**RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS**

**Notice of Request for Public Comment and Notice of Public Hearing on the Railroad Commission of Texas' Application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for enforcement primacy of the Class V Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program for Spent Brine Return Injection Wells**

The Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) is accepting public comment on the RRC's application to the EPA for enforcement primacy of the Class V UIC Program for Spent Brine Return Injection Wells. The RRC will conduct a Virtual Public Hearing in December 2026 to receive testimony regarding the Class V primacy application.

The proposed Class V primacy application requests that the RRC obtain full enforcement authority over the States' Class V spent brine return injection well program. Class V spent brine return injection wells are used for the reinjection of the spent brine associated with brine production projects. Brine production projects and the associated brine production wells are used for the extraction of elements, minerals, mineral ions, salts or other useful substances, including, but not limited to, lithium, lithium ions, lithium chloride, halogens or halogen salts, from a subsurface formation but not including oil, gas, or any product of oil or gas, as defined by Section 85.001 of the Natural Resources Code, or fluid oil and gas waste, as defined by Section 122.001 of the Natural Resources Code.

Elements of the primacy application can be viewed on the RRC website at https://www.rrc.texas.gov/oil-and-gas/applications-and-permits/injection-storage-permits/brine-mining/brine-prod-permit-procedures. Additionally, you may view the material at RRC Headquarters, Oil & Gas Division, 1701 N. Congress, Austin, Texas 78701, by emailing SIP@rrc.texas.gov. The office is open from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. (all times are Central Time Zone). Fees may be required for obtaining a paper copy of the primacy application.

The RRC will hold a virtual public hearing to receive public comments on the RRCs application to the EPA for primacy of the Class V UIC program for Spent Brine Return Injection Wells **on Friday, December 11, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

The public comment period will begin **on Thursday, November 12, 2026, and close at 11:59 p.m. CST on Saturday, December 12, 2026.** All comments should reference RRC Class V Primacy Application.

Public comments may be submitted using the following methods.

1. Electronic mail to SIP@rrc.texas.gov; or
2. United States Mail to:
   Railroad Commission of Texas
   Oil and Gas Division
   Special Injection Permits Unit
   P. O Box 12967
   Austin, Texas 78711-2967

The first part of the hearing will consist of a brief overview by Commission staff of the Commission's Class V UIC program for spent brine injection wells.

The second part of the hearing will consist of public comment on the primacy application. The hearing will be structured to receive oral comments from interested persons. Individuals may present oral statements when called upon in order of registration. Open discussion will not be permitted during the virtual hearing; however, Commission staff will be available to discuss the proposal minutes prior to the hearing. Persons or organizations wishing to provide oral comments during the hearing will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis. Depending on the number of persons wishing to speak, the Commission may impose a time limit so that everyone who wishes to make a public comment can do so. The hearing will be conducted remotely using an internet meeting service.

Individuals who plan to attend the virtual public meeting and want to provide comments on the record must register using this link https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/5bbbba9a-aa11-4ead-a760-d83cfabc57b3@a3b01f75-ff4a-4001-9d68-9ba9ec5ea0bc. Individuals who do not wish to provide oral comments but would like to view the hearing may do so by registering using the link provided above.

Any individual with a disability who plans to participate in the hearing and requires auxiliary aids or services should notify the Commission as far in advance as possible so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Requests may be made to the Human Resources Department of the Railroad Commission of Texas by mail at P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711-2967; by telephone at 512-463-6981 or TDD No. 512-463-7284; by e-mail at humanresources@rrc.texas.gov; or in person at 1701 North Congress Avenue, Suite 12-110, Austin, Texas.

For more information, contact the RRC's Special Injection Permits Unit at 512-463-6703 or SIP@rrc.texas.gov.