



**Texas
Independent
Producers and
Royalty Owners
Association**

EPA TO RECONSIDER MAJOR OIL AND GAS REGULATION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced on April 19th it will reconsider aspects of a major federal industry regulation finalized in 2016 that had established stricter permitting requirements and updated standards for new, modified and reconstructed sources in the oil and gas sector. The EPA said that in response to industry petitions filed concerning its final rule, “*Oil and Natural*

Gas Sector: Emission Standards for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources,” the agency has agreed to take another look at certain portions of the air regulation, including provisions for requesting and receiving an alternative means of emission limitations as well as the inclusion of low-production wells.

The move to reevaluate the oil and gas rule follows an executive order issued in late March from President Donald Trump, which instructed the EPA to immediately review existing regulations that potentially burden the development or use of domestically produced energy resources and appropriately suspend, revise, or rescind those rules that unduly restrict domestic energy development beyond the degree necessary to protect the public interest or otherwise comply with the law. “EPA is continuing to follow through with President Trump’s Energy Independence Executive Order. American businesses should have the opportunity to review new requirements, assess economic impacts and report back, before those new requirements are finalized,” said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt.

In conjunction with its reconsideration of this regulation, the EPA will issue an administrative 90-day stay for compliance of the fugitive emissions monitoring requirements under the rule.

The EPA’s announcement is big news for U.S. oil and gas producers, who have been fighting to stop the burdensome regulatory policy ever since it was promulgated by the EPA under the previous administration.

To learn more, please visit <http://bit.ly/2pDk7G1>.

PUBLIC INPUT REQUESTED ON BEST APPROACH TO FEDERAL REGULATORY REFORM

The American public is being asked to provide input on efforts to reform the executive branch, including offering guidance over what federal departments and agencies should be considered for elimination as well as federal regulations that ought to be nixed. In conjunction with an executive order issued in March by President Donald Trump, the director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) was tasked with proposing a plan to reorganize governmental functions and eliminate unnecessary agencies to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability of the executive branch. Accordingly, on April 12, new guidance was offered from the OMB director regarding plans to overhaul of the federal government and reduce the government workforce.

Of the new guidance provided last week from the OMB, Scott Pruitt, administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), said in a statement: “EPA is returning to its core statutory mission, and focusing on greater value and results. EPA will partner with the states and tribes to ensure a thoughtful approach is used to maximize resources to protect our air, land, and water. And, we will work with EPA staff to effectively use every taxpayer dollar we are entrusted.” U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke also weighed in to express his approval of the plans to reorganize the executive branch. “I fully support President Trump and taxpayers’ vision to reorganize the federal government in a way that will make the executive branch more lean, accountable, and efficient while still allowing the government to deliver core services. I approach this job like I approached every command I was tasked with in the Navy: empower the front lines, cut the waste, fraud and abuse, hold people accountable, and do more with less. I won’t be afraid to make investments where appropriate and I look forward to working with the career veterans as we approach this mission together,” said Zinke.

Now through June, the public may submit ideas and recommendations online as to how the government can be better organized. To provide feedback, please visit: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/reorganizing-the-executive-branch>. Please note that the deadline to submit your input is June 12, 2017.



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

TIPRO Members--

Greetings from Petrolandia! I have spent the last month or so talking with students, speaking to those who are looking to study disciplines that relate to geology, petroleum engineering, and energy management. I must say how impressed I am with both the quality of these students and the courage they show by choosing to major in the petroleum field. As the future pipeline of oil and gas professionals, I think of these collegiate departments as the bastions of sanity, that will help keep the whole endeavor from toppling into the abyss. In other words, my generation didn't necessarily face a "social stigma" for our choice to be in the petroleum industry. This generation definitely does.

I want to highlight a couple of people, specifically, to our membership. The first is Leo Huang - Leo was a founder of, and is president of, a University of Texas (UT) Petroleum Engineering organization called the "Frac Pac." If you attended TIPRO's Annual Conference this past February, you might have met Leo or some of the other Frac Pac members who participated in the TIPRO meeting. The Frac Pac group engages fellow UT students about the benefits of hydraulic fracturing while also taking part in community projects like cleaning up area parks, participating in local Habitat for Humanity projects, and the like as a true service organization. Leo is the son of a Schlumberger engineer who kept his kids well-informed about the great work the oil business does in helping people out of poverty and allowing humanity to enjoy a better lifestyle than the generations preceding theirs. He carries this effort forward and today expands the footprint through Frac Pac. I encourage your companies to look for and weigh heavily the involvement in these sorts of organizations as a criterion for hiring.

The second individual I want to mention is Brad Zarin, a lawyer by training and former vice president of business development in an oilfield waste disposal company. Brad was hired to head-up fellow TIPRO member and fellow Austinite Bud Brigham's passion project called "Fueling Freedom," an effort to engage with millennials and society in general about the benefits of oil and gas. I have been involved, as has fellow TIPRO member Tom Taylor, in the organizational efforts to get this going. For those of you that know Bud, his passions have a way of taking life. This effort is getting plenty of traction and is adopting the most cutting edge messaging, delivery, and marketing I have seen deployed for a public campaign. Can you imagine? A campaign to reframe our industry that actually works? That isn't a colossal waste of time and effort? That is well-funded? I have seen a glimpse of the future and am excited. As it becomes ready for primetime, TIPRO looks forward to introducing it to you all.

Lastly, I want to give a big shout out to TIPRO board member Eugene Garcia, president of oil/gas and ranching operations at Hurd Enterprises, long-time TIPRO friend Victor Carrillo, president of Zion Oil and Gas and former Texas Railroad Commissioner, and Hugo Gutierrez, senior manager of government & community relations for Marathon Oil, who each were recently selected as the "Top Latinos in Energy" by *Latino Leaders Magazine*. These men are outstanding leaders in our industry and we are lucky to have them. Until next time... Best,

Allen Gilmer



Allen Gilmer

BUDGET APPROVED BY THE TEXAS HOUSE BUT THE FIGHT'S NOT OVER AT THE CAPITOL

In the early hours of Friday morning, April 7, the Texas House of Representatives passed its version of Senate Bill 1, the proposed state budget for the next biennium. Under the House's approved budget plan, state spending would be cut by more than \$1 billion, although additional funding resources would be made available by the state for public schools and child protection. "This plan keeps Texas living within its means while making investments that will strengthen our economy and brighten our future," said House Speaker Joe Straus. "The House looks forward to working with the Senate on a final bill. The House will advocate for a budget that strengthens education, protects retired teachers and ends the crisis at Child Protective Services. I'm optimistic that we will find common ground with the Senate on these and many other issues."

Members of the House and Senate will next have to meet in a conference committee to finalize a budget that can be sent to Texas Governor Greg Abbott for approval. Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick this week announced his appointment of conferees for the 2018-2019 budget conference committee, which includes Senate Finance Chairman Jane Nelson as well as Senators Chuy Hinojosa, Joan Huffman, Lois Kolkhorst and Charles Schwertner. The House conferees have not yet been named.

Amongst several differences between the two versions of the budget approved by the House and Senate chambers, state representatives have chosen to tap the state's Economic Stabilization Fund -- or Rainy Day Fund -- to help cover costs of the budget under the House version of the bill, while the Senate's approved budget avoids use of the Rainy Day Fund.

TIPRO Calendar of Events

MAY 10, 2017	JUNE 14, 2017	JULY 12, 2017	AUGUST 9, 2017
HOUSTON — IPAA/TIPRO Leaders in Industry Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. Houston Petroleum Club. For info, call: (202) 857-4733.	HOUSTON — IPAA/TIPRO Leaders in Industry Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. Houston Petroleum Club. For info, call: (202) 857-4733.	HOUSTON — IPAA/TIPRO Leaders in Industry Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. Houston Petroleum Club. For info, call: (202) 857-4733.	HOUSTON — IPAA/TIPRO Leaders in Industry Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. Houston Petroleum Club. For info, call: (202) 857-4733.

TEXAS COMPTROLLER PROPOSES RESTRUCTURING STATE'S ECONOMIC STABILIZATION FUND

While the legislature deliberates over whether it will draw from the Economic Stabilization Fund (ESF) this year to cover needs in the state budget, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar has suggested that lawmakers ought to also consider reforming the overall structure of the fund. In mid-April, Hegar outlined his proposal geared towards generating additional revenue for the state by changing the way the ESF is set up.

The ESF, commonly referred to as the Rainy Day Fund, is primarily supported by revenue collected from oil and gas taxes. Texas' ESF is the largest of its kind in the United States, currently holding a balance that exceeds \$10 billion.

When the ESF was initially established, state officials never expected that one day it would expand to the size it is today, says the comptroller. "State law creating the fund was written with a relatively small ESF in mind, one kept in highly liquid, low-yield investments that could be tapped immediately. But the end result is that today, Texas has billions earning a little more than 1 percent in interest. That isn't even keeping pace with inflation. To put it very mildly, it's not the best use of these funds," the comptroller explains.

However, the comptroller believes he has found a way for the state to make better use of its "emergency fund." Comptroller Hegar would like to split the ESF into two tiers, which in doing so, he says will satisfy the original intent of the ESF — to provide a reserve of funding to support state services in times of an economic downturn — while also allowing the state to generate considerably more revenue for important public purposes. "Tier 1, the Texas Stabilization Fund, would be required to maintain a balance equal to 8 percent of general revenue spending and would be managed in a conservative way that still protects its purchasing power against inflation. It would maintain a healthy reserve for protection against any disruption in state finances," describes the comptroller. "As long as the Texas Stabilization Fund contains the required reserve balance, any additional new dollars headed for the ESF would flow into a second tier, the Texas Legacy Fund, which would operate similar to a permanent endowment for the state. This fund would achieve a higher rate of financial return that would yield additional investment revenue to address the state's long-term balance sheet needs."

To learn more about the comptroller's vision to change the Rainy Day Fund, visit: <http://bit.ly/2oiv7HV>.

TEXNET SEISMIC MONITORING PROGRAM UNDER REVIEW BY TEXAS LEGISLATURE

During the 84th Legislative Session, state lawmakers approved the creation of a sophisticated seismic monitoring program called TexNet in efforts to study and gain better understanding on earthquake activity in the state of Texas. In 2015, the legislature agreed to allocate \$4.471 million to The University of Texas at Austin's Bureau of Economic Geology (BEG) to develop and manage the new earthquake monitoring system in Texas and to conduct research into seismicity across the state.

Since the state's last legislative session, the TexNet program has successfully launched, though leaders of the program have warned additional funding will be necessary to cover ongoing costs of operating TexNet in the future. For the September 2017 to August 2019 biennium, operation and maintenance of TexNet will require an appropriation of \$3.4 million from the state legislature. This amount breaks down to \$700,000 per year for network operations and maintenance, and \$1.0 million per year for research. Currently, the state budget provides funding for the program, though TexNet leaders say they continue to keep a close watch until the legislature and Governor Abbott officially have signed off on budget plans for the next biennium.

Meanwhile, House Bill 2819, filed by state Representative Drew Darby, also relating to the TexNet program, was recently taken up for consideration. The legislation would change the makeup of the TexNet advisory committee to consist of three members appointed by the governor, three appointed by the lieutenant governor, three appointed by the speaker of the Texas House and one employee of the Railroad Commission appointed by the executive director of the agency. The legislation also would require that at least one appointment from each elected official must be a representative from the oil and natural gas industry. TIPRO testified on last Monday, April 10th before members of the House Energy Resources Committee in support of House Bill 2819. "Texas has led the country in efforts to study this important issue in an effort to provide more reliable data on the true cause of seismic events in our state. Correlation does not imply causation, and we must be able to separate fact from fiction to have a meaningful discussion," said TIPRO President Ed Longanecker.

TIPRO TO EXHIBIT AT EARTH DAY TEXAS EVENT IN DALLAS



The Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO) will be participating as an exhibitor at the Earth Day Texas festivities scheduled for this weekend, April 21-23, at Fair Park in Dallas, Texas. With over 150,000 people expected over the course of the weekend, TIPRO is excited to engage in conversations with attendees and discuss the importance of oil and natural gas production in our state.

Last year, Earth Day Texas became the largest annual environmental exhibition and programming initiative in the world, hosting over 130,000 attendees, 700+ exhibitors and 250+ speakers during the 2016 event. The free three-day event will offer environmental education and awareness, informing Texans on new initiatives, research, innovations, policies, and corporate practices that are reshaping the planet.

Make plans to attend Earth Day Texas and be sure to stop by the TIPRO Booth #1411 in the Automobile Building at Fair Park!

“FOR RAILROAD COMMISSION, EARTH DAY IS EVERY DAY”

BY TEXAS RAILROAD COMMISSIONER RYAN SITTON

Earth Day is April 22nd this year, and I can't wait to once again join tens of thousands of my fellow Texans at the largest Earth Day celebration in the world, in Dallas. You might find it odd that a Conservative Republican would be excited about one of the largest green events in the world, but I am a huge environmentalist. Most Republicans care deeply about our air, water and environmental quality, but many people don't know that.

As a father, husband, private property owner and elected official, I know the health of our environment tomorrow is only as strong as our actions today. It's important to me that at Texas' energy regulatory agency, the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC), we work as if every day is Earth Day.

My view is that energy regulation should work in concert with environmental protection, not in conflict. For starters, you can't drill a well or turnover a spade of dirt to produce energy without the permission of the RRC, through a strict and thorough permitting process. This means detailed plans on how an operator will prevent pollution, including how deep they can drill, and how much and where steel and cement are required in a well to ensure groundwater is kept safe.

For the men and women of the RRC, this duty is personal. When we act in the best interest of the 27 million people of the state, we are doing so for our friends, family and communities.

Every day hundreds of RRC inspectors fan out across Texas inspecting oil and gas wells, pipelines carrying crude oil or natural gas, and surface coal mines. In 2016 alone, our staff conducted 124,000 oil and gas inspections. Our inspectors look closely to make sure equipment is running properly, wells are drilled in compliance with rules set by the RRC, and operators have the necessary permits to legally produce or transport energy resources.

When an operator is not in compliance the RRC moves quickly to enforce our rules. Punishments for non-compliance can vary, but all are intended to hold an operator accountable and protect the public. The RRC can, and does assess fines. In 2016, we assessed \$8.6 million dollars in penalties on operators who violated our rules. We also sever an operator's lease for continued non-compliance. That means they are not permitted to produce, transport or sell their product, effectively shutting them down. We issued more than 8,200 lease severances in 2016.

While some of our team at the RRC are working to protect the environment through proactive inspection and enforcement of our rules, others are working to return land used in energy production to its original condition, or better. Through site remediation, the RRC assists communities across Texas with land restoration. These programs turn old, unused and sometimes contaminated sites into thriving redeveloped or natural areas. For example, in 2016 our site remediation team helped turn a historic, abandoned oil field near Houston into the Turtle Bayou Nature Preserve. It's now a 511-acre preserve providing a coastal wildlife habitat and protecting water quality.

These are just some of the ways all of us at the RRC work to protect our shared environment. No one in the state is more dedicated to protecting the public and the environment than the RRC. I look forward to talking with Texans more about our commitment to environmental protection on April 22nd at 10:30 a.m. at Earth Day Texas 2017. For those of us at the Railroad Commission, every day is Earth Day.

TIPRO MEMBERS RECEIVE DISCOUNT AT SIX FLAGS JUST IN TIME FOR SUMMER

Starting to make plans for your summer vacation this year? Don't forget that as a member of TIPRO, you are eligible to receive a discount at Six Flags Fiesta Texas Theme Park in San Antonio! Just visit the site below to buy tickets with substantial savings off the main gate price.

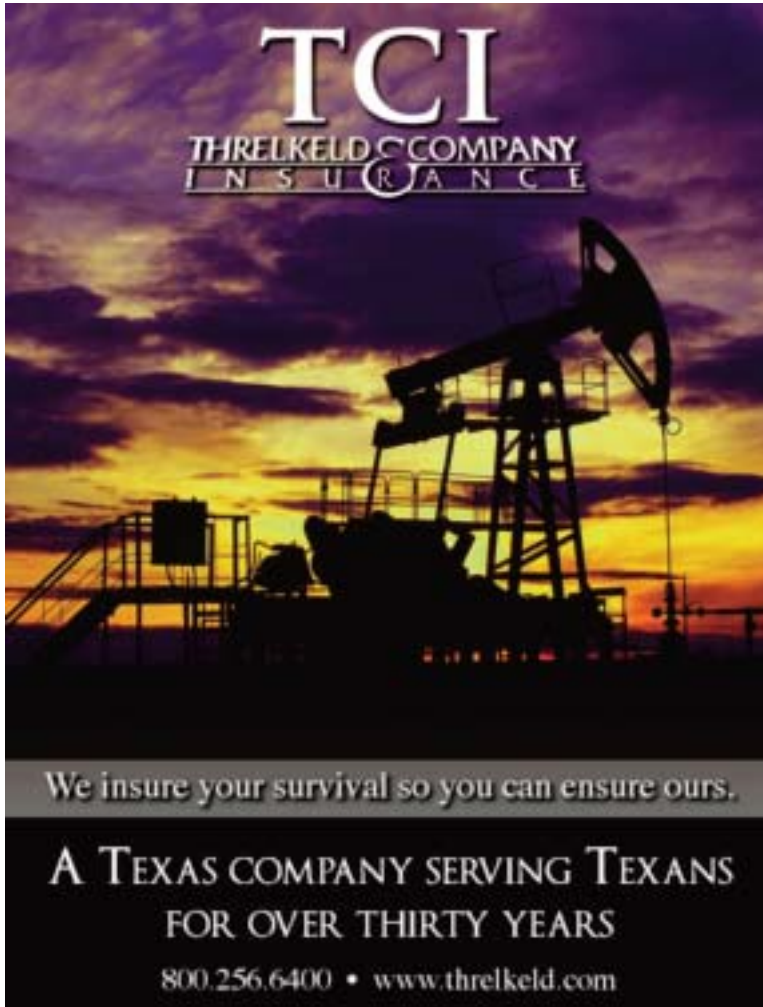
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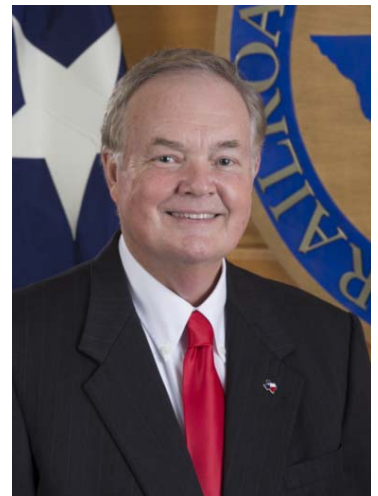
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RAILROAD COMMISSIONER WAYNE CHRISTIAN APPOINTED TO SERVE ON IOGCC

Texas Governor Greg Abbott has appointed Texas Railroad Commissioner Wayne Christian to serve as the official representative of Texas on the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC), effective immediately. “It is an honor to serve as the official representative for our state, and I would like to thank Governor Abbott for this appointment,” Commissioner Christian said. “Texas is the number one producer of oil and natural gas in the United States and with this position, I intend to ensure our state has a stronger voice at the national level.”

The IOGCC was formed over 80 years ago to bring together state leaders for the collaboration and resolution of common issues in the industry without intervention by federal regulators. Membership is comprised of the current governor of each member state, as well as additional representatives appointed by participating governors, who work together to ensure the nation’s oil and natural gas resources are conserved and maximized while also protecting health, safety and the environment.

“With a business-friendly administration in Washington, now is our opportunity to reign in the out-of-control federal government and reduce burdensome, frivolous regulations on energy producers,” emphasized Christian. “I look forward to working with other member states to explore opportunities to expand responsible production to create jobs and grow our economy.”



TEXAS JOINS EFFORT TO DEFEND TRUMP’S “1-IN-2-OUT” ORDER FOR FEDERAL REGULATIONS

This week, a coalition of 14 states, including the state of Texas, filed an amicus brief with the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia in defense of an executive order issued by U.S. President Donald Trump earlier this year that directed federal agencies to repeal two regulations for each new rule that is issued. The group of states lent support backing the president’s approach to ease government overregulation after several groups have sued to block the executive order.

“The president’s executive order is an important step towards rolling back years of unnecessary and costly regulations that far exceed congressional intent,” Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton said. “Overregulation has harmed economic growth and job creation. The ‘1-in-2-out’ order will help restore regulatory authority to Texas and other states on important matters of local concern.”

In their legal brief filed with the court, the states are asking that President Trump’s directive be upheld, arguing that his order will help rein in a bloated bureaucracy that has implemented a far greater regulatory burden than Congress ever envisioned. The state attorneys general point to the fact that between 2010 and 2015, the federal government added on average 57 significant regulations per year. In 2015 alone, note the state officials, federal agencies issued over 80,000 pages of regulations in the Federal Register.

“This growth in unnecessary federal regulations has had a deleterious effect on the states and their citizens. The 1-in 2-out concept properly orients agencies to solving this long-term problem, which has only grown more dire in the past several years, and to lifting unnecessary regulatory burdens on the states,” the coalition maintains.

The states also note that throughout American history, upon entering office, presidents from both parties have established a precedent for pursuing similar action as taken recently by President Trump, conducting regulatory reviews of policies and calling on federal departments to consider pertinent factors such as cumulative costs of regulatory measures by the federal government, as well as evaluate potential impacts of federal rules to the economy and the effect of respective regulations to state and local governments. President Trump has vowed to repeal more than half of all the rules in the Code of Federal Regulations, which is 178,000 pages long.

In addition to Texas, other participating states in the coalition in support of the president’s executive order include: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Nevada, Oklahoma, South Carolina, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

NEW JUDGE TAKES SEAT ON THE U.S. SUPREME COURT



The newest associate judge to the United States Supreme Court, Neil M. Gorsuch, took his seat on the bench April 10, 2017, returning the nation’s highest court to a full panel for the first time since the death of Justice Antonin Scalia a year ago. After a lengthy and at times heated confirmation process, Gorsuch was approved by the U.S. Senate earlier this month to become the 113th justice of the Supreme Court.

Gorsuch received a B.A. from Columbia University, a J.D. from Harvard Law School, and a D.Phil. from Oxford University. He served as a law clerk to Judge David B. Sentelle of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, and as a law clerk to Justice Byron White and Justice Anthony M. Kennedy of the Supreme Court of the United States. From 1995-2005, he was in private practice, and from 2005-2006, he was principal

deputy associate attorney general at the U.S. Department of Justice. He was appointed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit in 2006. He served on the Standing Committee on Rules for Practice and Procedure of the U.S. Judicial Conference, and as chairman of the Advisory Committee on Rules of Appellate Procedure. Gorsuch also taught at the University of Colorado Law School.

Gorsuch has been described as a conservative judge with impeccable qualifications and high standards of integrity.

Labeled a “Game-Changer,” USGS Announces Massive Reserves Found Along the Gulf



A new analysis released by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has revealed the largest continuous natural gas assessment conducted to-date, discovered near the Gulf Coast in the Haynesville and Bossier formations. In April, the USGS said that together the two geologic formations hold 4.0 billion barrels of oil, 304.4 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, and approximately 1.9 billion barrels of natural gas liquids. The USGS assessment of the Haynesville and Bossier formations includes petroleum in both conventional and continuous accumulations, and consists of undiscovered, technically recoverable resources.

“As the USGS revisits many of the oil and gas basins of the United States, we continually find that technological revolutions of the past few years have truly been a game-changer in the amount of resources that are now technically recoverable,” said Walter Guidroz, program coordinator of the USGS Energy Resources Program. “Changes in technology and industry practices, combined with an increased understanding of the regional geologic framework, can have a significant effect on what

resources become technically recoverable. These changes are why the USGS remains committed to performing the most up-to-date assessments of these vital resources throughout the United States and the world.”

Prior to its 2017 review, USGS geologists last published an assessment for the Haynesville and Bossier in 2010. Over the course of just the last seven years, the USGS has substantially increased its estimates of reserves in the two Gulf Coast formations, which extend from the Texas-Mexico border in the west all the way to the Florida Panhandle. Back in 2010, for instance, USGS had estimated that the Haynesville contained 61.4 trillion cubic feet of natural gas while the Bossier was believed at that time to contain 9.0 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. Now, in 2017, scientists are estimating that the Haynesville stores 195.8 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and the Bossier holds 108.6 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

“It’s amazing what a little more knowledge can yield,” observed USGS scientist Stan Paxton, lead author of the assessment. “Since the 2010 assessment, we’ve gotten updated geologic maps, expanded production history and have a greater understanding of how these reservoirs evolved. All of that leads to a better geological model and therefore a more robust assessment.”

The new USGS assessments of the Bossier and Haynesville Formations may be found online -- TIPRO members can access the full report at <https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/fs20173015>.

EIA: Natural Gas Will Lead U.S. Electricity Generation This Summer

Natural gas is expected to be the largest source of U.S. electricity generation this summer, projects the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) in its latest *Short-Term Energy Outlook*. The EIA anticipates that electricity generation fueled by natural gas this summer (lasting the months of June, July, and August) will be lower than last summer, but nevertheless will still top all other sources. Natural gas is expected to contribute 34 percent of U.S. generation, down from the 37 percent provided last summer, but still exceeding coal’s estimated generation share of 32 percent, forecasts the federal information agency.

Using forecasted weather data supplied from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the EIA is attributing lower natural gas requirements for power generation this summer because projections indicate a more mild summer in the United States in 2017 as compared to last year. As a result of these milder expected temperatures, electricity demands could drop, leading EIA to forecast U.S. summer electricity generation at 1.16 billion megawatthours, 2.4 percent lower than generation last summer.

The EIA explains: “Generation fueled by natural gas typically peaks in the summer when power plant operators use natural gas-fired combustion turbines during the hottest part of the day to meet electricity demand for air conditioning. Natural gas first exceeded coal as the nation’s primary electricity fuel on a monthly basis in April 2015 and on an annual basis in 2016.”

According to the EIA, during the summer of 2016, at a time when natural gas prices were relatively low, 37 percent of U.S. electricity generation came from natural gas and 33 percent came from coal. A decade before that, in summer 2006, 25 percent came from natural gas and 46 percent from coal.



NEW RESOURCE LAUNCHED TO INFORM PUBLIC ABOUT HYDRAULIC FRACTURING AND HEALTH

A new online resource has launched just in time for Earth Day 2017, aimed at sharing information on hydraulic fracturing and public health. Energy In Depth - a program of the Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA) - unveiled a new microsite on April 20th that offers a one-stop shop for anyone looking for information about shale development and public health. The site, EIDHealth.org, features a collection of scientific studies that show how air quality improvements across the country can be traced directly back to hydraulic fracturing. EID's new online compendium includes data from 23 peer-reviewed studies, 17 government health and regulatory agencies, and reports from 10 research institution. The new website helps spotlight how increased use of natural gas for electricity generation – made possible by the shale revolution – is the reason for dramatic decreases in air pollution across the United States. This, in turn, has provided substantial health benefits for Americans.

“This new compendium and health microsite provides the overwhelming scientific evidence that our increased use of natural gas, thanks to fracking, has delivered immense health benefits for families across the country,” said Jeff Eshelman, executive vice president of Energy In Depth. “Activists who are supposedly ‘marching for science’ this weekend should stop denying the science that clearly shows shale development has led to cleaner air and lower greenhouse gas emissions.”

TIPRO members are encouraged to visit the new site and share the resource with your colleagues, friends and family members.

DRILLING ACTIVITY IN TEXAS OILFIELDS CONTINUES TO RISE

With oil prices stabilizing, drilling activity continues to slowly rise in the state of Texas. Drilling permits issued by the Texas Railroad Commission have nearly doubled since this time a year ago, as producers look to return to the oil patch. The Texas Railroad Commission reports that last month the agency issued a total of 1,310 original drilling permits, compared to only 511 drilling permits issued in March 2016. A majority of the new drilling permit applications are focused on the Permian and Delaware basins in West Texas, notes the commission.

As the industry continues to stabilize from the downturn, momentum is building for the regional economy, reports the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. The Dallas Fed said Wednesday, April 19, that hiring among oil and gas companies picked up notably in the first quarter of the year, and economic activity in the region expanded moderately over the past six weeks. “Demand for oilfield services improved substantially in the district over the past six weeks. Oil and gas activity surged, with firms noting a pickup in the Eagle Ford Shale as well as the Permian Basin.”



NOTICE: LINKS TO LEGAL INFORMATION HAVE CHANGED ON RAILROAD COMMISSION WEBSITE

TIPRO members are advised that the direct links to access legal information and forms via the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) website have changed. According to a notice issued by the RRC, the main navigation tool bar on the agency's website homepage at <http://www.rrc.texas.gov/> has been updated to change the “Legal” tab heading to “General Counsel.” The link to “General Counsel” will include the items formerly offered under the “Legal” tab. You will therefore need to update any URLs to webpages that previously were directed to the “Legal” tab to reflect the new URLs to the “General Counsel” tab. In addition, please be sure to update any bookmarks that were set to the commission's “Legal” tab.

For questions, please contact the RRC's Office of General Counsel at rulescoordinator@rrc.texas.gov.

SMU GEOTHERMAL LAB CONFERENCE — CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The Southern Methodist University (SMU) Geothermal Lab will host its next conference *Power Plays: Drilling into Geothermal Energy Applications* January 10-11, 2018, on the SMU campus in Dallas, Texas. Abstracts for the conference are currently being accepted for the poster session, a 15-20 minute oral presentation, a panel discussion, or an interactive discussion of a case study or project in the planning stages. Topics include:

- Reservoirs: exploration, enhancement and productivity
- Drilling and Downhole Advancements: oil & gas laterals, geothermal hydroshearing
- Engineering Techniques: heat extraction, technology
- Novel Applications: deep direct use for utilities or buildings, micro to macro generation
- Case Studies and Planned Project Discussions: approaches, challenges, solutions

Submit your abstract for consideration to geothermal@smu.edu by Friday, October 13, 2017. For more information on abstract requirements or the SMU conference, please visit: <http://www.smu.edu/Dedman/Academics/Programs/GeothermalLab/Conference>.

Argus North American Natural Gas Markets

May 8-10, 2017

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Guest speaker:



Bill Richardson,
Governor of New Mexico (2003-2010), Former U.S. Energy Secretary, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations and Member of the U.S. House of Representatives

Visit: argusmedia.com/north-american-natural-gas

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With more than 3,000 members, TIPRO is the nation's largest statewide association representing both independent producers and royalty owners. Our members include small family-owned companies, the largest publicly traded independents and large and small mineral estates and trusts.

919 Congress Avenue, Suite 1000
Austin, Texas 78701
Phone: (512) 477-4452
Fax: (512) 476-8070
www.tipro.org