



# RRC ENERGY MINUTE

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For the 87th Legislature & the Texas Congressional Delegation

*Our mission is to serve Texas by our stewardship of natural resources and the environment, our concern for personal and community safety, and our support of enhanced development and economic vitality for the benefit of Texans.*

## State Managed Well Plugging Update

RRC's state managed well plugging program works to eliminate the health, safety, and environmental risks associated with abandoned wells. In fiscal year 2020, RRC plugged 1,477 abandoned wells across Texas. This was 77 wells more than the Legislature's performance target of 1,400.

As of April 2021, RRC has plugged 1,083 abandoned wells for the fiscal year. Earlier this year RRC collaborated with the National Park Service to plug 11 wells at the Padre Island National Seashore near Corpus Christi. RRC's state managed well plugging program remains on track to meet the Legislature's performance expectation of plugging 1,400 abandoned wells in FY 2021.

Learn more about RRC's well plugging activities at the [state managed well plugging data visualization page](#).

RRC plugged this leaking, abandoned well in Karnes County in early 2021. The final cost for well plugging and clean up was \$64,000.



This abandoned well was found in a retention pond for a new housing development in the Houston area. RRC's well plugging program eliminated the threat the well presented to the Lake Houston watershed and area homes. The total cost for plugging this well was \$110,000.



### RRC Celebrates 130 Years of Service to Texas

The Railroad Commission first opened its doors for public service on April 3rd, 1891. At the time, the Legislature and Texas voters created the agency to regulate a rapidly expanding railroad industry that controlled the flow of goods. Beginning in 1917, the Legislature began to expand RRC's jurisdiction to include pipelines and oversight of the state's oil and gas industry.

As the RRC celebrates its 130th anniversary, it is forging ahead in the 21st century by embracing the latest technologies to better serve the public and improve its oversight of the oil and gas industry, the safety of pipelines, natural gas utilities, alternative fuels, and coal and uranium surface mining operations. Examples of RRC's recent technology enhancements include:

- **Data Visualization** pages that allow the public to see agency and industry activities.
- **RRC OIL** allows public searches for inspection and violation data recorded by agency inspectors.
- **RRC GIS Viewer** allows users to locate oil, gas, and pipeline infrastructure in Texas.



[rrc.texas.gov](http://rrc.texas.gov)

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