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Energy. News



From the Field Photo:
Well Plugging in Midland
Photo by Bryce Dubee



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RRC Open Meeting

October 28, 2025

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RRC Exceeds Major Legislative Performance Measures

From inspections to digitizing documents, the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) continues to set a standard of regulatory effectiveness and efficiency following another year of surpassing multiple key legislative goals.

The Texas Legislature sets performance measures for each fiscal year for state agencies and in Fiscal Year 2025 the RRC not only met but exceeded numerous benchmarks in regulating the oil and gas industry, intrastate pipelines, surface mining and alternative fuels.

Among the successes were the number of critical natural gas weatherization inspections, coal mining permits processed and pipeline safety inspections.

“Being able to not only meet but exceed these performance measures is a direct reflection of the Commission’s commitment to supporting the Legislature and serving all Texans,” said Wei Wang, RRC Executive Director. “As the state continues to lead the nation in oil and gas production, we will continue to maintain a consistent regulatory framework and protect public safety and the environment.”

Crucial legislative goals the RRC exceeded in Fiscal Year 2025 include:

Category	Target	Achieved
Number of critical natural gas facility weatherization inspections	7,100	7,408
Number of oil and gas well and facility inspections	360,000	460,388
Number of pipeline safety inspections	1,750	2,812
Number of coal mining permit actions processed	300	446
Number of Alternative Fuels qualifying examinations, licenses, certifications and registrations	33,000	42,632
Number of Railroad Commission records imaged from non-digital formats	3,000,000	17,856,443



RRC Chairman Wright Accepts Environmental Stewardship Award from IOGCC Chairman Alaska Gov. Mike Dunleavy

Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) Chairman Jim Wright was honored to accept the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission Chair's Stewardship Award for Environmental Partnership on behalf of the agency during the IOGCC Annual Conference in Anchorage, Alaska, Sept. 23.

This award recognizes the RRC's work in partnership with the U.S. Department of the

Interior's Orphaned Wells Program Office, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service, the Texas General Land Office and Crescent Energy Services in the successful completion of one of the most complex offshore plugging and abandonment operations ever undertaken on orphan wells in U.S. waters.

This multi-stakeholder

partnership to plug eight offshore orphaned wells - sometimes working more than 60 feet underwater - lasted approximately four months with multiple tropical storms and hurricanes, including the Category 5 Hurricane Beryl, impacting the complex maritime project.

Throughout the project, operators also made efforts to protect marine wildlife, including protected species, pausing



(Above) RRC Chairman Jim Wright speaks at the 2025 IOGCC Annual Conference in Anchorage, Alaska, on Sept. 25, 2025.



(Right) Alaska Gov. and IOGCC Chair Mike Dunleavy (left) and IOGCC Vice-Chair Eric Vendel (right) present Chairman Wright with the Chair's Stewardship Award for Environmental Partnership.

operations when necessary to ensure both the animals' safety and compliance with regulatory requirements.

"Completion of the plugging not only eliminated an ongoing environmental threat but also demonstrated leadership, innovation and collaboration between the Railroad Commission, the U.S. Department of Interior and the Texas General Land

Office under the leadership of Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham," said RRC Chairman Jim Wright. "This is the third time the Commission has won the Stewardship Award for Environmental Partnership, and we gratefully accept it in recognition of our work to protect public lands and for our expertise in well plugging."

Upon completion, the

total project cost was \$11.68 million, funded by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The Railroad Commission's orphaned well plugging program, which remains highly regarded nationwide, is a key mechanism in the agency's critical mission to protect public safety and the environment.



Ever wonder what it takes to digitize a whopping 100 million records? In Episode 5 of Texas Energy on Track, we sit down with Matthew Herzog, Records Management Liaison at the RRC, to discuss how the agency is converting 100 million oil and gas records for easy online public access.

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



RRC Announces Members of Critical Task Force on Petroleum Theft

Thirteen Texans will play a crucial role in helping fight petroleum theft plaguing the Texas energy industry as members of the State Taskforce on Petroleum Theft (STOPTHEFT).

STOPTHEFT members represent key elements of state, federal and local law enforcement and the energy industry to help tackle petroleum theft. The following are the task force members:

- **Tony Dickie (ConocoPhillips)**
- **Judy Stark (SNW Operating Company)**
- **Clete Buckaloo (Occidental Petroleum)**
- **Allan Bloxsom (Fort Apache Energy)**
- **Hollie Lamb (Ring Energy)**
- **Carey Matthews (Diamondback Energy)**
- **Karr Ingham (Texas Alliance of Energy Producers)**
- **Ed Longanecker (Texas Independent Producers & Royalty Owners Association)**
- **Michael Lozano (Permian Basin Petroleum Association)**
- **Tulsi Oberbeck (Texas Oil & Gas Association)**
- **Timothy Murphy (Texas Department of Public Safety)**
- **Nathan Jeronimus (Federal Bureau of Investigation)**
- **Stan Parker (Howard County Sheriff)**

Additionally, Bill Keffer (Texas Tech University) and Cole Harrison (Fiesta Energy) will serve as advisors to the task force.

The new task force was created in Senate Bill 494, passed by the 89th Legislature, to study and make recommendations on preventing the theft of petroleum products in the state. The task force's duties include, but are not limited to:

- Reviewing product theft laws and regulations in other U.S. jurisdictions as well as international laws;
- Analyzing the impact of theft on state tax collections and long-term economic impacts;
- Making recommendations on law enforcement training to combat petroleum product theft; and
- Preparing a report to submit to the Governor and the Legislature.

The task force members were selected from a pool of applicants. RRC Chairman Jim Wright will serve as chairman of STOPTHEFT which will have its first meeting later this month.

“According to the Dallas Federal Reserve, more than 40% of oil and gas operators indicated that theft has impacted their operations in the past year. Petroleum theft not only impacts oil and gas producers, it also impacts our state coffers – and it must STOP. I look forward to working with the STOPTHEFT members to identify and recommend improvements to the legislature that will protect our natural resources and Texas taxpayers from further harm.”

– Jim Wright, Railroad Commission Chairman

“Oilfield theft has become increasingly organized and sophisticated, costing Texans millions and threatening the integrity of our state's energy sector. The STOPTHEFT Task Force brings together law enforcement, industry leaders, and local officials to coordinate a comprehensive strategy to stop these crimes before they happen. Protecting Texas energy means protecting Texas jobs, communities and taxpayers – and this task force is a critical step in that effort.”

– Christi Craddick, RRC Commissioner

“Petroleum theft isn't petty crime – it's organized, often tied to border security failures, and it threatens Texas' economic security and America's reliable energy supply. I stand with the STOPTHEFT task force to send a clear message: Texas will protect its producers, defend taxpayers, and bring criminals to justice.”

– Wayne Christian, RRC Commissioner

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](#) ▶