York "Smokey" Briggs, Texas

The RRC's draft Monitoring and Enforcement Plan for FY23 states all the right things. Alas, the RRC's actions do not live up to its words. I will keep thing short, and stick to two glaring examples:

1) On Page 8, under Key Regulatory Mechanisms, the Plan states that operators who are not in compliance will have their P-5's suspended, etc... In practice this almost never happens. The truth on the ground is the RRC seems to look the other way time after time, and then proceed with slaps on the wrist, again and again, rather than actually enforcing a damn thing. This outfit is a bulldog with rubber teeth when it comes to dealing with bad operators.

2) The same can be said regarding the section in this report regarding seals and severances on Page 12. Again, rarely is the Commission's actual authority used to deal with out of compliance operators. If the RRC actually started policing the oilfield as it claims to, and started actually using the powers granted to it to do so, most of the problems currently besetting Texas regarding oil and gas production could, and would, be fixed, in realtive short order.

Until the RRC gets serious about actually enforcing the rules that are already on the books, rather than coddling bad operators, all the "plans" in the world are meaningless â€" this one included.