

## **RAILROAD COMMISSION JURISDICTION**

In addition to regulating a wide range of oil and gas operations for the purpose of conserving oil and gas resources, the Railroad Commission of Texas regulates oil and gas exploration and production operations to protect the state's water resources. The scope of the Commission's environmental programs for oil and gas exploration and production operations is determined by section 91.101 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, which lists various oil and gas activities subject to the Commission's jurisdiction. Generally, the Railroad Commission of Texas has jurisdiction over the discharge, storage, handling, transportation, reclamation, or disposal of waste materials that result from activities associated with the exploration, development, or production of oil, gas, or geothermal resources. A more detailed explanation of the wastes under the Commission's jurisdiction is included in Chapter 3.

Railroad Commission Statewide Rule 30, "Memorandum of Understanding Between the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) and the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRRC)," clarifies jurisdiction over waste associated with oil and gas operations.

The Commission worked with the Texas Legislature in developing legislation to encourage waste minimization in oil and gas operations. As a result, section 91.110 of the Texas Natural Resources Code directs the Commission to encourage oil and gas waste reduction and minimization by implementing a program to:

- 1) provide operators with training and technical assistance on oil and gas waste reduction and minimization;
- 2) assist operators in developing oil and gas waste reduction and minimization plans; and
- 3) by rule establish incentives for oil and gas waste reduction and minimization.

The Waste Minimization Program was developed to meet these goals.