

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.

Good News! RRC's Well Plugging Program Beats FY 20 Targets

For the fourth year in a row, the Railroad Commission's state managed well plugging program beat the performance measure targets set by the Legislature. In fiscal year 2020, RRC plugged 1,477 abandoned wells across Texas. This was 77 wells more than the Legislature's performance target of 1,400.

The Railroad Commission's state managed well plugging program works to eliminate the safety and environmental risks associated with abandoned wells. Using a risk-based ranking system, RRC's program prioritizes the plugging of abandoned oil and gas wells that present the greatest threat to public health and safety and the environment. Since its inception in 1984, the program has plugged 41,132 wells across Texas using fees paid by industry.

RRC's well plugging success in FY 2020 follows three consecutive years of exceeding performance expectations. Streamlined and improved contracting processes implemented by RRC, coupled with increased state spending on well plugging, contributed to this achievement.

Despite bad weather conditions, RRC plugged this leaking well offshore of Matagorda Island in Calhoun County in January 2020. RRC's action helped protect Matagorda Island State Park and wildlife refuges in the area.



This abandoned well leaking produced water near Abilene was plugged by RRC in May 2020. In addition to plugging the well, RRC cleaned up and remediated the affected land.



New RRC Maps Highlight Well Plugging Activities

This summer, RRC released a new data visualization feature on its website that allows the public to look up state managed well plugging activities across Texas. The interactive page allows users to look up how many wells were plugged in each county, and the location of each well plugged over the past three years. Visit [RRC's state managed well plugging data visualization web page](#) to look up abandoned wells plugged in your area.

Wells Plugged by RRC vs. Performance Target: FY 2017-2020

