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Energy News



From the Field Photo
Ector County
Photo from Sara Borret



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Upcoming Events

RRC Open Meeting March 26, 2025

[VIEW OPEN MEETING WEBCASTS ▶](#)

IMPORTANT TIMELINES FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT RULES

Oil and Gas Division staff at the Railroad Commission are hard at work implementing a major overhaul to the RRC's waste management rules; the first changes to the rule in four decades!

On December 17, 2024, RRC Commissioners voted to adopt revisions to 16 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 4, Subchapter B, relating to Commercial Recycling; and new 16 TAC Chapter 4, Subchapter A, relating to Oil and Gas Waste Management.

Those rules become effective on July 1, 2025. The official document will be available on the Secretary of State's website July 1, 2025. You can [view the adopted revisions here](#) and [adopted penalties here](#).

As the agency works towards the July 1 date, we are inviting interested parties to participate in the implementation of the rules.

Proposed Implementation Timeline

January – February 2025

- RRC develops guidance and forms

March – April 2025

- Guidance and forms posted for public comment
- Guidance and forms presented to Commissioners for approval

May – June 2025

- Training on guidance and forms

July 2025

- July 1, 2025 – Rules Effective
- July 13-16 – Training on guidance and forms at the 2025 RRC Regulatory Conference

Send questions related to this rule implementation to the RRC via email at enviro.permits@rrc.texas.gov and include "Chapter 4" in the subject line.

To receive notifications related to this new rule, [subscribe to Oil & Gas News email news](#). After subscribing, please check your spam or junk folder for a confirmation email. We suggest emails from Constant Contact are marked as safe.



RRC'S ABANDONED MINE PROGRAM RESTORES CENTRAL TEXAS PASTURELAND

Linda Hicks, a landowner in Rockdale, is breathing a sigh of relief thanks to an RRC program that restored her property to its natural state.

The RRC's Abandoned Mine Land (AML) program recently completed a project restoring land that was at an abandoned mine site in Rockdale, about 50 miles east of Austin. The extensive work over the course of a couple of months involved earthwork, erosion control, repairing more than 450 sinkholes, and revegetation.

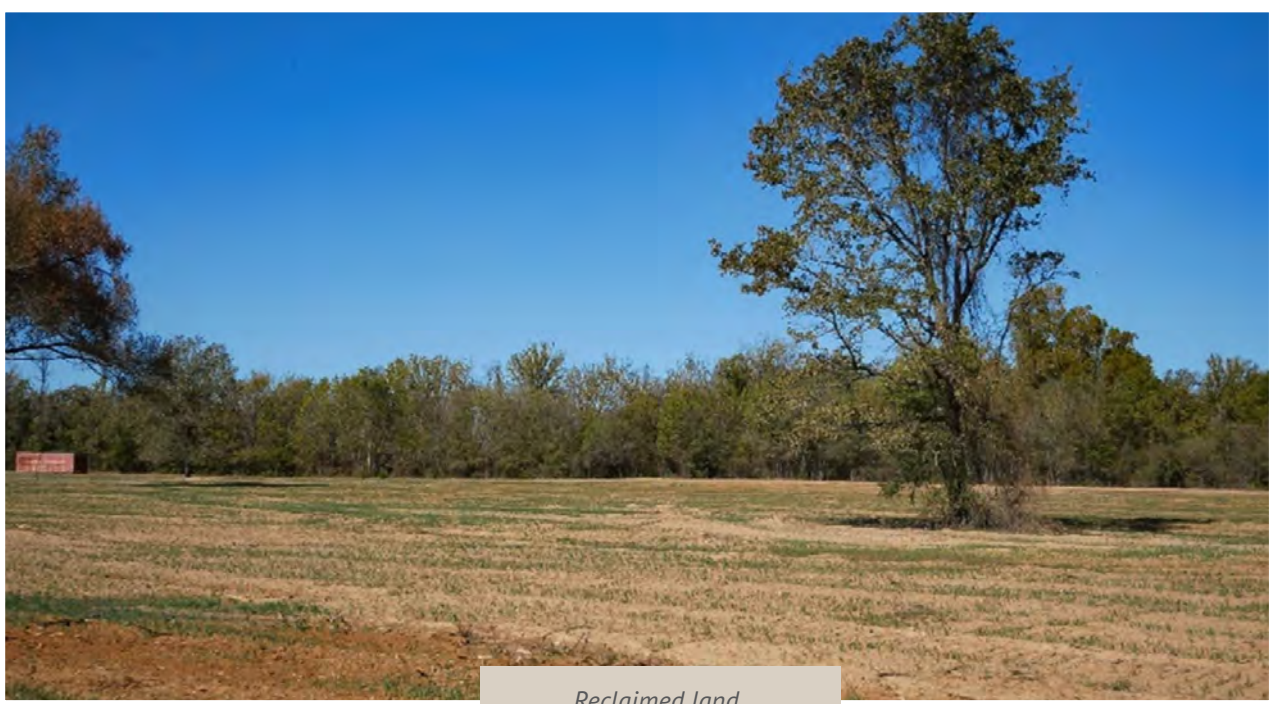
The sinkholes had been fatal for some of the cattle on the property when they became trapped in the holes in the ground hidden by brush.

AML projects began in 1977 and more than 105 projects have been completed since then, with a distinct high-tech aspect added in recent years to the RRC's decades of expertise.

"We've been leveraging modern technology for our AML projects as the years have progressed, and the Rockdale project is a great example," said Joe Parks, RRC Surface Mining and Reclamation Division Director. "We used drones and Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) to examine the land and properly identify sinkholes and previous mining. A LiDAR created detailed 3D maps of surfaces using laser pulses measuring depth and distances."



Pre-reclamation sinkhole



Reclaimed land

Watch video of Linda Hicks talking about how grateful she is for the work the RRC did restoring her land.



RRC REACHES NEW ENERGY MILESTONE WITH FIRST PERMITTED GEOTHERMAL WELL

The Railroad Commission of Texas has issued its first permit for a deep geopressured, geothermal well to Sage Geosystems in Atascosa County.

Located south of San Antonio in the Anaconcho Formation, this well permit marks a significant milestone in Texas' energy sector as the first deep geopressured, geothermal permit issued since the Texas Legislature transferred regulatory

authority for these types of wells from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to the RRC.

The well will be utilized in electricity generation to be used the San Miguel Electric Cooperative to serve its customers. Sage Geosystems has entered into a land use agreement with the cooperative to develop a three-megawatt Geopressured Geothermal System energy storage facility.



“Texas has been at the forefront of energy regulation and innovation for more than a century, and this transition has streamlined the permitting process for geothermal wells and reinforced the Commission’s leadership in emerging energy technologies,” said RRC Executive Director Wei Wang. “We remain dedicated to adapting our regulatory approach to facilitate the growth of new energy technologies while upholding the

highest standards of environmental and public safety as we have done for more than a century.”

The RRC’s regulatory framework ensures that all geothermal projects adhere to rigorous environmental and safety standards while helping develop this emerging industry which has substantial skill and technology overlap with oil and gas industry.

Chairman Craddick

COMMISSIONERS' CORNER



The Texas Legislature is in full swing, and I have been hard at work promoting the Railroad Commission's hard work and advocating for the agency's needs with key policymakers down the street at the Texas Capitol.

In the past month, I have testified in three legislative committees - Senate Finance, Senate Natural Resources and House Appropriations - and will be offering testimony before the House Energy Resources Committee next week.

In each of these hearings, we have had productive discussions on efforts to continue the agency's IT overhaul, and the need for additional well-plugging dollars.

I look forward to more discussions with state leaders on these important issues in the weeks to ensure the Railroad Commission continues to provide essential oversight of Texas' energy sector.



Commissioner Christian

COMMISSIONERS' CORNER



This month Commissioner Christian authored an editorial in World Oil calling on President Trump and Elon Musk to end taxpayer subsidies for all forms of energy.

“President Donald Trump and Elon Musk have for the first time in decades really shined a spotlight on dangers of runaway government spending, and it’s time for the oil and gas industry to stand with them by fighting against government waste. No one likes corporate welfare, especially not the American taxpayers who are footing the bill. It is time to stop playing defense against radical environmentalists and go on offense: end all energy subsidies, eliminate market distortions, and let innovation and competition determine the future.”

-Commissioner Christian

[READ THE COMMISSIONER’S EDITORIAL](#)





Commissioner Wright

COMMISSIONERS' CORNER

In February, Commissioner Wright attended Texas Energy Day at the Texas State Capitol where he interacted with energy workers from across Texas who were in Austin to speak with legislators about the importance of the oil and gas sector to our state and our economy.

“It was an honor to join industry leaders, policymakers, and hardworking Texans to discuss the future of reliable, affordable, and Texas-made energy,” said Commissioner Wright. “Texas continues to lead the way in energy innovation and job creation, and I’m proud to stand with those fighting to keep our state at the forefront of American energy independence.”





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.

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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 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 ▶](#)