



August 2025

Energy News



From the Field Photo

Capitol Mall

Photo by Joe Parks



- P. **2** RRC Accepting Applications for Membership in Petroleum Theft Task Force
- P. **3** RRC Adopts and Proposes Rule Amendments from 89th Legislature
- P. **4** New Fees for Certain Environmental Permit Applications
- P. **5** Commissioners' Corner

Upcoming Events

RRC Open Meeting

September 30, 2025

[VIEW OPEN MEETING WEBCASTS](#)



RRC Accepting Applications for Membership in Petroleum Theft Task Force

To help combat a critical criminal issue in the Texas energy industry – the theft of petroleum products – the Railroad Commission is now accepting applications for membership in the State Taskforce on Petroleum Theft (STOP-THEFT).

The task force was created in Senate Bill 494 passed by the 89th Legislature, with the aim to study and make recommendations related to preventing petroleum theft.

SB 494 requires that the task force must include at least one representative from the oil and gas industry; at least one representative from an energy trade association; and representatives from local, state and federal law enforcement agencies.

The legislation lays out the task force's

duties which include, but are not limited to:

- Reviewing product theft laws and regulations in other U.S. jurisdictions as well as international laws;
- Analyzing the impact of theft on state tax collections and long-term economic impacts;
- Making recommendations on law enforcement training to combat petroleum product theft; and
- Preparing a report to submit to the Governor and the Legislature.

An announcement with the application, submittal information and deadline is on the RRC website at <https://www.rrc.texas.gov/announcements/090225-rrc-accepting-applications-for-stoptheft/>.



RRC Adopts and Proposes Rule Amendments from 89th Legislature

AUSTIN – The Railroad Commission of Texas, at its open meeting on August 19, adopted final amendments and proposed several additional amendments to agency rules pursuant to legislation passed during the 89th Texas Legislature.

The Commission adopted amendments to Coal Mining Rule 12.108 regarding Permit Fees. These amendments were adopted under Senate Bill 1 and will take effect on September 8, 2025.

In addition, the Commission proposed amendments to Oil and Gas Rules 3.15 and 3.107 to implement House Bill

2663. The Commission also proposed repeals, new rules, and amendments to various rules in Chapters 9, 13, and 14 to implement House Bill 5629 and Senate Bill 1818.

The adoption notice and proposals will be published in the September 5, 2025, issue of the Texas Register.

To view the proposed amendments and to access the online comment form, visit the Commission's Proposed Rules page. Public comments on the proposals will be accepted until 5 p.m. on Monday, October 6, 2025.



Episodes 3 and 4 of the RRC's official podcast, "Texas Energy on Track" are live with discussions on produced water with RRC Assistant Director of Technical Permitting for the Oil and Gas Division, Paul Dubois, and seismicity with Dr. Aaron Velasco, RRC Seismologist.

Now available on all major podcast platforms, including [Apple Music](#) and [Spotify](#).

New Fees for Certain Environmental Permit Applications

Senate Bill 2122 of the 89th Texas Legislature establishes fees for certain permit applications to store, treat, or dispose of oil and gas wastes in Texas. Effective on Sept. 1, 2025, the Texas Natural Resources Code §91.1013(b) is amended to require that an applicant for certain waste management permits shall submit to the Commission a non-refundable fee and surcharge[1] with each application as follows:

- Landfarm, landtreatment, or land application permit or permit amendment: \$500 permit fee and a \$750 surcharge for a total fee of \$1,250.
- Commercial oil and gas waste separation facility permit: \$2,000 permit fee and a \$3,000 surcharge for a total fee of \$5,000.
- Amendment to a commercial oil and gas waste separation facility permit: \$1,000 permit fee and a \$1,500 surcharge for a total fee of \$2,500.
- Commercial surface oil and gas waste disposal facility permit: \$3,000 permit fee and a \$4,500 surcharge for a total fee of \$7,500.
- Amendment to a commercial surface oil and gas waste disposal facility permit: \$1,000 permit fee and a \$1,500 surcharge for a total fee of \$2,500.

Applications with filing fees may be submitted by mail or by email:

- By mail: Pay over the phone and mail the receipt with the application or mail a check or money order (payable to Railroad Commission of Texas) and Form EP-5 with the application. To make credit card payments by phone call (512) 463-6882.
- By email: Pay over the phone and email the receipt with the application (Form EP-5). To make credit card payments by phone call (512) 463-6882. Form EP-5 and required attachments can be emailed to EPSch4@rrc.texas.gov for electronic receipt, the subject line must indicate "Application Filing".

Applications that are received after September 1, 2025, without the correct filing fee cannot be processed and will be returned.

Questions regarding this notice should be directed to the Commission's Environmental Permits and Support Unit at Enviro.Permits@rrc.texas.gov or 512-463-3840.

[1] Fees authorized by Natural Resources Code §91.1013 shall be subject to a surcharge pursuant to §81.070. A surcharge of 150% was established in 16 Texas Administrative Code §3.78(n) (3).

To view the full notice, visit the RRC website at <https://www.rrc.texas.gov/media/2pim4hvv/082625-nto-sb-2122>.

Chairman Wright

COMMISSIONERS' CORNER

In August, Chairman Wright traveled to San Antonio to address the Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owner's (TIPRO) Annual Summer Conference. In his remarks to the audience, Chairman Wright discussed his new role as Chairman of the Commission and provided his thoughts on the new directives and laws passed during the legislative session, including the creation of the Oilfield Theft Task Force and efforts to reduce the orphan well population in the state.



Commissioner Christian

COMMISSIONERS' CORNER



Last month, Commissioner Christian put out a press release praising a new [report](#) showing that operators in the Permian Basin have reduced methane intensity by 50 percent since 2022, even as oil and natural gas production surged to historic highs.

“Texas’ reliable energy producers continue to prove that fossil fuel production and a clean environment can coexist. By embracing innovation and industry-driven solutions – not heavy-handed federal mandates – our state is reducing emissions while continuing to fuel America with reliable energy. As the nation’s largest producer of oil and gas, this milestone shows that we can produce affordable, reliable energy and achieve real environmental progress—without

sacrificing jobs or energy security.”
[Read More](#)

Additionally, the Commissioner’s DOGE Task Force got started with tele-townhalls receiving feedback from the industry. Numerous RRC staff participated in the calls to help the Commissioner with technical questions from the participants. The effort has been well received by the industry, so much so, that the *Odessa American* covered the effort. [Read More](#)

Lastly, Commissioner Christian released another episode of his podcast, “Wayne’s World: Energizing Texas.” This episode features Jason Isaac, CEO of the American Energy Institute. [Listen Here](#)

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 PRODUCTION STATISTICS](#) ▶

Enforcement Actions

The Commission has primary oversight and enforcement of the state's oil and gas industry and intrastate pipeline safety. View RRC's Latest Enforcement Actions [here](#).

[VIEW 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](#) ▶