

MAY 2026



ENERGY NEWS

FROM THE FIELD
PHOTO BY JUSTIN GOLSON



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 3** Letter From The RRC
- 4** RRC Petroleum Theft Task Force Holds Second Quarterly Meeting
- 5** RRC Completes Winter Inspection Cycle
- 6** RRC Contributes Expertise on Regulation and Seismic Monitoring at Energy Conference
- 7** Secure Your Spot at the 2026 RRC Regulatory Conference
- 8** Recap: Upton County CO₂ Storage and Injection Facility Public Meetings
- 8** RRC's Critical Infrastructure Division Hosts Emergency Operations Plan Submissions Webinar
- 9** Upcoming Listening Sessions and *Texas Energy on Track* Podcast
- 10** Texas America250
- 11** Stay Connected with the RRC
- 12** Commissioners' Corner
- 14** Oil and Gas Industry Resources



LETTER FROM THE RRC

ENERGY NEWS

Welcome to the May edition of *Energy News*.

This month's updates reflect the Railroad Commission of Texas' (RRC) continued commitment to safeguarding the state's energy infrastructure, strengthening public safety and expanding opportunities for Texans to engage with the agency's work. From collaborative efforts to combating oilfield theft to new educational events and inspection milestones, May brings a full slate of initiatives that support a resilient and transparent energy landscape.

RRC Petroleum Theft Task Force Holds Second Quarterly Meeting

AUSTIN – Members of the Railroad Commission of Texas’ (RRC) State Taskforce on Petroleum Theft (STOPTheft) gathered in Midland on April 2 to continue their work addressing the challenges of petroleum theft in Texas.

Led by RRC Chairman Jim Wright, the session opened with a brief overview of the task force’s duties, subcommittees and timeline goals for delivering their first report to the Legislature in December. This report will assess theft impacts, long-term economic effects and ways to improve coordination between law enforcement.

Task force members highlighted the importance of including specific and detailed recommendations in the report as agencies prepare their budgets and the Legislature enters the 90th Legislative Session in January 2027.

“Today’s STOPTheft task force meeting marked a successful step forward in our effort to combat oilfield theft in Texas,” said Railroad Commission Chairman Jim Wright. “I appreciate the commitment shown by the members and am confident that this collaborative approach will deliver results.”

The task force is divided into four subcommittees focused on tackling various issues that will be included in the report - background and history, laws and regulations, economic analysis and impact, and recommendations.

During the meeting, members examined how theft extends beyond the theft of oil. It also involves criminals stealing trucks, tools and other materials such as copper.

According to the Dallas Federal Reserve, more than 40% of oil and gas operators indicated that their operations have been impacted by theft in the past year, an increasingly sophisticated crime that has been linked to organized crime and foreign criminal



syndicates, costing Texans millions of dollars in lost state revenue.

After dividing into subcommittees, STOPTheft members reconvened to review their discussions and goals for the upcoming meeting. In between quarterly meetings, the subcommittees will continue small-group work sessions on their respective topics.

Established during the 89th Legislative Session through Senate Bill 494, STOPTheft brings together representatives from across state, federal and local law enforcement and the energy industry with the goal of studying and making recommendations to help combat petroleum theft in the state.

RRC Completes Winter Inspection Cycle

The Railroad Commission of Texas' (RRC) Critical Infrastructure Division (CID) concluded its fourth Winter Inspection Cycle at the end of March, closing out another active season of preparedness and emergency response work across the agency.

From December 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026 CID inspectors evaluated:

5,758 Natural Gas Facilities



386 Priority 1 Facilities



1,899 Priority 2 Facilities



3,473 Priority 3 Facilities



These facilities play a critical role in supporting electric grid reliability during severe weather.

During this cycle nearly all operators were in compliance, demonstrating continued progress in meeting the state's winter readiness standards. Of the handful of violations that were issued, most were tied to two specific areas: training operational personnel on weather emergency procedures (3.66(c)(2)(A)) and ensuring facilities are adequately weatherized based on design, age, critical components and local climatological data (3.66(c)(2)(C)). Going forward these findings highlight targeted opportunities for operators to further strengthen preparedness ahead of next winter.

This inspection work complemented broader agency efforts during the season. RRC's Safety and Emergency Management team staffed the State Operations Center for more than 586 hours since January, coordinating closely with partner agencies to support natural gas supply chain readiness during weather related emergencies. Together, these activities reflect the Commission's ongoing commitment to ensuring reliable energy delivery during extreme weather conditions.



RRC Contributes Expertise On Regulation and Seismic Monitoring At Energy Conference

The Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) took part in the Water in Energy Conference at the University of Texas Permian Basin, contributing through two invited speaking engagements. Chairman Jim Wright delivered a presentation, Texas Railroad Commission Update, highlighting the strength and reliability of Texas' oil and natural gas industry and the importance of responsible regulation in supporting safe and sustainable operations. Dr. Laura Ortiz-Huerta, seismologist at the RRC, also participated in the forum Monitoring Technologies and Tools for Reservoir Management and Risk

Forecasting, alongside Bill Curry of ExxonMobil, Robert Moak of Tensora and Shujuan Mao of The University of Texas.

Dr. Ortiz-Huerta's presentation highlighted how InSAR, a satellite-based method for tracking ground movement over time, can enhance hazard screening and decision support in Texas when combined with other technical and operational information. Reed Baker, O&G Injection Storage Manager in O&G Technical Permitting, also attended on behalf of the agency.



Secure Your Spot at the 2026 RRC Regulatory Conference

The Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) invites you to our premier three-day training event, the definitive resource for navigating Texas energy regulations, procedures and processes. Gain expert guidance on the laws and procedures affecting hydrocarbon production, pipeline safety and critical infrastructure. Plus, this year we are offering sessions specifically regarding Alternative Fuels Safety and Surface Mining and Reclamation.

Meet our panel of experts offering invaluable resources and information by visiting the RRC's conference website at <https://web.cvent.com/event/6ae25711-7a7b-4cc4-a361-fc8024eca5f2/summary>

Don't miss this opportunity, register today!

REGISTER HERE

Recap: Upton County CO₂ Storage and Injection Facility Public Meetings

In April, the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) held both in-person and virtual public meetings to gather community input on the proposed Carbon Dioxide Underground Storage Project in Upton County. The meetings focused on Project No. 57099, submitted by Milestone Carbon Midland CCS Hub, LLC.

As part of the Commission's review process, public comments are an important factor in evaluating Class VI permit applications and assessing potential impacts on surrounding communities. The RRC's in-person session was held in Rankin, Texas, followed by a virtual meeting that provided an additional opportunity for affected or interested individuals to share oral or written comments on the project.

Although the public comment period has now closed, the feedback collected during these sessions will be considered as the Commission continues its evaluation of the proposed permit for the CO₂ storage and injection facility.

RRC's Critical Infrastructure Division Hosts Emergency Operations Plan Submissions Webinar

The Railroad Commission of Texas' (RRC) Critical Infrastructure Division (CID) will host a webinar on Thursday, May 14, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. CST to provide operators with updated guidance on submitting Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs). The session will focus on current review standards and help operators understand what is required for a complete and compliant submission.

Only operators who meet statutory criteria are subject to EOP filing requirements. This includes facilities that produce, treat, process, pressurize, store or transport natural gas and are included on the Texas Electricity Supply Chain Security and Mapping Committee map, first adopted on April 29, 2022, pursuant to Texas Utilities Code §186.008.

This webinar will give operators the chance to hear directly from CID staff and ask

questions in real time, providing clarity on filing expectations and key requirements. Attendance is strongly encouraged for any operator subject to EOP obligations or seeking a better understanding of the updated review process.

For questions, please contact CID@rrc.texas.gov.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Upcoming Listening Session and Texas Energy on Track Podcast



RRC
LEADING TEXAS ENERGY
OIL & GAS • COAL • PIPELINES

Listening Sessions

THE CONVERSATION CONTINUES!

Join us for **Session 4 on MAY 13 at 12:00 PM** as we continue the conversation, hear your feedback and build on what we've learned so far.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



TEXAS
ENERGY
ON TRACK
AN RRC PODCAST

EPISODE 17: RRC REGULATORY CONFERENCE

In this episode of *Texas Energy on Track*, host Bryce Dubee and co-host Nick Kraynok welcome back Scott Sroufe, Director of the Office of Public Engagement. The discussion includes upcoming important dates for the Regulatory Conference, why the event was moved to a new venue, what to expect this year and more!

EPISODE 18: RRC'S 135TH ANNIVERSARY

In this episode of *Texas Energy on Track*, host Bryce Dubee and co-host Nick Kraynok talk with RRC Executive Director Wei Wang about the 135th Anniversary of the RRC. The discussion includes a brief history of the agency, technical improvements, what the future looks like and more!





In 2026, America commemorates and celebrates the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Across the nation, events that encourage celebration, reflection, and commemoration are being encouraged and planned at local and statewide levels.

A Joint Resolution of the 87th Texas Legislature, SCR23, signed by Governor Greg Abbott on May 28, 2021, established the Texas America250 Commission, "to help celebrate the semiquincentennial of the United States."

"On July 4, 2026, we will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence and the birth of the greatest nation in the history of the world. 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights,

that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.' Long may these ideals live in the heart of every Texan and every American. May God bless all who have defended our freedoms that we enjoy each day. And God bless the United States of America."

- Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas

The Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) joins other state agencies in supporting the Texas America250 Commission's initiative to highlight Texas' role in the nation's history. For 135 years, the RRC has helped guide responsible energy development supporting Texas' growth and reinforcing America's independence and economic resilience.

As the state prepares for America250, the Commission continues its dedication to strengthening the energy foundation that will support the nation's continued progress for generations to come.



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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.
View all 7 comments

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



**CHAIRMAN
JIM WRIGHT**

In April, Chairman Wright traveled to Midland to convene the second quarterly meeting of the Railroad Commission of Texas' State Taskforce on Petroleum Theft (STOPTheft). Task force members and Commission staff reviewed recent developments and then broke into subcommittees to advance the specific objectives outlined in SB 494.

Later that month, Chairman Wright traveled to Fort Worth to attend Texas Christian University's (TCU) Global Energy Symposium, where he joined Nikki Morris, Director of the Ralph Lowe Energy Institute, for a fireside chat on the future of energy exploration and Texas' strong position as a long-term global energy leader.



**COMMISSIONER
CHRISTI CRADDICK**

Commissioner Craddick recently spoke to graduating students of the University of Texas' Kay Bailey Hutchison Energy Center, where she highlighted the importance of keeping Texas strong, innovative, and energy dominant.

Congratulations to these students preparing to power Texas' future!



COMMISSIONERS' CORNER



OPEN MEETING

Tues. May 12 | 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 AND 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](#)