



# RRC ENERGY MINUTE

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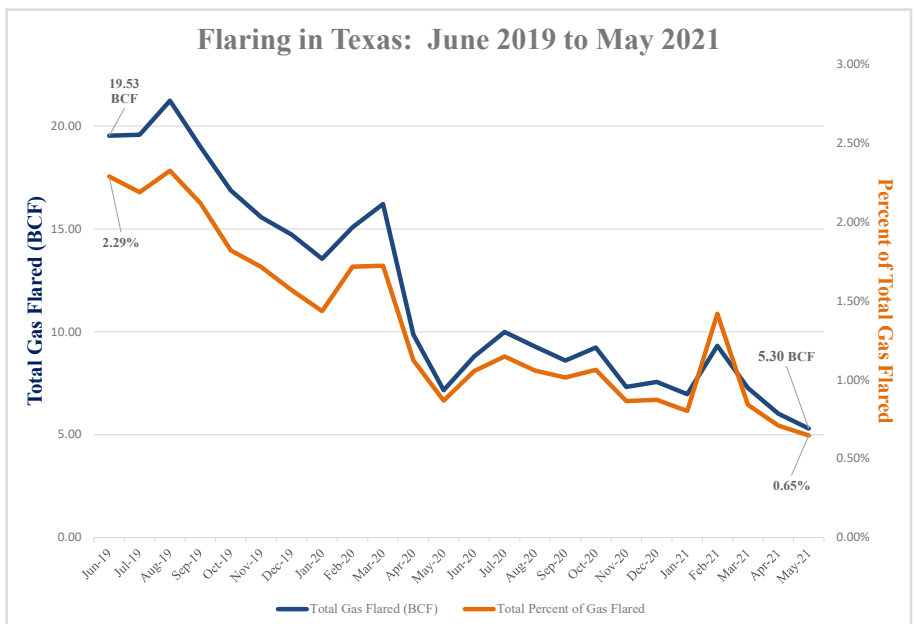
For the 87th Legislature & the Texas Congressional Delegation

*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.*

## Update: Flaring in Texas Continues Decline

Texas' oil and gas operators are continuing their efforts to reduce the amount of natural gas flared. Between June 2019 and May 2021, the amount of natural gas flared decreased from 19.5 billion cubic feet (BCF) to 5.3 (BCF). This represents a 73% decline in the total amount of natural gas flared according to data reported to the Railroad Commission.

Just as the overall amount of natural gas flared declined between June 2019 and May 2021, the proportion of gas flared relative to actual production also declined. In June 2019, 2.29% of all gas produced in Texas was flared. As of May of this year, only 0.65% of all natural gas produced is flared. This means that 99.35% of all natural gas produced in Texas was delivered for beneficial use in the market for purposes including electricity generation and the production of alternative fuels.



### RRC Actions to Address Flaring

Since spring 2020, RRC has taken several steps to improve processes to reduce flaring. Those actions approved by the Commission include:

- In November 2020, RRC revamped its application for flaring exceptions. The new application provides guidance on when an exception to flare would be permissible, under what circumstances, and for how long. The new procedures tighten up periods for administrative exceptions to flare gas, provide incentives for using flaring reduction technologies, and require operators to provide specific justification for their need to flare.
- In February 2021, the Commission approved a revised production report standard requiring that operators report the amount of gas flared and the amount of gas vented as separate values rather than combined for each lease. This change better enables the agency to track compliance and correct potential violations.
- In addition to the actions by the Commissioners, RRC has launched an online system for requesting flaring exceptions, resulting in better data collection and analysis.

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