

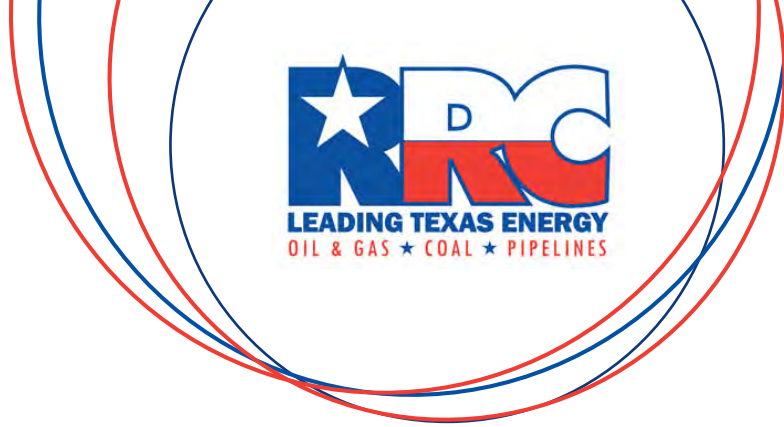


AUGUST 2023

# Energy News



**From the Field Photo**  
Hot in Hemphill County  
Photo from Randy Milligan



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## Upcoming Events

RRC Open Meeting .....Tuesday, September 19, 2023

[VIEW OPEN MEETING WEBCASTS ▶](#)



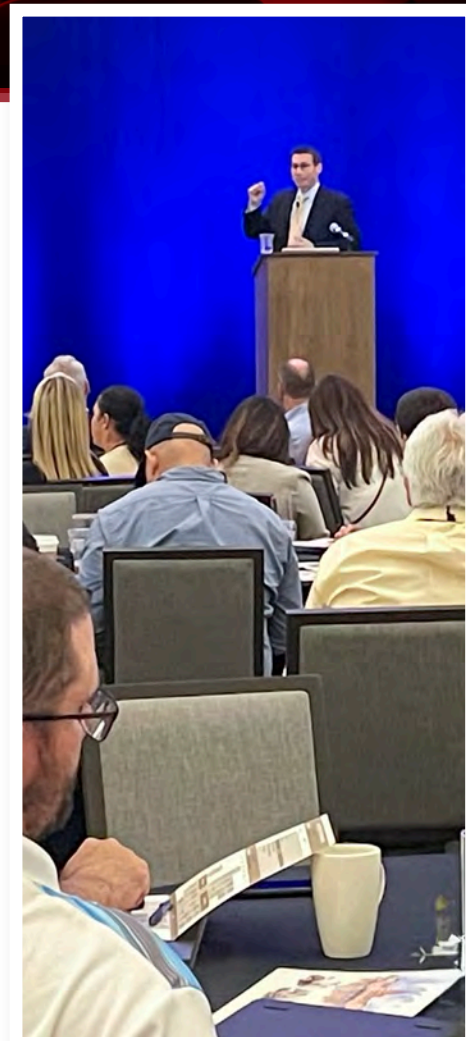
# Another Successful RRC Regulatory Conference in the Books

The Railroad Commission hosted the 2023 Regulatory Conference from July 31 – August 2 in Austin to inform and train oil, gas, pipeline operators, and other industry representatives on the laws, rules, and procedures to produce hydrocarbon in Texas.

Close to 700 people attended the conference. The three-day event featured Legislative updates, pipeline safety updates, critical infrastructure changes, information on carbon sequestration and the RRC's primacy application to the EPA, and much more.

There were more than 50 sessions at this year's conference and attendees had time to ask questions at the end of each session with RRC staff experts. Each year, the conference is a great opportunity for attendees to participate in workshops, learn about important upcoming regulatory changes, and network with fellow industry professionals.

New at this year's conference was the chance to attend a variety of sessions, instead of through a single track, varying the information all attendees could gather and get questions answered on important industry topics.





*Keynote Speaker Robert Clarke*



*Guest Speaker Dewitt Burdeaux of RCP presenting Potential Impact of the Gas Pipeline Leak Detection and Repair NPRM*



*Atia Rahman presenting Statewide Rule 32: Exception to Flaring/Venting of Produced Gas*







*Keynote Speaker Robert Clarke*



*Alex Borrell and Lourdes Lazano presenting H-15 Older Inactive Well Test Reports*



# The Railroad Commission Responds to EPA's Proposed Rules that Can Jeopardize Reliable Energy

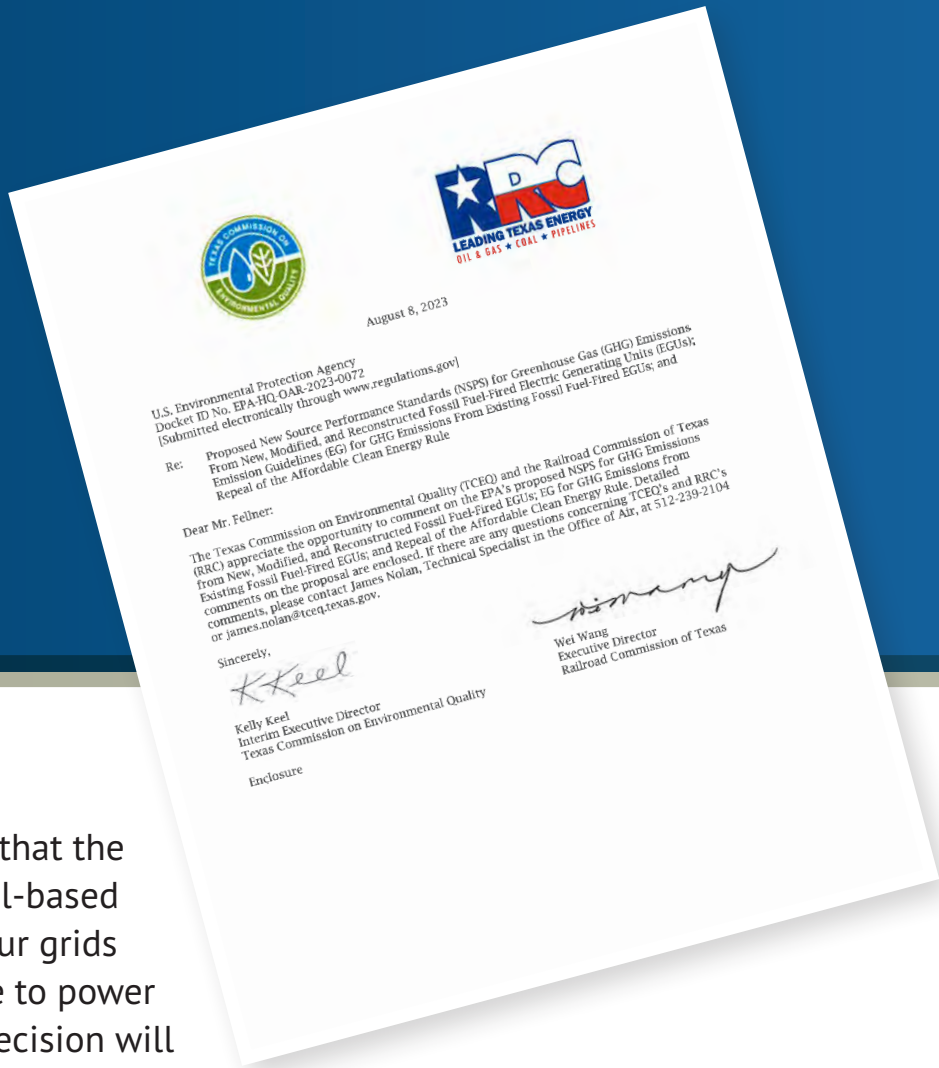
The RRC submitted joint comments along with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) opposing the EPA's proposal to add requirements to electric generating units in an effort to reduce carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions.

The comments highlighted inaccurate assumptions the EPA used to estimate the climate benefits of the rule. It would also inflict high costs, not including the infrastructure required to get the proposed mandates in place, and still risk the fuel needed for the electric grid.

This rule could cause coal and natural gas fired power plants to soon become scarce, even though they are vital in supplying electricity in an ever-growing state like Texas.

"The EPA continues to undermine the needs of Americans," said RRC Chairman Christi Craddick. "The latest proposed rule is unrealistic and potentially dangerous as it reduces or eliminates access to electricity for consumers. During extreme heat waves, like we are currently experiencing in Texas, and extreme cold snaps, access to power from natural gas and coal is critical for survival. I am proud to join with TCEQ and push back against these outrageous proposed regulations."

"President Biden's obsession with 'net-zero' is propping up unreliable energy sources that only make our electric grids unstable and leave consumers with higher energy costs," said Commissioner Wayne Christian. "In May, the Public Utilities Commission of Texas and the Federal Energy Regulatory



Commission warned that the retirement of thermal-based energies is leaving our grids extremely vulnerable to power blackouts, and this decision will only lead to less investment in those sources and less reliable energy on our grids.”

“Our state and our nation are at a crossroads when it comes to the future reliability of the electric grid. Unfortunately, the EPA’s proposed rule will send us further down the path of less dependability and higher consumer costs,” said Commissioner Jim Wright. “Since 2000, the population of Texas has increased by 43% and our economy has grown by 88%, yet we’ve added only 18% more dispatchable generation to our

electric grid. The EPA’s short-sided approach will only serve to further disincentivize investment in reliable electric generation and reduce our ability to provide electricity when it is needed most.”

In early 2024, the EPA is expected to provide a final ruling.

The joint comments submitted by the RRC and TCEQ can be found here:

[READ RRC’S AND TCEQ’S JOINT COMMENTS](#)





# RRC Announces Joe Parks as the New Director of the Surface Mining and Reclamation Division

The Railroad Commission is proud to announce Joe Parks as the new Director of the Surface Mining and Reclamation Division (SMRD). Parks first joined the Commission in October 2016 as an Engineering Specialist and he was the Assistant Director for SMRD prior to becoming Director.

SMRD oversees coal exploration, mining, and mine reclamation in Texas to ensure operators follow Commission rules and regulations established to protect public safety and natural resources.

“I began my career in the mining industry in 1983 working on one of the first RRC lignite mining permits submittals. I feel I have come full circle

within the Texas mining industry with an understanding in both the regulatory and operational aspects of the industry,” said Parks.

Parks previously held positions such as plant manager, environmental supervisor, and technician at various mining operations, as well as being an Adjunct Instructor at Navarro College.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology with a minor in General Business from Sam Houston State University. He also attended the University of Texas at Austin where he studied at the McCombs School of Business in Executive Education and Leadership.







# RRC's Deadline to Apply for Texas Hydrogen Production Council Fast Approaching

The Railroad Commission of Texas is accepting applications for membership on the Texas Hydrogen Production Policy Council (Council), which was created in House Bill 2847 passed by the 88th Legislature (Regular Session). The deadline to submit applications is next week, Tuesday, September 5, 2023.

The Council's duties include, but are not limited to:

- studying the development of hydrogen industries in Texas;
- monitoring regional efforts for the application and development of a regional clean hydrogen hub authorized under the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act;
- developing a state plan for hydrogen production oversight by the RRC; and
- making recommendations to the Legislature on legislative changes needed for the oversight and regulation of production, pipeline transportation, and storage of hydrogen.



The bill requires the RRC to appoint no more than 11 members to the Council, with at least three, but not more than five, representatives from the hydrogen industry. The chair of the Council will be the Chairman of the RRC or their designee.

The application for membership to the Council and attachments need to be emailed to [txh2@rrc.texas.gov](mailto:txh2@rrc.texas.gov), with "Application" in the subject line.

[DOWNLOAD THE APPLICATION](#)



# Final Amendments Adopted to Chapter 5, relating to Carbon Dioxide

The RRC has adopted rule amendments to 16 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 5 which are the agency's Injection Well rules for Carbon Dioxide sequestration. The amendments were adopted by RRC commissioners at their open meeting on August 22.

In July the RRC held a virtual public hearing was held for comments on the proposed amendments that gave the opportunity for the public to weigh in with questions and potential concerns. The hearing was in addition to written comments submitted during the public comment period.

The RRC submitted an application for Class VI primacy to the EPA in December. Primacy allows the EPA to delegate its authority to states, provided they meet the federal government's minimum standards. If approved by the EPA, primacy would mean that operators would only need to apply with the RRC for Class VI injection well permits rather than both agencies.

This could streamline the process for operators to be able trap Carbon Dioxide released into the atmosphere from different sources into appropriate geologic formations.

The adopted amendments make sure that Texas' regulations on Class VI injection wells meet federal requirements for enforcement. They include but are not limited to: adding and modifying definitions in the rule; adding permit conditions for monitoring, sampling, and testing requirements; and clarifying mechanical integrity requirements in permits.

[VIEW A COPY OF THE ADOPTED AMMENDMENTS](#)



# Chairman Craddick

COMMISSIONERS' CORNER



In August, Chairman Christi Craddick was honored to speak at the West Texas Legislative Summit on energy issues in Texas, the United States, and across the globe. Alongside Congressmen August Pfluger, Michael Burgess, Marc Veasey, Randy Weber, and PBPA President Ben Shepperd, the panel covered topics ranging from federal overreach into state policies, the Endangered Species Act, and oil and gas industry innovation and advancements. Chairman Craddick is always glad to visit West Texas and was thankful to the San Angelo Chamber of Commerce and San Angelo State University for putting on a great event.

Additionally, Chairman Craddick participated in a meeting with the Bureau of Economic Geology (BEG). The BEG partners with the Railroad Commission to analyze seismic activity and geologic formations around the state. This partnership is crucial to better understanding the root cause of seismic activity across the state. The group also discussed carbon storage in Texas. As an advocate for strong data, Chairman Craddick is pleased to work with the BEG on these important topics.







**Chairman Christi Craddick speaking on energy issues in Texas at the West Texas Legislative Summit.**

# Commissioner Christian

COMMISSIONERS' CORNER



This month Commissioner Christian sent a letter to Texas Governor Greg Abbott and Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham voicing his opposition to the installation of offshore wind farms in the Gulf of Mexico after the Biden Administration announced plans to auction off more than 300,000 acres for offshore wind energy. [You can read more here.](#)

The Commissioner also released another episode of his podcast “Wayne’s World: Energizing Texas”. This episode features Meghan Lapp, one of the nation’s preeminent leaders fighting to stop the Biden Administration’s massive taxpayer funded offshore wind farms. [You can listen to it here.](#)

Lastly, the Commissioner visited with Texans in Tarrant County regarding the importance of oil and gas production in our state and the threat that’s posed by the Biden Administration trying to shut it down.







Commissioner Christian speaking in Tarrant County

**WAYNE'S WORLD**  
ENERGIZING TEXAS

EPISODE #14  
OFFSHORE WIND FARMS



GUEST:  
MEGHAN LAPP  
Seafreeze Ltd.

The Commissioner also released another episode of his podcast





# Commissioner Wright

COMMISSIONERS' CORNER

In August, Commissioner Wright spoke at the Texas Produced Water Consortium Annual Membership meeting in Austin. Commissioner Wright updated the consortium membership on the status of several Railroad Commission initiatives, including efforts to establish a framework for Produced Water Recycling Pilot Projects and how proposed modifications to Statewide Rule 8 will help provide greater insight into the management of produced water resources in seismically active areas of our state.





**Commissioner Wright speaking at the Texas Produced Water Consortium Annual Membership meeting in Austin**





# Oil & 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 CURRENT 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 LATEST 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 ▶](#)