adminmonitor.com/tx/rrc/).

Tuesday, 9:30 a.m.





FROM THE RRC

ENERGY NEWS

Happy New Year! Welcome to this month's edition of RRC Energy News. Each issue is our opportunity to keep Texans informed about the work we do every day to support a safe, reliable and responsible energy industry.

Thank you for reading and for staying engaged with the work of the Railroad Commission of Texas. We look forward to bringing you more updates, stories and accomplishments each month.

TIER ONE INSPECTIONS

RRC's Critical Infrastructure Division is committed to serving the people of Texas by ensuring the natural gas industry consistently incorporates weatherization and reliability standards and practices to achieve uninterrupted natural gas production throughout the year especially during periods of energy emergencies in the state.

The Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) is taking important steps to help ensure adequate natural gas supply to keep Texans safe this winter season. These include important weatherization inspections of critical natural gas facilities currently being conducted throughout the state by the Critical Infrastructure Division (CID).

As part of the agency's commitment to protecting Texans during extreme weather events, CID conducted more than 7,400 inspections of natural gas facilities for weatherization preparedness in FY25 and has already begun work on the FY26 Extreme Cold Inspection Schedule. For the new fiscal year, CID has inspected 100% of Tier One facilities, which are critical components of gas supply. Tier One facilities are oil and gas leases that produce more than 5 million cubic feet of gas daily, gas processing plants, underground gas storage facilities and natural gas pipelines that directly connect to electricity generation plants.

To further strengthen preparedness, CID recently hosted a tabletop exercise with operators. The session provided guidance on inspection readiness, emergency management practices and weather-related

resources to ensure operators have the tools and knowledge needed as Texas heads into the winter months.

Additionally, underground natural gas storage provides a critical reserve that can be drawn upon during severe weather emergencies. As of November 30, 2025, the RRC reported 525 billion cubic feet of working gas in storage, which is the highest monthly total recorded in more than 25 years of tracking volumes.

"From electric generation to home heating, the RRC is committed to helping keep Texas prepared for winter weather," said Wei Wang, RRC Executive Director. "This includes ongoing inspections and collaborations with oil and gas operators. We take every step we can to make sure gas flows when we need it, and we want to reassure Texans that the agency takes an all-hands-on deck approach to protect residents in weather-related emergencies. From gas production to gas storage, Texas is seeing more gas than ever with historic highs."

The RRC's winter weatherization inspections of critical natural gas facilities will continue through the end of March.

YEAR IN REVIEW

SNEAK PEAK

2025

AN EXCLUSIVE FIRST LOOK INTO THE
STORIES THAT SHAPED THE RRC'S YEAR



In 2025, the RRC built on its legacy as the state's oldest regulatory agency, reinforcing its role in environmental stewardship and public safety while advancing new initiatives to meet the demands of a rapidly growing energy sector.



The Year in Review will be published in mid-January and will spotlight key accomplishments including Texas being granted primacy, enhanced environmental protections, milestones in geothermal regulation and national recognition for the RRC's orphan well plugging program. Each underscoring the Commission's commitment to safeguarding Texans and supporting one of the world's most productive energy regions.



Keep your eyes out for the full Year in Review, coming soon!



NEW DIRECTOR OF OVERSIGHT AND SAFETY DIVISION

The Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) is pleased to announce that Mark Evarts has been named the new director of the Commission's Oversight and Safety Division.

The division's core responsibilities are over the RRC's Alternative Fuels, Gas Services and Pipeline Safety departments, including oversight of more than 400,000 miles of pipelines in Texas, the largest system of pipeline infrastructure in the nation.

Evarts has served in numerous management roles at the Railroad Commission since 2008, most recently as Acting Director of the Oversight and Safety Division. While serving in this role, he has continued to manage the Gas Services Department, which includes the Market Oversight Section and the Gas Utility Audit Section, a role he has been in since 2022. Prior to that, he was the Director of the Market Oversight Section for fourteen years and a Special Projects Director for eleven years.

Under his leadership and with the strengths of his team members, the Gas Services Department and the Market Oversight Section have effectively provided regulatory oversight over and collaborated with 150+ Texas natural gas utilities, encouraging competition, efficiencies and compliance with applicable laws and rules. This took place during a period of high industry growth and in response to several extraordinarily disruptive events to the utility industry, such as Winter Storm Uri, Hurricane Harvey and a major federal income tax rate change. His prior industry experience includes operations management, investment banking and public accounting.

Evarts' deep industry knowledge and proven leadership will enable him to excel in guiding the Oversight and Safety Division, ensuring the Commission's mission of safety and accountability across Texas' energy infrastructure.

A portrait of Mark Evarts, a middle-aged man with a balding head and a friendly smile. He is wearing a dark navy blue suit jacket over a light blue dress shirt and a red tie with a small white geometric pattern. The background is a solid dark blue. A white vertical bar is on the left side of the image. A red rectangular box is overlaid on the lower-left portion of the image, containing the text 'MARK EVARTS' in white serif font.

MARK
EVARTS

Director, Oversight and Safety Division

“When people outside the Commission ask me why I have chosen to work here for as long as I have, I respond that it is the importance of the work we do and the commitment and community of the people throughout the agency.”

RRC LISTENING SESSIONS: A STRONG START

The Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) successfully launched its inaugural Remote Listening Session on November 12, 2025. Texans from across the state joined virtually to share perspectives, ask questions and engage directly with RRC subject matter experts.

Building on this success, the RRC will continue hosting Listening Sessions every other month to ensure ongoing opportunities for public engagement.



UPCOMING SESSION DETAILS:

Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 from noon to 1:30 p.m. CST.

Format: These sessions will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams, with a dial-in option available for convenience. Spanish translation services will also be provided.

Registration: Texans can register in advance here: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/30e58bf4-c334-4c69-ab59-853c7a157dc5@a3b01f75-ff4a-4001-9d68-9ba9ec5ea0bc>

TEXAS ENERGY ON TRACK PODCAST

EPISODE 9

Host Bryce Dubee and co-host Nick Kraynok talk with Christopher Cabrera, Safety and Emergency Management Lead at the RRC. The discussion includes talking about deployment to the State Operations Center, emergency training, emergency management at the Commission and more!

SPECIAL EPISODE

Joined by RRC Director of Public Affairs, Christian Goff, host Bryce Dubee and co-host Nick Kraynok wrap up 2025 by taking a look back at some of the agency's accomplishments and big news items from the previous year.

EPISODE 10

Host Bryce Dubee and co-host Nick Kraynok sit down with Chairman Jim Wright for a wide-ranging conversation. They discuss his experience serving as chairman and much more.



CHOOSE YOUR FAVORITE PLATFORM



COMMISSIONERS' CORNER



CHAIRMAN
WRIGHT

In December, Chairman Wright traveled to Houston to attend the University of Texas at Arlington's Oil and Gas Safety, Health and Environmental Conference.

Chairman Wright participated in a Natural Resources and Environmental panel with his regulatory counterparts from Arkansas and Kansas, where they discussed the importance of regulatory certainty and the different methods used to achieve compliance within their respective agencies.

COMMISSIONERS' CORNER



COMMISSIONER
CRADDICK

To our dedicated staff:

As we begin a new year, I want to take a moment to express my sincere appreciation for your hard work and commitment to the important role you serve. As a result of your dedication, last year was full of achievements, progress, and success. I thank you for your partnership, and for your work to keep Texas the global energy leader. I look forward to what we will accomplish together this year.

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

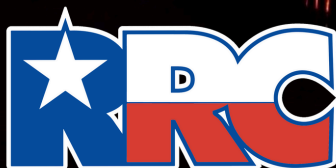
[LAUNCH THE PUBLIC GIS VIEWER](#)

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A RAILROAD COMMISSION PUBLICATION



LEADING TEXAS ENERGY
OIL & GAS ★ COAL ★ PIPELINES

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