



July 2025

# Energy News



From the Field Photo

Well Plugging in Pecos County

Photo by Jimmy Hernandez



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## Upcoming Events

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RRC Open Meeting

August 19, 2025

[VIEW OPEN MEETING WEBCASTS](#)



## New Venue, More Guests as RRC Hosts Annual Regulatory Conference

A new venue, a record number of exhibitors and more than 80 breakout sessions were all available for the more than 1,000 people – including oil and gas and pipeline operators and industry representatives – who attended the Railroad Commission of Texas’ 2025 Regulatory Conference.

Held at the Kalahari Resort and Convention Center in Round Rock, the three-day conference brought together regulators, operators and industry professionals to discuss the latest in oil and gas regulation.

The conference opened with welcome remarks followed by a legislative update by Matt Cope, the RRC’s Director of Government Relations, who provided a brief overview of the four major oil and gas

themes that came out of bills from this past legislative session: oilfield theft, produced water, wildfire mitigation and orphaned wells.

Commission Chairman Jim Wright then spoke to the attendees, thanking them for their participation, saying that the event provided them with an opportunity to engage directly with RRC regulatory staff, before welcoming Senator Brian Birdwell, the keynote speaker.

“Your legislature is listening and trying to be deliberative,” said Birdwell, the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, highlighting some of the recent actions and accomplishments taken this past session and in working with the new Presidential administration. (Continued on next page)



The senator spoke to the value of working with the administration on expedited permitting and increasing the exportation of liquid natural gas, and the benefits that these recent changes will bring to Texas industry.

He also discussed a few key bills passed during the recent session, including SB1150 and SB1146, which both focus on the plugging of orphaned well across the state.

“The number [of wells] coming onto the rolls was greater than those coming off,” he said, adding that these bills help with both reporting on and ensuring inactive wells are being plugged. “We need to start compressing the problem from both sides.”

Throughout the conference guests had the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of breakout sessions and trainings ranging from pipeline safety emergency response to well completion

to several of the RRC’s online services including LoneSTAR and PIPES.

“Moving our conference to a larger venue gave us the opportunity to attract both more attendees and exhibitors,” said Danny Sorrells, RRC Deputy Executive Director. “And extra room for more breakout sessions allowed us to expand the important conversation around the energy industry and regulations in Texas.”

The sessions included more than 50 RRC speakers and 25 guest speakers including representatives from:

- The U.S. Department of Transportation’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)
- Southern Methodist University
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- Produced Water Society



- Tetra Technologies
- Williams Companies

One popular session on the first day of the conference was “Ask an Assistant Director” where leadership from the agency’s Oil and Gas Division fielded audience questions on all sorts of topics. Everything from Class VI primacy to managing the costs of well plugging

were discussed, with audience members even offering suggestions and feedback based on their personal experience in the industry.

The RRC thanks everyone who helped plan and organize the event and all who attended, and hope to see everyone back again next year for even more valuable discussion.



# New RRC Chapter 4 Rules Implemented on July 1

With the implementation of the new Chapter 4, Subchapter A waste management rules on July 1, 2025, the Railroad Commission has updated the [Environmental Permits and Support Unit page on the RRC website](#) to include current information to help stakeholders with the implementation.

The website includes guidance focused on the changes relevant to the new rules, including Authorized Pits, Waste Profiles and Waste Manifests.

The website includes draft versions of several forms which may be used even though they are still being proposed

and have not been formally adopted by the Commission.

Recorded webinars from earlier this spring and other materials are also available for download on the website.

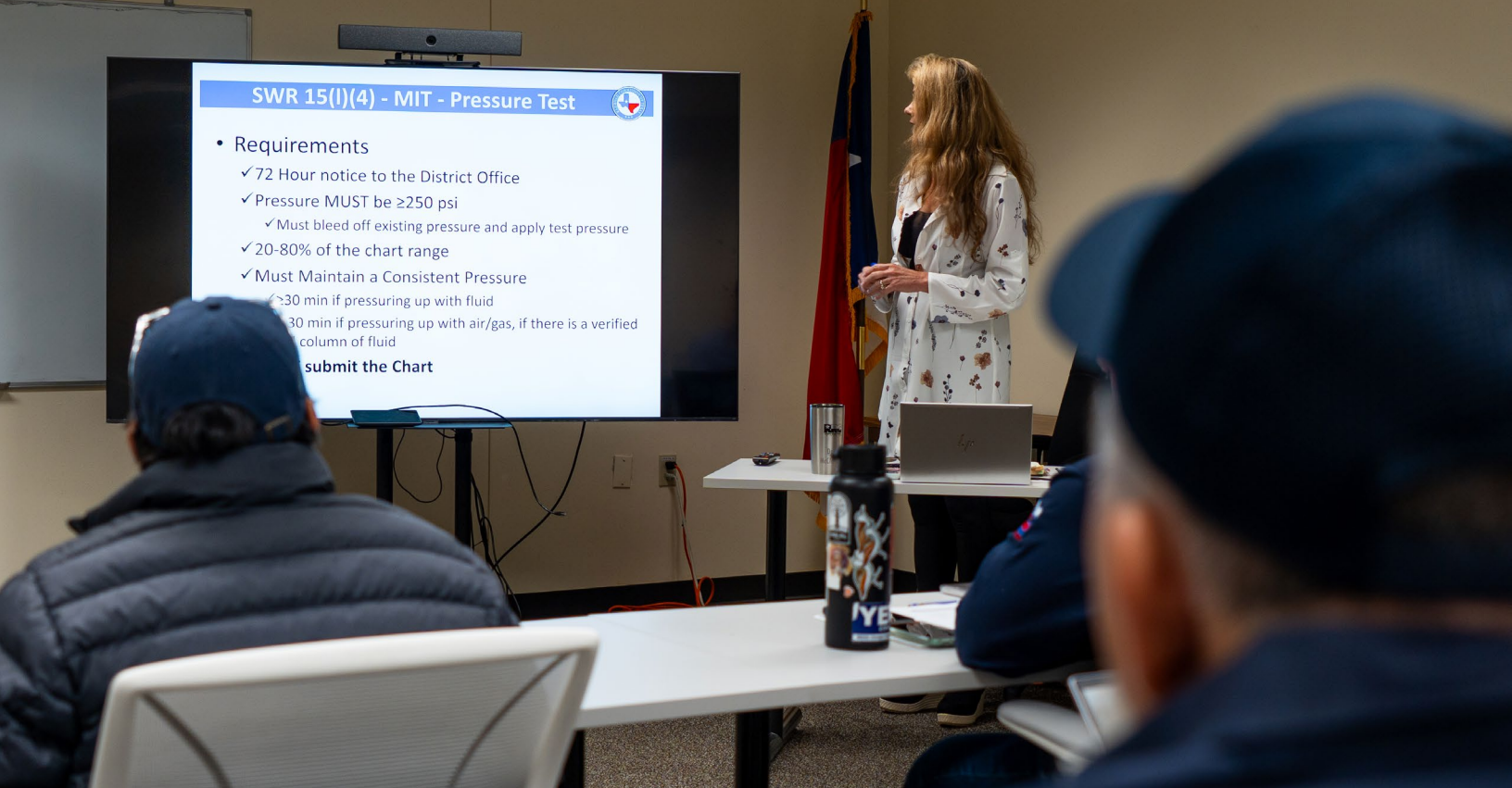
Any information regarding implementation of the new Chapter 4 rules can be directed to the Environmental Permits and Support Unit at **(512) 463-3840** or by sending an email to [EPSch4@rrc.texas.gov](mailto:EPSch4@rrc.texas.gov).

The webpage contains other contacts for specific programs, such as Authorized Pits, Waste Haulers and Waste Management Permits.



Don't miss the latest episode of the RRC's official podcast, "Texas Energy on Track" where the hosts sit down with Travis Baer, the Railroad Commission's Deputy Director of Field Operations for the South Region, to discuss well plugging and orphaned wells.

Available on all major podcast platforms, including [Apple Music](#) and [Spotify](#).



## Boots on the Ground: Phase II Training Kicks Off for Field Inspectors and Technical Staff

As we mentioned in the [May issue of Energy News](#), the Railroad Commission of Texas has recently launched its' Boots on the Ground initiative designed to bring more consistency across all the agency's oil and gas districts.

Phase II of the Boots on the Ground program is now underway, designed to further enhance the skills of our field inspectors and technical staff. This comprehensive training focuses on key topics relevant to their roles in maintaining compliance.

RRC staff dive into several topics, including, but not limited to:

- Commercial surface waste treatment and disposal facility permits, covering pits, stationary treatment facilities and reclamation plants.
- Inactive well requirements, False Filings and Orphaned Wells.
- Troubleshooting well plugging

issues and verifying plugging details including plug length and required cement quantities.

This training is a valuable opportunity for RRC teams to sharpen their expertise on challenging topics as they grow in their roles. Phase I trained more than 300 employees on statewide rules that inspectors and technical staff primarily deal with in the field.

Boots on the Ground is coordinated by Dana McClendon, the division trainer with the RRC's Oil and Gas Division. The training's in-depth discussion of rules and collaborative classroom environment helps inspectors understand why their field work can have a lasting impact. "The program brings clarity to the rules which helps inspectors do their job well," said McClendon. "Our goal is to make sure everyone leaves more confident to do the inspections the state relies on to ensure operators are complying with safety regulations."

A portrait of Chairman Wright, a middle-aged man with grey hair and a goatee, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a blue patterned tie. He is smiling slightly. In the background, a portion of the Railroad Commission seal is visible, featuring a star and the word "RAILROAD".

# Chairman Wright

COMMISSIONERS' CORNER

In July, Chairman Wright attended the Railroad Commission's Annual Regulatory Conference in Round Rock, Texas, where he had the pleasure of introducing Senate Natural Resources Chairman Brian Birdwell to the audience for the keynote address.

"As I travel across the state, I am often approached by operators and other industry employees who make a point of mentioning how much they enjoy attending the regulatory conference and appreciate the ability to learn and provide feedback directly to Railroad Commission staff," said Chairman Wright. "I am so proud of the RRC staff for their hard work and outstanding effort to make the 2025 Regulatory Conference a huge success!"

Later in July, Chairman Wright attended the West Texas Legislative Summit, where he discussed the recent legislative session and the importance of Texas energy production as a part of a panel moderated by House Energy Resources Chairman Drew Darby.



# Commissioner Craddick

COMMISSIONERS' CORNER



Last month the Railroad Commission held its annual Regulatory Conference at the Kalahari Resort and Conference Center and it was a resounding success!

I would to extend my sincere appreciation to our agency staff for the countless hours of hard work and dedication that went in to making this event possible. This year we had more than 1,000 attendees and guests from 14 different states as well as Washington D.C.

Throughout the three day conference, we covered a variety of important industry topics including discussions on critical infrastructure, oil and gas, produced water, and pipeline safety. I'm pleased to see that a majority of attendees gave positive reviews of their experience.

Again, none of this would have been possible with the hard work of our employees, and I am grateful for your commitment and effort."

# Commissioner Christian

COMMISSIONERS' CORNER



This month Commissioner Christian put out a [press release](#) applauding President Trump's and EPA Administrator Zeldin's Rollback of an Obama-era Greenhouse Gas Ruling. Check out what the Commissioner had to say:

"President Trump promised Americans he'd scrap Net Zero, the 'Green New Scam,' and other radical environmental policies that stifle American fossil fuel production and inhibit his mission to re-establish American Energy Dominance. The Net Zero agenda is a fantasy built on a house of cards, and EPA Administrator Zeldin's reconsideration of the 'endangerment finding' will knock it down.

Because America reduced EPA's six major regulated pollutants by 77 percent over the last half century, the radical environmental movement had to invent CO<sub>2</sub> as a pollutant – creating a boogeyman – to justify their continued war on fossil fuels. U.S. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have already declined by 20 percent over the

past two decades and our oil production is 23 percent cleaner than the global average. Meanwhile, large fossil fuel producing nations like China and Russia continue to emit with impunity.

At the end of the day, CO<sub>2</sub> is a plant food needed for all human life to flourish and is an important fact that environmentalists love to omit to the public conversion. I applaud President Trump and EPA Administrator Zeldin in their effort to challenge climate catastrophists and put America's reliable energy producers first."

Additionally, Commissioner Christian published an editorial in the Hill about how polling supports the Trump Administration's energy agenda. [READ MORE](#)

Lastly, the Commissioner put out a podcast episode featuring Congressman Randy Weber. [LISTEN HERE](#)

# Oil and 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.

[VIEW PRODUCTION STATISTICS](#) ▶

# 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 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](#) ▶