

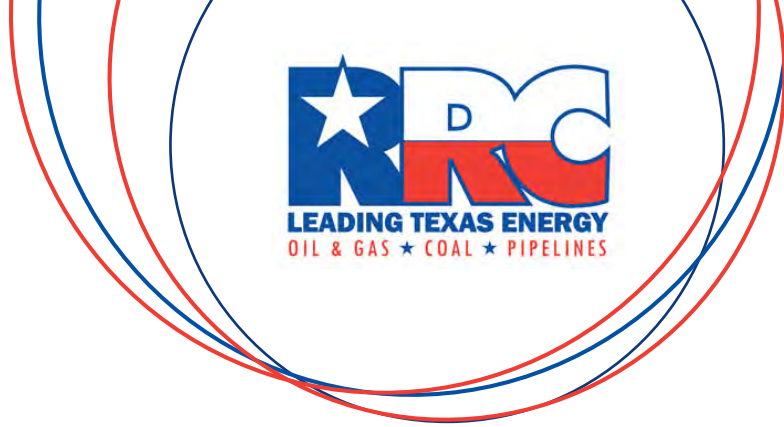


JANUARY 2024

# Energy News



**From the Field Photo**  
Frosty Morning in District 10  
Photo from Charles Dabney



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## Upcoming Events

RRC Open Meeting.....Wednesday, February 14, 2024

[VIEW OPEN MEETING WEBCASTS ▶](#)

# New Addition to RRC Leadership Team - Cesar Saldivar is the RRC's Chief Administrative Officer

Cesar Saldivar has joined the RRC as Chief Administrative Officer and will oversee the Operations and Human Resources & Training Development Divisions.

Cesar worked at the State Auditor's Office for over 24 years.

"My new role here allows me to take this prior experience and help make this great agency even better," said Saldivar about becoming Chief Administrative Officer. "During my time at the State Auditor's Office, I was given the opportunity to wear many hats besides managing audits. This included managing the Business Services department (purchasing, contracts, and payroll), hiring, training staff, and Legislative Liaison. That role as an auditor/audit manager allowed me to see many different processes at numerous agencies. I was able to see what worked and what did not."



## Newly Established

# TEXAS HYDROGEN PRODUCTION POLICY COUNCIL GETS TO WORK

The energy capital of the United States is not just limited to the oil and gas industry. Hydrogen will soon become a vital component in the expansion of the energy industry in Texas, providing greater energy production and further boosting the economy with job creation.

House Bill 2847 passed by the 88th Legislature, established the Texas Hydrogen Production Policy Council (TxH2 Council) at the RRC to delve into important analysis.

The Council is tasked with making recommendations to the Legislature on updates necessary for the oversight and regulation of production, pipeline transportation, and storage of hydrogen. Duties of the Council will include developing a state plan for hydrogen production oversight by the RRC, analyzing the development of hydrogen industries around the state,

and monitoring regional efforts for the application and development of a clean hydrogen hub authorized under the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

The Council is chaired by RRC Chairman Craddick, and RRC appointed 11 additional members to the Council representing a diverse group of experts from academia, NGOs, research organizations, service companies, downstream customers, producers, transportation and storage companies, all are represented by this Council.

The TxH2 Council had its first meeting, an organizational meeting, on December 14, and the following individuals have been appointed to the Council: Richard Fenza from Air Liquide, Preston Kurtz from Air Products & Chemicals, Nigel Jenvey from Baker Hughes, Keith Wall from CenterPoint Energy, Ian Lindsay





from Chevron New Energies, Angie Murray from Enterprise Products, Scott Anderson from Environmental Defense Fund, Brian Weeks from GTI Energy, Jeffrey Pollack from Port of Corpus Christi Authority, Brian Korgel from the University of Texas and Kelsie Van Hoose from Williams Companies.

Historically, the RRC has been an energy regulator since 1917 when pipelines were declared to be common carriers and placed under the Commission's jurisdiction. Over a century later, the Commission continues to lead with regulatory expertise in the number one energy producing state in the U.S.



# RRC Jumps to Action to Help Protect Texans During January Freeze

The Railroad Commission's diligent preparations to protect Texans in weather emergencies was in full effect for Winter Storm Heather which gripped the state in a multi-day freeze this month.

No major disruptions were reported in all facets of the gas supply chain – production, pipeline transportation and underground gas storage. Any production fluctuations were within normal operational range.

Beginning in early December, Critical Infrastructure Division inspectors began spreading across the state to ensure natural gas facilities on the state's electricity supply chain map are weatherized and in compliance with RRC's weatherization rules. All gas processing plants, underground gas storage facilities,

pipelines that directly connect to electricity generation plants, and oil and gas leases that produce more than 5 million cubic feet of gas per day. No violations have been identified so far.

Another important factor for harsh weather is the amount of natural gas in underground storage in Texas. At the end of November, which was the typical end of the injection season for winter, there was approximately 488.8 billion cubic feet of gas in storage, a five percent increase compared to the end of November 2022 and the highest amount in six years. The infrastructure for gas storage and withdrawal capacity has grown within a year which is a boon to protecting residents in a growing state.



*RRC Safety Officer Chance Karshens at the State Operations Center*

Finally, as we do during any weather emergency, we were also in contact with operators and partner agencies such as the Public Utility Commission, ERCOT and TxDOT to help fix any spot issues that occurred during the freeze, from clearing iced roads to restoring localized power outages at some facilities.





# Additions to Electricity Supply Chain Map Strengthen State's Emergency Response Capability

Another key component in the state's response to weather emergencies such as Winter Storm Heather is the Texas Electricity Supply Chain Map. That map now includes more information that will assist state emergency officials in preparing for, responding to and recovering from weather emergencies or other disasters.

The map identifies critical infrastructure facilities that are in the state's electricity supply chain, including electric generation plants and the natural gas facilities that supply fuel to power the generation

plants. New layers of information added include water and wastewater treatment plants, and the roads that provide access to all the facilities on the map.

It has been a crucial resource used by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT), the Railroad Commission (RRC), and state emergency responders to respond to issues in real-time through direct communication and movement of resources necessary for maintenance or repair of electric generation and transmission infrastructure during an emergency.





“The map is one of many steps we take to help ensure residents’ safety during weather emergencies,” said Wei Wang, RRC Executive Director. “This supply chain map is the first of its kind in the nation and has proven to be a valuable tool for emergency management personnel to triage, respond, and collaborate real-time during emergencies. It’s all part of the extensive work state agencies undertake in our mission to protect Texans.”

The map has:

- More than 12,740 facilities including electricity generation plants powered by natural gas, electric substations, natural gas processing plants, underground gas storage facilities, oil and gas well leases, saltwater disposal wells;
- More than 21,000 miles of gas transmission pipelines and approximately 60,000 miles of electric transmission lines;
- Approximately 13,000 water and wastewater treatment plants; and
- A basemap layer of Texas Department of Transportation roads.



# Chairman Craddick

COMMISSIONERS' CORNER



In January, Chairman Christi Craddick spent time at the State Operations Center preparing for winter weather and briefing the Governor of Texas on the natural gas industry's preparations. Thanks to the weatherization rules implemented by the Railroad Commission and the hard work of operators across the state, natural gas flowed throughout the storm and Texans stayed warm.

Additionally, Chairman Craddick spoke with several Chamber of Commerce Leadership Groups visiting Austin to learn more about their state capitol. Visiting with these leaders is always an honor, and sharing the mission of the Railroad Commission is important to helping educate Texans about the important work done by this agency. Thank you Leadership Abilene and Leadership Rockwall for taking time to visit Austin.





State Operations Center





# Commissioner Christian

COMMISSIONERS' CORNER



Commissioner [Wayne Christian sent a letter](#) and published a [press release condemning the Biden Administration](#) for their decision to pause permits for new liquified natural gas (LNG) export projects. Commissioner Christian had this to say of the latest attack on oil and gas by the Biden Administration:

“This move by the Biden Administration is just the latest in a long line of actions to dismantle American oil and gas production and does NOT eliminate emissions. It simply exports them to dirtier and more hostile producers overseas. President Biden will always choose his climate catastrophist friends over increasing fossil fuel production to lower energy costs—for Americans and our allies.”

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



# Commissioner Wright

COMMISSIONERS' CORNER

In January, Commissioner Wright spoke at the University of Texas 7th Conference on Carbon Capture and Storage, where he updated attendees on the status of the Railroad Commission's Class VI primacy application currently pending with the EPA.

Later in January, Commissioner Wright traveled to Houston to attend World Oil's Annual Forecast Breakfast. During his presentation, Commissioner Wright provided insight into Texas's record-breaking oil and gas production figures in 2023 and discussed how federal actions such as a moratorium on new LNG export permits could negatively impact domestic energy production and global energy markets in the future.









# 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 ▶](#)