NOVEMBER 2026

ENERGY NEWS



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LETTER FROM THE RRC

ENERGY NEWS

Welcome to the November edition of Energy News.

As Texas prepares for the winter season, the RRC continues its work to support safe, reliable energy infrastructure while engaging with stakeholders across the state and beyond. In this issue, you'll find updates on winter preparedness efforts, industry outreach, staff achievements and recent recognition of the agency's commitment to energy education.



Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission Chairman's Stewardship Award

The RRC received the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC) Chairman's Stewardship Award for Energy Education at the organization's Annual Conference. The IOGCC consists of government agencies from 38 states, seven Canadian provinces, and four federal agencies. This international award recognizes exemplary leadership in responsible energy development, conservation and education.

The honor recognizes the RRC's Office of Public Engagement and Communications Division for advancing energy education through various public engagement efforts that help Texans better understand oil and natural gas regulation and its impact on everyday life.

"We are honored to receive this recognition from IOGCC," said RRC Executive Director Wei Wang. "Every day, our employees work to help Texans better understand the Commission's role in regulating the state's energy industry and the importance of oil and natural gas in our daily lives. This award reflects their dedica tion to public service, education and meaningful engagement with the people we serve."

Throughout the year, the RRC has expanded its public education and outreach efforts through initiatives that increase awareness of the agency's regulatory responsibilities and to provide Texans with opportunities to engage directly with agency experts. These efforts include town hall meetings throughout Texas, in-person and virtual public listening sessions, educational videos, the agency's podcast "Texas Energy on Track," and digital communications that help Texans better understand oil and natural gas regulation and the role of energy development in their daily lives.

In 2026 alone, RRC's OPE conducted 30 speaking engagements with local community organizations such as chambers of commerce and rotary clubs, meeting with over 3,000 Tex-

ans at these events. Alongside that, OPE members also hosted exhibit booths at 20 events across the state, allowing them to reach more than 27,000 attendees.

In addition to receiving the award, RRC Commissioner Jim Wright and agency leadership participated in the annual conference, which brought together state, Canadian provincial and federal regulators, government officials and energy industry representatives to discuss issues affecting oil and natural gas production and regulation across North America.

During the conference, Wright delivered an update on Texas' oil and gas regulatory activities, highlighting the RRC's ongoing efforts to protect public safety and the environment while supporting responsible energy development.

The IOGCC Annual Conference provides a forum for state regulators and industry leaders to exchange ideas, discuss emerging challenges and share best practices that support effective energy regulation and responsible resource development.







RRC Names New Critical Infrastructure Director

The RRC has named Gilbert Herrera as the new Director of Administrative Compliance for the Critical Infrastructure Division.

Previously serving as the CID's Director of Field Operations, Herrera has extensive experience in strengthening the reliability and resilience of Texas' natural gas infrastructure. In that role, he supported the reliable flow of natural gas to power generation facilities while advancing regulatory compliance, operational preparedness and continuity of critical energy operations.

As Director of Administrative Compliance, Herrera will oversee compliance with critical infrastructure designations and other regulatory requirements across the natural gas supply chain. He will also lead efforts related to Emergency Operations Plans and enhance the quality and reliability of data used to assess Texas' critical natural gas infrastructure.

Since the division's creation in response to 2021's Winter Storm Uri, Herrera has played a vital role in building the CID, establishing the processes, procedures, training and operational frameworks needed for its work. He has helped prepare Texas' critical natural gas infrastructure for extreme weather by developing an inspection program, coordinating with industry and other stakeholders and identifying vulnerabilities that could affect the reliability of the natural gas supply.

Joining the RRC in 2018, Gilbert has held several leadership and engineering roles. As a Regional Director, he established and led a new regional division responsible for field inspections and regulatory compliance within the Critical Infrastructure Division. He also served as Well Plugging Manager in Houston, where he oversaw complex well plugging projects, including high-pressure and high-temperature wells, H2S operations and high-consequence well control events, including response efforts related to submerged well blowout in the Gulf of Mexico.

Prior to joining the Commission, Gilbert worked as an engineer with SLB, where he supervised field crews and conducted well integrity operations throughout the Permian Basin. He holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Oklahoma and has completed executive leadership and managerial leadership studies through the Texas McCombs School of Business.

State Climatologist Statement for Winter 2026

The State Climatologist issued the following statement to the Commission for 2026:

"The upcoming winter is likely to feature an unusually strong El Niño. El Niño events are most commonly associated with cool and wet conditions across Texas. Because this event may be outside the historical envelope, past El Niño events may not be a good guide to this event. It is, however, reassuring that seasonal climate prediction models simulate average weather conditions that are similar to other past strong El Niños.

Historically, the cooler and wetter conditions during an El Niño have tended to increase seasonal snowfall totals in northern and western Texas. Lubbock had its highest snowfall total since 1950 during the strongest El Niño since 1950, and three of the next five largest snowfall totals occurred during moderate to strong El Niños. Eastern, central, and southern Texas do not exhibit a strong snowfall relationship to El Niño. Freezing rain throughout the state also exhibits little or no relationship to El Niño.

Over the longer term, the warming trend in place over the past several decades is expected to continue, while precipitation will continue to be dominated by strong year-to-year variability due to El Niño and other factors."

– John Nielsen-Gammon, 2026

CID Delivers 2026 Weather Emergency Preparedness Report to State Leadership

On September 30, the RRC's Weather Emergency Preparedness Report was submitted to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House and Texas Legislature in accordance with Texas Utilities Code § 186.008. For this filing session, the CIX team analyzed the Weather Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs) for facilities included on the Electricity Supply Chain Map, with a total of 429 operators required to file.

To support compliance, an EOP guideline document was provided to operators prior to submission. These guidelines are aligned directly with the formal EOP review criteria, covering key operational areas:

- Responsible personnel
- Employee emergency operations training
- Internal and external emergency communications
- Operational preparedness
- Operational response plans
- Restoration of service

The primary intent of these reviews was to assist operators of gas supply chain and pipeline facilities in strengthening their emergency plans. By doing so, facilities are better equipped to maintain or support natural gas production for the electricity supply chain during extreme weather events.

Following the analysis, CID provided actionable recommendations for future EOP sessions. Critical review letters were mailed directly to individual operators, and overall findings were compiled into the final Weather Emergency Preparedness Report.

Key Findings:

Based on the 2026 EOP review, the industry has made significant strides in emergency planning since Winter Storm Uri. While findings demonstrate that CID's oversight has had a profoundly positive impact, continued effort is still required to support smaller operators in refining their EOPs.

Winter Inspection Season Begins December 1

The RRC's Critical Infrastructure Division will begin its annual winter weatherization inspection cycle on December 1. Throughout the winter season, inspectors will visit critical natural gas facilities across Texas to assess weatherization preparedness and verify compliance with state requirements designed to support reliable energy delivery during extreme cold weather events. These inspections play an important role in supporting the reliability and resilience of critical infrastructure during the winter months.

This annual effort reflects the agency's ongoing commitment to winter preparedness, energy reliability and public safety as Texas heads into the colder months.

RRC Moderates Panel at IMAGE 2026



The RRC's Deputy Assistant Director of Technical Permitting in the Oil and Gas Technical Permitting Division recently moderated a panel discussion at the Carbon Management Pavilion during IMAGE 2026, the combined international conference of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists and Society of Exploration Geophysicists, held in Houston in August.

The panel, "Always-On Monitoring: DAS, Fiber and Passive Seismic for Carbon Management," brought together experts from across the industry to discuss innovative monitoring technologies that support carbon management and carbon storage efforts. Topics included distributed acoustic sensing (DAS), fiber-optic monitoring and passive seismic technologies, highlighting advances in monitoring solutions for carbon management projects.

Listening Sessions

UNDERSTANDING THE RRC

RRC's Monthly Listening Sessions

Interested in learning more about the RRC and speaking directly with agency experts? Join the next RRC Listening Session on November 10 at 11 a.m. These sessions provide members of the public with an opportunity to learn more about the agency's work, ask questions and share feedback in an open forum. Hosted by the Office of Public Engagement, each session features an overview of the Commission's regulatory responsibilities followed by a discussion with subject matter experts from across the agency.

Participation is available both in person and virtually, helping make these conversations accessible to Texans across the state. Registration is required for those wishing to provide comments or ask questions.

REGISTER HERE



TEXAS ENERGY ON TRACK

AN RRC PODCAST

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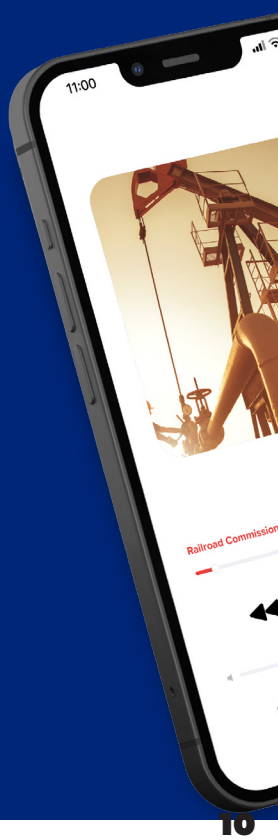
LEADING TEXAS ENERGY
OIL & GAS ★ COAL ★ PIPELINES

Get a closer look at the work happening across the agency with Texas Energy on Track, the RRC's official podcast. New episodes air every other Wednesday and highlight expert insights, operational updates and behind-the-scenes perspectives on Commission initiatives. Whether you're interested in industry developments or agency activities, this podcast offers a timely and informative listen.

Head to your favorite platform, including Spotify, Apple Podcasts or YouTube and be sure to subscribe so you never miss an episode!



Episode 29: Answering Questions Through Public Assist

In this episode of Texas Energy on Track, Tiffany Cotledge from the Office of Public Engagement stops by to talk about Public Assist, the Commission's dedicated resource for anyone with questions about the RRC. from the annual event.





Episode 30: State Managed Well Plugging

Keith May, the project manager for the RRC's State Managed Plugging Program, joins this episode of Texas Energy on Track to talk all things well plugging, including how a well becomes orphaned, what it takes to plug a well and how 2026 has been a record-setting year for the RRC.



Breast Cancer Awareness Month

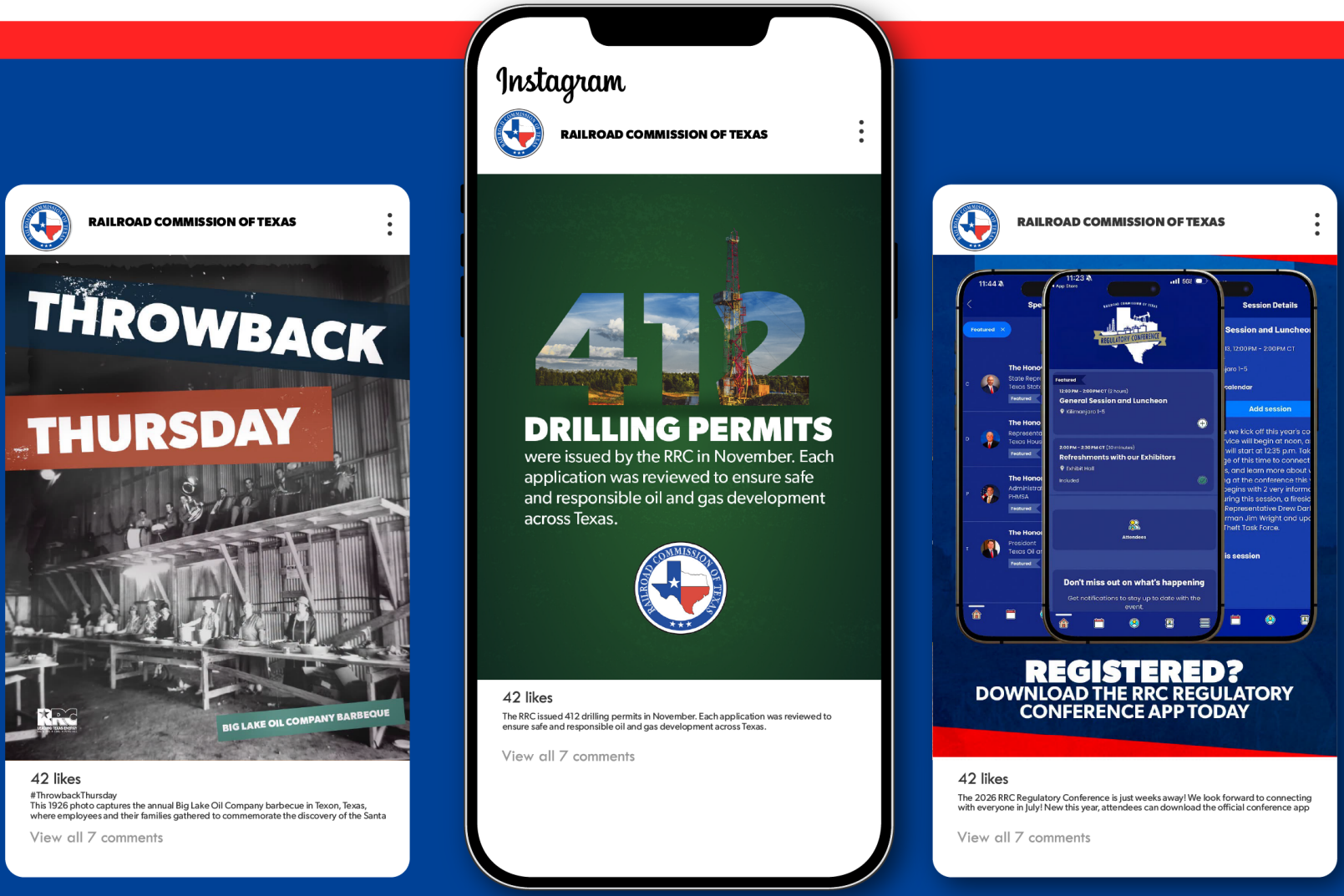
In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, employees across the agency participated in a Pink Out day and shared personal messages on the Wall of Hope. Together, they honored survivors, remembered loved ones and showed support for those impacted by breast cancer, creating a meaningful reminder of the compassion and resilience within the RRC community.





Stay Connected with the RRC

Stay informed between newsletter editions by following the RRC on social media.



COMMISSIONERS' CORNER



COMMISSIONER WRIGHT



In October, Commissioner Wright traveled to Shreveport, Louisiana, where he participated in a panel discussion at the Haynesville Regulatory Conference, cohosted by the Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association and the Louisiana Oil & Gas Association.

Together with his Louisiana counterpart, Secretary Dustin Davidson of the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources, Commissioner Wright spoke to the immense opportunities in the Haynesville Basin and spoke to some of the short-term challenges that will continue to require greater coordination between industry and state regulators on both sides of the border moving forward into the future.





COMMISSIONER CHRISTIAN

In October, RRC Commissioner Wayne Christian spoke with ABC News Capitol Hill Correspondent Jay O'Brien about his pro-business stance on data centers and the need for a Texas plan that ensures they are good neighbors and responsible stewards of our water and power. In the interview, Christian argued that with the right plan, Texas will remain at the tip of the spear of innovation and economic prosperity without sacrificing its precious natural resources.

Commissioner Christian backed U.S. Energy Secretary Chris Wright's call for Texas data center growth, emphasizing the need for abundant, reliable and affordable power. Christian called for data center developers to invest in their own dependable energy generation rather than shifting infrastructure costs to Texas ratepayers. He also stressed the importance of avoiding broad policies that strip local communities of the right to decide their own future.

Christian urged Texas to fast-track the industrial reuse of treated produced water, citing research from The University of Texas at Austin and Texas Tech University. Christian argued that treated produced water would help Texas meet growing demand from data centers and other industries, ease pressure on local freshwater supplies and support continued oil and gas production.

Christian also praised Vice President Vance's announcement of a planned expansion of the Delek US Holdings refinery in Tyler, backed by Defense Production Act funding. The expansion aims to increase production of commercial-grade and military-specification fuels, strengthen domestic refining capacity, support the local economy and bolster national energy security.

OPEN MEETING

TUES. NOV. 17 | 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.

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