



**Texas  
Independent  
Producers and  
Royalty Owners  
Association**

## HAYNES AND BOONE FILES MOTION TO INTERVENE IN EPA LAWSUIT ON BEHALF OF TIPRO

Lawyers with Haynes and Boone, LLP, representing the Texas Independent Producers & Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO) have filed a motion in a Washington, D.C. federal court seeking to intervene in a lawsuit brought by a group of environmental organizations that would force the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to adopt stricter oil and gas waste regulations.

Dallas Partner Suzanne Murray's motion argues that the environmental groups are trying to compel the EPA to exceed its authority and that the current Texas programs to manage oil and gas waste disposal are the most robust in the entire country.

"The Texas program has been approved by the EPA 17 times – an average of once every two years," Murray said. "The relief being sought here goes beyond the authority that Congress granted EPA under Subtitle D, so the court cannot order it to act the way that the plaintiffs are requesting."

By filing the D.C. case (Background Environmental Integrity Project et al v. McCarthy) the coalition is asking the EPA to establish rules to ban companies from spreading fracking wastewater on roads or fields and require disposal landfills and ponds to be constructed to prevent pollutants from leaking into groundwater.

The groups argue that under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), the EPA must review and revise federal regulations for oil and gas waste disposal every three years. In addition, they want the agency to develop regulations on fracking wastewater disposal in underground injection wells, a practice some have attempted to link to earthquakes in some states.

Allen Gilmer, TIPRO chair and CEO of Drillinginfo, said current rules are more than adequate. "The Texas Railroad Commission and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality require our industry to comply with a comprehensive set of regulations that contain numerous safeguards related to the management of oil and gas waste," he said. "This extensive regulatory framework far exceeds the minimum requirements mandated under the RCRA hazardous waste program."

Meanwhile, TIPRO President Ed Longanecker contended the plaintiffs are likely operating in cooperation with the EPA at the detriment of the industry. "This lawsuit is an example of the sue-and-settle tactics used by anti-oil and natural gas organizations in a larger effort to slow or stop the development of hydrocarbons in our country," he said. "This is yet another attempt to compel the EPA to exceed its regulatory authority with the ultimate goal of reaching a settlement to fuel additional activist campaigns, all at the expense of taxpayers."

Murray and TIPRO believe that EPA and the plaintiffs will oppose the motion, but that the court will ultimately grant intervention because there are issues of law presented in the case that directly impact oil and gas producers in Texas.

## MARGINAL WELLS PROVIDE 11 PERCENT OF U.S. NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION



More than 11 percent of natural gas produced last year in the United States came from marginal wells, shows new data released by the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA). Marginal wells, also referred to as stripper wells, produce no more than 90,000 cubic feet per day over a 12-month period.

"Despite each stripper well's small individual production, in aggregate they make a contribution to total natural gas production. The production share of stripper gas wells has remained relatively constant over the past 25 years, rising from about 10 percent in 1991 to 15 percent in 2006–09 and dropping again to about 11 percent in 2015," describes the EIA. "The recent decrease in stripper wells' share of total production reflects the large increase in production from relatively prolific wells drilled in shale and tight gas formations with enhanced completion techniques. Because these wells, and nonstripper wells in general, produce at a much higher rate than stripper wells, they account for the bulk of total U.S. natural gas production."

In the agency's latest analysis, the EIA estimates that at the end of 2015, there were about 456,000 stripper gas wells in the United States in operation, compared with about 122,000 nonstripper gas wells.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### TIPRO Members-

On Tuesday, August 2, 2016, TIPRO joined 18 other national and state oil and natural gas associations in a legal challenge against the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) methane new source performance standards, 40 CFR Part 60, Subpart OOOOa. Other federal and regional trade associations have also challenged the EPA regulations in separate lawsuits. Although the parties are not required to provide specifics on the nature of their claims at this point in the litigation, it is anticipated that overarching legal issues, such as EPA's authority to regulate methane, whether a separate endangerment finding is necessary, and/or whether EPA adequately explained significant contribution, will be raised. These are issues, which if the plaintiffs are successful on, would likely lead to the entire rule being vacated.

While the Subpart OOOOa regulations only apply to new or "modified" sources, the regulations are important because they must be promulgated under Section 111(b) of the Clean Air Act before the EPA can promulgate existing source standards under Section 111(d). In addition to the trade associations, oil patch states also challenged the regulations, with North Dakota being the first state to challenge the regulations in mid-July, followed by Texas a week later.

West Virginia and a coalition of 14 state or state agencies also filed lawsuits on August 2<sup>nd</sup> with the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, requesting the court hold unlawful and set aside the EPA rule, and order other such relief as may be appropriate. The coalition of states has called the EPA regulation "another example of unlawful federal overreach jeopardizing jobs and working families." The group also warned in its lawsuit that the new federal regulations would raise production and distribution costs and, in turn, force an increase in consumer utility bills.

In addition to filing a legal challenge with D.C. Circuit, TIPRO and the other 18 trade associations also submitted to EPA a petition for administrative reconsideration of certain other issues. The petition focused primarily on technical issues and changes that were not foreseeable when the rule was proposed. For example, the EPA included requirements associated with having a professional engineer certify "technical infeasibility" for certain controls associated with pneumatic pumps. No such requirement was proposed, nor was it foreseeable. Under Section 307(d) of the Clean Air Act, a party can petition the promulgating agency to reconsider the rule. A critical issue to independent operators was the EPA's reversal on providing "low production well" (i.e., less than 15 barrel of oil equivalent) exemptions for leak detection and repair (LDAR) requirements and the reduced emission completions (REC). The LDAR and REC requirements will be extremely costly and will likely result in wells not being drilled and existing wells being shut-in or closed prematurely. The EPA ignored numerous comments by industry that low production wells, as function of the lower pressure and volume, simply leak less methane than higher pressure wells. The agency's preamble cited such reasoning when they proposed the exemptions and the EPA also focused on the potential disproportionate impact on small entities. In the final rule, the EPA pulled the exemptions and said that in discussion with "stakeholders," they learned that the amount of leaks was a function of the number and type of equipment on site. TIPRO and its coalition asked the EPA to reconsider the low production well exemption and a number of other issues which could lessen the impact and cost of the regulations on the industry without harm to the environment.

On behalf of the association's membership, TIPRO remains engaged on these important regulatory matters and will continue to elevate our activity as necessary to address cases of extreme regulatory overreach by the federal government.

Regards,

Ed Longanecker



**Ed Longanecker**

## TIPRO CHAIRMAN ALLEN GILMER TO SPEAK AT AUGUST 'LEADERS IN INDUSTRY' LUNCHEON

Allen Gilmer, the new chairman of the Texas Independent Producers & Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO) and leader of Drillinginfo, will present during the next IPAA/TIPRO 'Leaders in Industry' Luncheon, scheduled for Wednesday, August 10, at the Houston Petroleum Club. This speaker series - held every month in Houston - continues to be an informative and enjoyable gathering of industry friends and colleagues. Don't miss out on the exclusive chance to learn the latest from top company leaders each month.

To sign up to attend the August IPAA/TIPRO 'Leaders in Industry' luncheon, please visit <http://bit.ly/2apjr4M>. Note: Event registration closes at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, August 8, 2016; limited on-site registration will be available.

### TIPRO Calendar of Events

<p><b>AUGUST 10, 2016</b> HOUSTON — IPAA/TIPRO Leaders in Industry Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. Houston Petroleum Club. For info, call: (202) 857-4733.</p>	<p><b>AUGUST 10-11, 2016</b> HOUSTON — Summer NAPE Expo, George R. Brown Convention Center. For info, call: (817) 847-7700.</p>	<p><b>AUGUST 17-18, 2016</b> SAN ANTONIO — TIPRO's Summer Conference, Hyatt Hill Country Resort. For info, call: (512) 477-4452.</p>	<p><b>SEPTEMBER 14, 2016</b> HOUSTON — IPAA/TIPRO Leaders in Industry Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. Houston Petroleum Club. For info, call: (202) 857-4733.</p>
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## TIPRO JOINS COALITION ENCOURAGING EPA TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE OIL & GAS INDUSTRY

This week, state and national oil and gas trade associations banded together to urge the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to work with the industry on its recent information-gathering request, in order to allow the agency to obtain a more thorough understanding of oil and natural gas operations. The Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA), the American Exploration & Production Council (AXPC), and 47 additional U.S. oil and natural gas industry trade associations -- including the Texas Independent Producers & Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO) -- collectively submitted comments on August 2, 2016, to the EPA on its proposed Information Collection Request (ICR) for oil and gas facilities.

“This is a real opportunity for the decision-makers at EPA to better understand the complexities of the U.S. oil and natural gas industry. However, this information-gathering effort creates additional paperwork for companies to produce to EPA and adds unnecessary burdens on companies’ technical teams to prepare and submit rushed comments under enormous time constraints. Meanwhile, many of these same technical teams are currently developing their companies’ compliance programs for EPA’s June regulations and will then turn to their companies’ greenhouse gas inventory reports, which are due in the first quarter of 2017,” commented Lee Fuller, executive vice president of IPAA.

“Instead of creating duplicative work and information, which goes against the intent of the Paperwork Reduction Act, EPA should first, collect all of the publicly available data from industry databases – or acquire it free from state agencies – then, EPA can refine its search and request more targeted, specific information from the industry. As it stands now, EPA’s proposed ICR is clearly being driven by a tight political timeline to initiate and largely complete the information-gathering process before the end of this administration’s term,” Fuller concluded.

View the joint trade association comments online by visiting <http://bit.ly/2aAgM2W>.

## NEARLY 60 MEMBERS OF CONGRESS URGE INTERIOR DEPT. TO WITHDRAW FLARING RULES

The last week of July, federal lawmakers expressed opposition to proposed oil and gas regulations in the works at the U.S. Department of Interior. Fifty-seven members of Congress signed a letter sent on July 27<sup>th</sup> to Sally Jewell, leader of the federal agency, calling for the Interior Department to withdraw its rules aimed at restricting flaring and venting operations in the United States.

“This rule adds another layer of duplicative federal regulation on top of already existing federal and state regulations. The rule oversteps the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) regulatory jurisdiction, and completely fails to address crucial failures by the BLM to capture methane emissions through common sense methods such as timely right-of-way permitting,” the letter states.

Developed by Interior’s BLM, the proposed rule was initially announced in January of this year. The updated federal regulations, which would be phased in over several years, would require oil and gas producers to adopt new technologies, processes and equipment to limit the rate of flaring at oil wells on public and tribal lands. Operators would also have to periodically inspect their operations for leaks, replace outdated equipment that vents large quantities of gas into the air, limit venting from storage tanks and use best practices to limit gas losses when removing liquids from wells. U.S. oil and natural gas companies will be directly affected by the additional, overly burdensome requirements under this regulatory proposal, if it is finalized by the federal government. Beyond members of the oil and gas industry, elected officials are also alarmed at the excessive nature of this policy proposal from the Obama Administration, and the potential impact to America’s energy sector, prompting this latest calling from the coalition of congressmen to have the BLM withdraw its rule for industry air emissions.

“Many of the Department’s regulations penalize and discourage entrepreneurship, overstep state jurisdiction and drive up costs for developing energy resources of federal land [...] We are concerned that the BLM has rushed forward to finalize new methane emissions measures as a solution in search of a problem. Unfortunately, these regulations fail to address BLM’s ongoing permitting delays for natural gas gathering line rights-of-way.”

## NEW YORK AND MASSACHUSETTS ATTORNEYS GENERAL, ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS REFUSE TO COMPLY WITH SUBPOENA FROM CONGRESS ON CLIMATE CHANGE CASE

Earlier this summer, federal lawmakers issued a series of subpoenas demanding the Massachusetts and New York attorneys general and several environmental groups share documents with Congress relating to the investigations of Exxon and climate change. The parties involved have since announced they will refuse to comply with the subpoenas and Congress’ ongoing review of this matter.

In a statement from the Office of the New York Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman, spokesman Eric Soufer said that the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee [which has probed this case] “has no authority to interfere with these state law enforcement investigations, and whether they issue a subpoena or not, this attorney general will not be intimidated or deterred from ensuring that every New Yorker receives the full protection of state laws.”

In response to the refusal to comply with the subpoenas, U.S. Representative Lamar Smith (R-Texas), chairman of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, said: “The committee is disappointed that the New York and Massachusetts attorneys general and the environmental activist organizations behind the AGs’ efforts have refused to comply with lawfully issued subpoenas. Their noncompliance only raises additional questions. As discussions with the individual subpoena recipients move forward, the committee will consider using all tools at its disposal to further its investigation.”



## WHITE HOUSE DIRECTS AGENCIES TO CONSIDER CLIMATE CHANGE IN ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS

In a new directive released this week by the White House, all federal departments and agencies are to consider the effects of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and climate change when evaluating proposed federal actions.

The final guidance was announced on Tuesday, August 2, 2016, by the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), serving under the executive office for the president, and is “intended to help agencies make informed and transparent decisions about the impacts of climate change associated with their actions.” It also will reportedly facilitate compliance with prior requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), thereby improving the efficiency and consistency of reviews of proposed federal actions for agencies, decision makers, project proponents, and the public.

Under NEPA, federal agencies are already required to consider and disclose the potential effects of their actions and decisions on the environment. The latest guidance from the CEQ builds on these existing requirements, also providing the following direction:

- Advises agencies to quantify projected greenhouse gas emissions of proposed federal actions whenever the necessary tools, methodologies, and data inputs are available;
- Encourages agencies to draw on their experience and expertise to determine the appropriate level (broad, programmatic or project- or site-specific) and the extent of quantitative or qualitative analysis required to comply with NEPA;
- Counsels agencies to consider alternatives that would make the action and affected communities more resilient to the effects of a changing climate; and
- Reminds agencies to use existing information and science when assessing proposed actions.

Some have warned that the new federal requirements could slow infrastructure development in the United States, and make it more difficult to obtain permits for railroads, bridges and highways, as well as energy projects on public lands.

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT MOVES TO IMPROVE DRILLING PERMITTING PROCESS

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recently completed a multi-year effort to upgrade its online drilling permit processing system and shift to 100 percent electronic filing (“e-filing”) for oil and gas drilling permits, the federal agency announced on Thursday, July 28, 2016. The BLM reports that its new internet-based module will help reduce permit processing timeframes by 50 percent, while also increasing the efficiency and transparency of the drilling permit review and approval process.

“This modern, online system will result in a better and more efficient experience for both industry and the BLM,” said BLM Director Neil Kornze. “The new system is a big improvement over the current, hard copy based application system.”

The new e-filing system will allow operators to track their drilling permits through the entire review process. It will also flag missing or incomplete information on a permit application, reducing one of the primary sources of delay in the current process.

According to the BLM, the average permit processing time is currently 220 days. Once fully functional, the BLM anticipates that 90 percent of permit decisions will occur within 115 days of submission in cases where the BLM is the sole surface management agency.

## NEW REQUIREMENTS COMING FOR NATURAL GAS TRANSMISSION AND GATHERING LINES

In late spring of 2016, the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) released draft regulations for natural gas transmission pipelines. According to PHMSA, the intent of the proposed regulations is to broaden the scope of safety coverage both by adding new assessment and repair criteria for gas transmission pipelines, and by expanding these protocols to include pipelines located in areas of medium population density, or “Moderate Consequence Areas,” (MCAs) where an incident would pose risk to human life. PHMSA also notes the proposed requirements address priorities in the Obama Administration’s Climate Action Plan to address and reduce methane emissions.

The proposed rule amendments are expected to result in a net annual average reduction of 900-1,500 metric tons of carbon dioxide and 4,600-8,100 metric tons of methane. Further, the proposed language would change the way that pipeline operators secure and inspect gas transmission pipeline infrastructure following extreme weather events, such as hurricanes and flooding. According to PHMSA’s analysis of the rule, in addition to the specific requirements mentioned above, the amendments would revise federal Pipeline Safety Regulations by:

- Modifying repair criteria for pipelines inside and outside of high consequence areas,
- Providing additional direction on how to evaluate internal inspection results to identify anomalies,
- Clarifying requirements for conducting risk assessments for integrity management, including addressing seismic risk,
- Expanding mandatory data collection and integration requirements for integrity management, including data validation and seismicity,
- Requiring additional post-construction quality inspections to address coating integrity and cathodic protection issues,
- Requiring new safety features for pipeline launchers and receivers, and
- Requiring a systematic approach to verify a pipeline’s maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) and requiring operators to report MAOP exceedances.

In May, PHMSA said that it would not move forward with proposed rule changes without input for all stakeholders. As a result of multiple requests to extend the public comment period, the agency provided stakeholders an additional 30 days to submit public feedback, which ended July 7, 2016. At this time the agency is reviewing all comments and working to finalize the rule by Fall 2016.

## RRC COMMISSIONER CRADDICK DISCUSSES AGENCY'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE POLICIES

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Speaking in Washington D.C. last week, Railroad Commissioner Christi Craddick highlighted ways in which Texas' leading energy agency has adopted robust emergency response policies, in the event natural disasters should impact the Lone Star State.

During the 126<sup>th</sup> meeting of the National Petroleum Council (NPC) held in the nation's capital city on Friday, July 29, Commissioner Craddick explained that the Railroad Commission has a standing State Emergency Operations Center (SOC) response team that works alongside the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) to take action if there is an emergency event. "The commission's SOC team serves in a support capacity for first responders, and as necessary, assists incident command with data, information and technical expertise. Our SOC team was most recently deployed during the state's historic flooding in the spring of this year," described Commissioner Craddick.

"In addition to emergency preparedness and response procedures, our agency maintains a robust inspection schedule, inspecting close to 135,000 oil and gas leases and other related facilities each year," Craddick added. "A vigorous inspection process allows the commission to do everything it can within our regulatory framework to minimize the impact a disaster may have on infrastructure related to energy development within the state."

Commissioner Craddick was appointed earlier this summer to serve as a new member of the NPC for the 2016-17 term, representing the views of states in public policy decision making at the federal level. The NPC is an advisory body to the U.S. Secretary of Energy and the Department of Energy, providing advice, information and recommendations on matters related to the oil and natural gas industry and other related sectors.

## NOTEWORTHY AUGUST REGULATORY AND LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS FOR TIPRO MEMBERS

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A series of important regulatory, legislative and industry meetings of note to TIPRO and members of the association will be held over the coming weeks. Below please find more details:

### **Texas Railroad Commission Open Meeting**

August 9, 2016

Austin, Texas

During the commission's August meeting, an update will be provided regarding activities by the agency pertaining to the initiative to reduce regulatory burdens on industry as well as create greater efficiency at the commission without impacting environmental or public safety.

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### **Texas Railroad Commission Oil & Gas Regulatory Seminar**

August 16, 2016

Corpus Christi, Texas

The RRC is hosting this seminar to educate and train oil and gas industry representatives on a variety of topics, including: drilling permits; completions; inactive well requirements (Statewide Rule 15); oil, gas or geothermal resource operations in hydrogen sulfide areas (Statewide Rule 36); production reporting; pipeline accident and incident reporting; pipeline permitting; surface casing exceptions (Statewide Rule 13); and website queries for proration. To register to participate, visit <http://bit.ly/29JtlrX>.

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### **Sunset Advisory Commission Hearing on the Review of the Texas Railroad Commission**

August 22, 2016

Austin, Texas

The Sunset Advisory Commission will meet to discuss staff recommendations on ways to prepare and position the Railroad Commission to achieve the agency's important mission. During the August 22<sup>nd</sup> hearing, the Sunset Commission will also listen to testimony from the public. This meeting will be webcast online at: <http://www.senate.texas.gov/bin/live.php>.

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### **2016 Railroad Commission Pipeline Safety Conference**

August 24-26, 2016

San Antonio, Texas

This conference will be held by the agency to help educate members of the pipeline industry on federal and state regulations. During the event, attendees will learn about changes at the commission and how those changes will affect you, your company and the industry; learn about rules and regulations coming from the Federal and State level; hear about services and products to make your job easier and your system better; and enjoy an opportunity to interact, exchange ideas and best practices with other members of the industry. Learn more about this conference by visiting: <http://bit.ly/2ax5PIR>.



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TIPRO's association purchasing group is the easiest way to get the lowest energy bids. We have partnered with a reputable, experienced energy broker, SimplySmart, which can compare bids from more than ten providers and help you choose the best product for your business.

Stop by SimplySmart's booth at the TIPRO Summer Conference in San Antonio to learn more! Choose one of two easy ways to get started:

- Download and complete the [Easy Forms](#) and email to SimplySmart at [simplysmartbrokers@nrg.com](mailto:simplysmartbrokers@nrg.com) OR
- Bring a copy of your electricity bill and [Easy Forms](#) to SimplySmart's booth at the summer conference.

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[Jessica.dusek@nrgsimplysmart.com](mailto:Jessica.dusek@nrgsimplysmart.com)



For a limited time, receive a free "take anywhere" Goal Zero Yeti 150 generator (a \$230 value) when you sign a 24-month (or longer) electricity agreement through SimplySmart\*. To be eligible, members must not be currently participating in the TIPRO Power Coalition.

\*Offer valid to those who submit Easy Forms by September 30, 2016. Goal Zero Yeti 150 generator will be shipped when REP contract is signed.  
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## OIL & GAS DOWNTURN SLOWS STATE TAX COLLECTIONS, BUT TEXAS ECONOMY REMAINS 'RESILIENT'



In July, state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.37 billion, 1.5 percent lower than July 2015, reported Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar. Sales tax revenue is the largest source of state funding for the state budget, accounting for 56 percent of all tax collections, according to the comptroller. "State sales tax collections continue to be down, largely due to depressed spending in the oil and natural gas-related sectors," Hegar said. "By contrast, collections from the construction and retail trade sectors rose compared to the previous year."

Another major source of revenue for the state includes taxes from oil and gas production. Texas collected \$201.8 million from oil and natural gas production taxes this past month, down 33.9 percent from July 2015.

Despite the decrease in state tax revenue over the last year, the comptroller is still confident that the Texas economy will remain resilient.

Comptroller Hegar recently provided an update on state financial conditions to the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) during a meeting on July 25<sup>th</sup> at the state capitol in Austin. During his testimony, Comptroller Hegar explained to state legislators that the Texas budget "continues to work." Comptroller Hegar also said after his presentation that, "in the last 12 months, we've still gained over 170,000 jobs ... which I think is a testament that the 10<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world is significantly more diverse and resilient than it was in prior economic downturns."

Likewise, speaking on Wednesday, August 3, 2016, at a conference in Corpus Christi, Texas Secretary of State Carlos H. Cascos also offered reassurance that while slowing activity with the energy industry may present challenges to the state economy, the Lone Star State nevertheless remains a more favorable place to do business than many other states. The Texas economy has become more diverse over the years, and conditions in the state aren't as grave as they were the oil bust of the 1980s, said Cascos. "We have a lot to be proud of in this state," emphasized Cascos.

## FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MONTHS, OIL PRICES DROP BELOW \$40 A BARREL

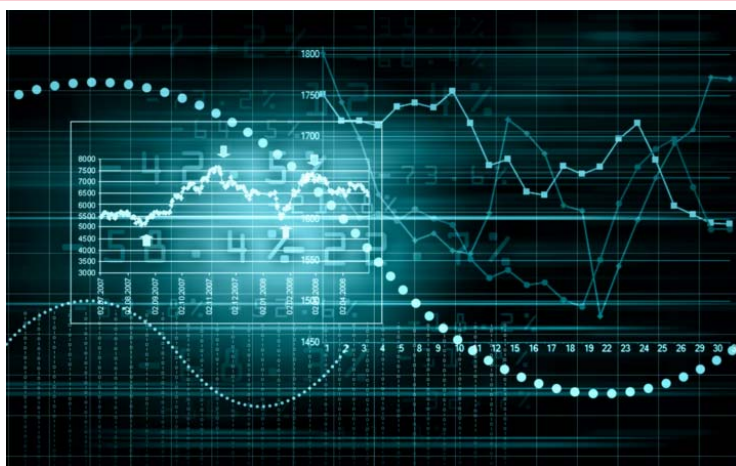
At the start of August, oil prices fell to fresh three-month lows, upon renewed concerns that the epic oil glut was still largely intact. On Monday, August 1, 2016, crude oil prices dropped 4 percent, sliding below \$40 per barrel.

Earlier this summer, oil prices had topped out above \$51 a barrel, lending hope of a recovery in the market.

However, a variety of geopolitical factors coupled with uncertainty over supply backlogs led to new shifts in the oil market as of early August.

Fortunately, by Thursday, August 4, crude prices gained better traction and moved higher, after new industry data showed a modest drop in oil stockpiles.

Still, energy analysts and economists warn that the market could continue to fluctuate in the coming weeks and months.



## EXXON DONATES \$15 MILLION TO UT-AUSTIN TO DEVELOP ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES

ExxonMobil announced on Tuesday, August 2, it will invest \$15 million for the development of emerging technologies at The University of Texas at Austin Energy Institute. The joint research initiative will pursue advancing technologies to help meet growing energy demands while further reducing environmental impacts and the risk of climate change.

"The University of Texas at Austin has extensive experience and expertise in identifying innovative energy technologies," said Sara Ortwein, president of ExxonMobil Upstream Research Company. "Our scientists and engineers look forward to collaborating with UT's faculty and students through the Energy Institute to develop breakthrough technologies that can help reduce emissions."

Gregory L. Fenves, president of the university, said, "The University of Texas at Austin is proud and deeply appreciative of its long history of collaboration in education and research with ExxonMobil. This investment further unites two of the world's leading energy organizations to pursue innovations for a better energy future."

According to ExxonMobil, the research projects are expected to cover a range of emerging technologies and will take advantage of the university's capabilities in renewable energy, battery technologies and power grid modeling. Core strengths in advanced computing, environmental management, and additive manufacturing may be applied to improve the efficiency of delivering traditional energy sources. This strategic engagement will utilize an umbrella agreement framework to facilitate collaborative research between ExxonMobil and the university.

# ***DON'T MISS TIPRO'S 2016 SUMMER CONFERENCE!***

Join TIPRO on August 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> at the Hyatt Hill Country Resort in San Antonio for the association's 2016 summer meeting! During this important industry conference, oil and gas experts and well-respected leaders will share the latest on opportunities and challenges for the Texas E&P sector.

Topics to be discussed at the conference include:

- Regulatory hurdles for Texas independent producers
- Strategies for countering anti-oil and natural gas agendas
- Texas and national political outlook
- Preview of the 2017 Texas Legislative Session
- Review of property taxes
- Panel discussion on the future of water and waste
- And much more!

**VIEW THE COMPLETE EVENT AGENDA AND  
SIGN-UP TO ATTEND TIPRO'S CONFERENCE AT  
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**Texas Independent  
Producers &  
Royalty Owners  
Association**

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.

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