

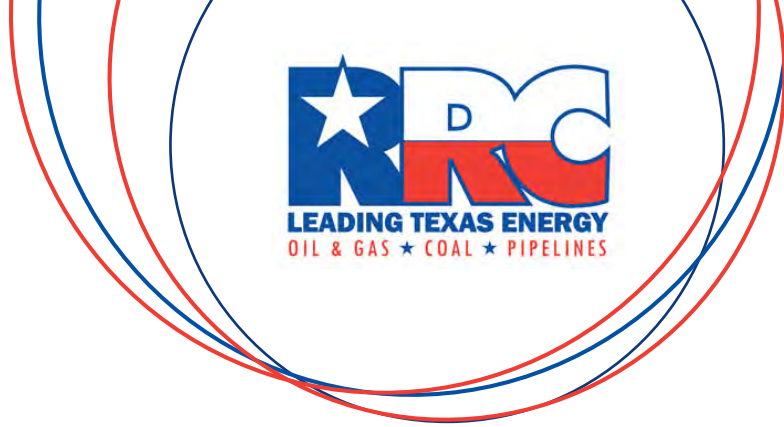


SEPTEMBER 2023

Energy News



From the Field Photo
Martin County
Photo from Robert Meissner



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Upcoming Events

RRC Open Meeting.....Tuesday, October 24, 2023

[VIEW OPEN MEETING WEBCASTS ▶](#)

The RRC Proposes Rule for New Energy Conservation Program

The Railroad Commission proposed new rule 16 TAC §7.480, relating to Energy Conservation Programs, which would provide a framework for natural gas energy conservation programs across the state to allow the participation of more Texans in conservation efforts. Proposed §7.480 is authorized by House Bill 2263 passed during the 88th regular legislative session. Local gas distribution companies would be allowed to recover the costs of energy conservation programs. Energy Conservation Programs would be subject to review and approval of the RRC.

Major Overhaul Proposed for RRC Water Protection and Oil & Gas Waste Management Rules

The RRC's Statewide Rule 8 will undergo a substantial overhaul for the first time in nearly 40 years, to better reflect modern waste management practices and recent advancements in methods of production.

The protection of groundwater resources is one of the highest priorities of the RRC. In many of the Commission's Statewide Rules, water protection is a major consideration and it's also one of the primary purposes of Statewide Rule 8. The Commission proposed revisions under Statewide Rule 8 and Chapter 4 reflect the RRC's mission to serve Texas through our stewardship of the environment and natural resources.

The streamlining of Statewide Rule 8 into the Commission's existing Chapter 4 regulations concerning environmental protection, construction, operation, monitoring, and closure of waste management units, improving

the Commission's ability to track and collect data with respect to oilfield waste transported throughout the state and updating requirements on the design are all part of the proposed changes which will provide clear direction to operators and Commission staff.

The RRC will be hosting both an informal and virtual hearing on the proposed changes where interested parties are encouraged to attend and provide oral or written comments regarding the proposals under consideration. The new proposals are now posted on the RRC website for informal public comment.

Staff will review and consider those informal comments prior to formally proposing the rule for public consideration in the Texas Register.

[READ THE INFORMAL POSTING](#)



RRC Reclamation Program Celebrates 20 years of Protecting Texas

The Railroad Commission has multiple avenues to carry out our critical mission of protecting the environment and communities across Texas while regulating the oil and gas industry. It was 20-years ago that one such program was launched.

The Commission's Brownfields Program started in 2003 to incentivize the remediation of properties in the state of Texas that are contaminated through oil and gas activities and free to qualified entities such as local governments, nonprofits, and community supported projects.

A site known as a Brownfield site is an area where the reuse of that land may be affected by the presence of substances or contaminants. The RRC's Brownfield program includes environmental assessments and limited cleanups, while also protecting the environment, creating jobs, and restoring communities by increasing property values.

"In August, the RRC hired Magdalena Taylor to fill the role of Community Outreach Specialist for the Brownfields

Response Program. This is a new position to the agency with the primary role being community-based outreach efforts with a focus on rural and disadvantaged communities along the Texas-Mexico border. This area of the state has many socioeconomic characteristics consistent with disadvantaged communities such as low income, high unemployment rate, linguistic isolation, and a low educational attainment level. With the creation of this position, the RRC aims to investigate potential contamination associated with historic oil and gas activities in order to help combat environmental justice concerns in this region," said Leslie Bruce, VCP/Brownfields Program Coordinator.



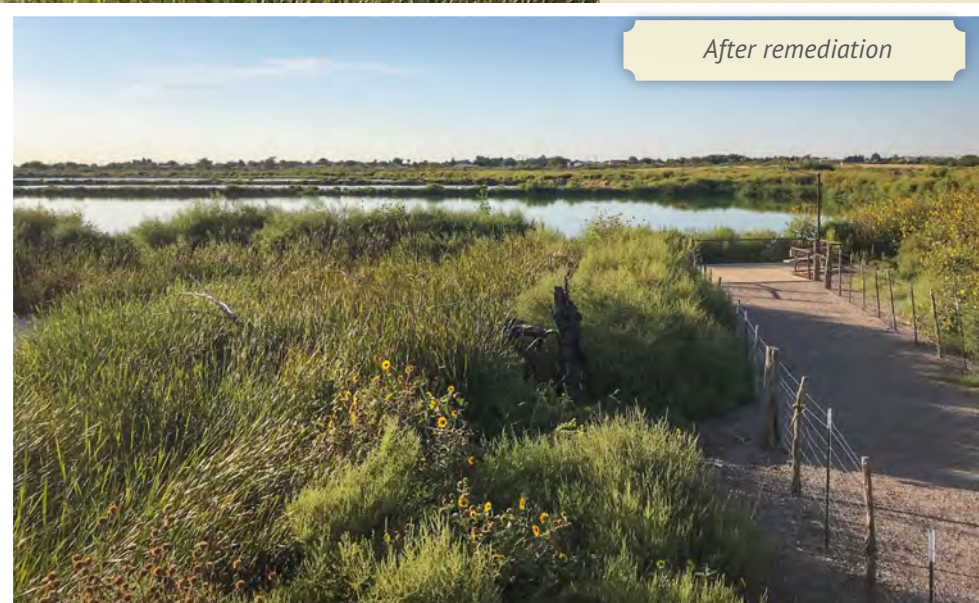
Before remediation



Since the Brownfields program inception:

- Has provided assistance for environmental concerns at **40** properties and **181** properties through the Commission's Voluntary Cleanup Program
- Approximately **2,333-acres** have been successfully assessed and remediated through the Brownfields Program and **4,399-acres** through our Voluntary Cleanup Program
- An estimated over **1,000 jobs** have been created through the successful redevelopment of RRC Brownfield sites
- The RRC has received over **\$3.5 million** in Brownfields funding
- The Commission has an employee dedicated specifically to community outreach in environmental justice areas with historic oil and gas activities.

After remediation



RRC Announces Ray Young as New Chief Information Officer

The Railroad Commission is excited to announce that Ray Young has been selected at the Chief Information Officer/ Director of the Information Technology Services Division. Ray joined the RRC in 2013 leading software development activities. In the past 10 years with the RRC, he has led Technology Governance, Information Security, Vendor Sourcing, and was most recently the Chief Technology Officer.

Before coming to the agency, Ray held various technology positions at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and IBM implementing and maintaining technology hardware, systems, and software for more than 20 years. His wealth of experience will build on past

momentum to drive adoption of innovative technology solutions helping RRC to achieve its mission.

“I’ll continue to focus on the agency’s major modernization and mainframe transformation projects while investigating how we can leverage AI tools to perform agency tasks faster, cheaper and maintain the high quality that RRC is known for,” said Young.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science from the University of Texas. He is also a graduating member of the agency’s inaugural Wisdom Program and earned both Managerial and Executive Leadership Certifications from the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas.



Chairman Craddick

COMMISSIONERS' CORNER



In September, Chairman Christi Craddick attended the 8th Annual Kay Bailey Hutchison Energy Center Symposium. Discussions and panels pertained to a wide variety of important energy topics such as carbon capture, hydrogen development, and global politics impacting energy supply. Chairman Craddick is proud to serve on the Advisory Board for the KBH Energy Center and was excited to participate in this year's symposium.

Additionally, Chairman Craddick participated in the Texas Energy Reliability Council meeting. Formally established by the legislature in 2021, this group meets regularly to ensure the state's energy and electricity supplies are met, particularly in adverse weather conditions. The focus of this meeting centered on a recap of summer events and an outlook on winter preparations. By bringing regulators and industry leaders together in this forum, Texas can be better prepared for energy emergencies in the future.



Commissioner Christian

COMMISSIONERS' CORNER



Commissioner Christian sent a letter to President Biden’s U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services opposing their pending rule which would designate the Dune Sagebrush Lizard (DSL) as an endanger species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

In the letter, Commissioner Christian detailed concerns that this unnecessary action could severely stifle Texas oil and natural gas operations, weaken American energy independence, and jeopardize U.S. national security.

“Texas must fight the Biden Administration on this most recent ‘weaponization’ of the ESA trying to shut down oil and gas operations in the Permian Basin,” said Commissioner Christian.[Read More Here](#)

Additionally, Christian also released his 16th episode of his podcast, “Wayne’s World: Energizing Texas”. This episode features Texas Independent Producers & Royalty Owners Association President, Ed Longanecker. TIPRO represents about 3,000 producers and mineral rights owners fighting for the responsible production of oil and gas.

In this episode, we talk about the economic importance of oil and gas; the recent Texas legislative session, the headwinds from the Biden administration; how the industry is becoming cleaner not dirtier; and their public relations campaign “Texans for Natural Gas”.

[LISTEN TO THE COMMISSIONER’S PODCAST](#)





Commissioner Wright

COMMISSIONERS' CORNER

In September, Commissioner Wright attended the Energy Elevated Technology Showcase, hosted by the Texas Oil & Gas Association and the Texas Methane & Flaring Coalition, to witness the new and innovative products and services being deployed in the oil and gas industry throughout the state.

“The Texas oil and gas industry is a leader in developing, utilizing, and incorporating new technology into their operations,” said Commissioner Wright. “It is a key reason why Texas has been able to maintain its long-held status as the top oil and gas producing state in the nation, and why Texas is among the cleanest, safest, most efficient and responsible supplier of energy products in the global market.”



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 ▶](#)