

**RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS**  
**Oil and Gas Division**

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**NOTICE TO OIL AND GAS OPERATORS**

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**Amendments to Statewide Rule 15:  
Surface Equipment Removal Requirements for Inactive Wells**

As part of the Texas Oilfield Relief Initiative, the Railroad Commission of Texas (Commission) adopted amendments to 16 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §3.15 (Statewide Rule 15), relating to Surface Equipment Removal Requirements for Inactive Wells, effective January 1, 2017.

The adopted changes reduce the regulatory burden on industry, while ensuring both personal and community safety. The amendments to Statewide Rule 15 were enacted to accurately reflect when inactive wells have been returned to active operation.

The Commission amended 16 TAC §3.15(a)(1) to modify the procedure used to determine when a well that has been designated as an “inactive well” under §16 TAC 3.15(a)(6) is restored to “active operation.” The Commission now deems an inactive oil well to be restored to active operation upon the reporting of actual oil production of either five barrels of oil per month for three consecutive months **or** one barrel of oil per month for 12 consecutive months. Similarly, the Commission now deems an inactive gas well to be restored to active operation upon the reporting of actual gas production of either 50 Mcf of gas per month for three consecutive months **or** one Mcf of gas per month for 12 consecutive months.

This notice is for informational purposes only and no action is needed on the part of the operator. The Commission has updated our computer system to ensure compliance with the new definitions and standards.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact the P5 – Financial Assurance Section of the Oil and Gas Division by email at [p5@rrc.texas.gov](mailto:p5@rrc.texas.gov) or by phone at 512-463-6772 for assistance.

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**PLEASE FORWARD TO THE APPROPRIATE SECTION OF YOUR COMPANY**