



**Texas
Independent
Producers and
Royalty Owners
Association**

Texas (again) goes after financial firms that may be boycotting fossil fuel companies

The Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts has asked more than 140 financial firms and publicly traded investment companies to disclose their climate and environmental standards, as well as detail fossil fuel investment policies and procedures, as the state government seeks to stand firm against institutions that may be denying energy companies access to capital funding. Under Texas law, guided by Senate Bill 13 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2021, state agencies that invest funds are prohibited from investing in financial companies which boycott energy companies. Consequently, financial groups deemed by the state comptroller to be “boycotting” the fossil-fuel industry will face restrictions on doing business in the state.

The comptroller is in the process of working to identify companies boycotting the fossil fuel sector and limiting access to capital for Texas oil and gas producers. After identifying such companies, the comptroller will prepare and maintain a list of such companies, as set forth in Texas Government Code Chapter 809, and then will begin pulling state pension investments from these companies.

Accordingly, in letters mailed at the end of April, the comptroller requested a written verification from financial institutions to clarify their fossil fuel investment positions. It is the second round of inquiries to be sent out by Comptroller Glenn Hegar on the matter, who in March sent an initial round of letters to 19 major financial firms. Some of the questions presented by the comptroller in the letters include:

- Does your company have a written policy, procedure or investment guideline restricting or prohibiting investment in energy companies, including companies engaged in the exploration, production, utilization, transportation, sale or manufacturing of fossil fuel-based energy?
- What is your company’s policy on banking, consumption, financing, investment, underwriting or related activity pertaining to fossil fuel-based energy and fossil fuel-based energy companies, including companies engaged in the exploration, production, utilization, transportation, sale or manufacturing of fossil-fuel based energy?
- How is your company’s chief executive officer, board of directors or other company leadership involved in the development or monitoring of the company’s policies pertaining to fossil fuel-based energy companies, including banking, consumption, financing, investment, underwriting or related activity?
- Applying Texas Government Code Chapter 809’s statutory definition of “boycott energy company,” is your company boycotting energy companies as defined in Texas law?

Any financial company that fails to provide a written response to the comptroller’s request before the 61st day after receipt of the letter is presumed to be boycotting energy companies, as outlined the comptroller.

Texas adopts first-of-its-kind electricity supply chain map of critical infrastructure

On Friday, April 29, the Texas Electricity Supply Chain Security and Mapping Committee adopted a new map identifying critical infrastructure facilities that make up the state’s electricity supply chain, including electric generation plants and natural gas facilities that supply energy to power plants. The map will be used by state emergency management officials during weather emergencies and disasters to pinpoint the location of critical electric and natural gas facilities and supplement emergency contact information for those facilities.

“This map will save lives in Texas,” said Public Utility Commission Executive Director Thomas Gleeson, who also serves as chairman of the state’s mapping committee. “Our agencies have collected an enormous amount of critical information in one place, available to state emergency officials with a click of a mouse. That means better coordinated preparedness before a disaster and faster response times in an emergency, to protect the Texas grid.”

The creation of the new Electricity Supply Chain map was required under legislation passed by the 87th Texas Legislature (Senate Bill 3) and signed into state law last year by Texas Governor Greg Abbott. The public release of the map and corresponding data is prohibited in order to protect the safety and integrity of the electricity supply chain.

“This map is an important tool to protect all Texans during weather emergencies,” commented Wei Wang, Railroad Commission executive director and vice chair of the Electricity Supply Chain Security and Mapping Committee. “It is also a great example of how the agencies have been collaborating. Our teams worked shoulder to shoulder together and exchanged a very large amount of data and information. All the layers of facilities on the map will help the state’s planning and response to fix problems real-time and prioritize electricity service during emergencies.”

Read more on Page 3...

President's message

TIPRO Members,

Amid ongoing geopolitical tensions and international turmoil, particularly in Europe, America is bolstering global access to affordable, reliable energy supplies produced here in the United States, with Texas leading the way. Following months of conflict, the Russian war in Ukraine still rages on, and Russia has recently said it is cutting off natural gas to countries that include Poland and Bulgaria, which has forced European nations to desperately seek solutions to their evolving energy crisis. America stands ready to help our trade partners, and already in 2022 our country has significantly increased exports of oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) to allies in this region of the world to keep up with the energy needs of European citizens and businesses.

Prior to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Europe imported [40 percent of its natural gas from Russia](#). Thanks to America's prolific energy production, the U.S. has been able to step up to meet European energy demand, and in February of this year, Europe received [nearly 70 percent](#) of all exported U.S. LNG cargoes. Not only was LNG from the U.S. able to meet European demand in this critical time, but U.S. natural gas, when compared to Russian natural gas, is [far, far cleaner](#). Russia's flaring intensity is 143 percent higher than the United States, and 239 percent higher than Texas' Permian, according to analysis by Texans for Natural Gas, a TIPRO campaign, demonstrating that America produces natural gas in a much more sustainable fashion than other global producers.

With roughly a quarter of U.S. natural gas production coming from Texas, it is evident how central our state is to advancing energy cooperation and global trade with allies. A significant amount of energy is also exported from terminals located in the Lone Star State, and as more facilities come online this year, LNG shipments sent to Europe and other partner nations will undoubtedly continue to grow, amplifying our role even more.

The Biden Administration has also announced efforts to work with international partners to get additional LNG supplies to market. At the end of March, the Department of Energy [authorized](#) expansions of LNG export capacity at two current operating LNG export projects, Cheniere Energy Inc.'s Sabine Pass in Louisiana and Corpus Christi in Texas. The authorization marked that every operating U.S. LNG export project has approval from the Energy Department to export its full capacity to any country not prohibited by U.S. law or policy. Additionally, and as you'll read about later in this newsletter, officials also in late April approved expanded LNG exports from two other projects along the Gulf Coast in Texas and Louisiana, which will further enable our country to meet rising energy demands abroad.

Still, to truly promote American energy trade, strengthen global energy security and grow market supplies, the Biden Administration must do more. This includes expediting permits for U.S. LNG export facilities and pipeline infrastructure and creating a more stable regulatory environment for domestic oil and gas producers so that energy development may continue to expand. The administration also must open up oil and gas leasing opportunities and permitting on federal land as well as take swift action to create a new 5-year offshore leasing program to ensure U.S. producers can explore and develop new leases in the Gulf of Mexico. It's time to stop politicizing America's energy security and fully commit to responsibly developing our resources to meet growing energy demand here and abroad.

Regards,

Ed Longanecker



Ed Longanecker

Texas' primary runoff elections are coming up on May 24th

The 2022 Texas primary runoff elections will be held on Tuesday, May 24, giving voters the opportunity to solidify Republican and Democratic party nominations before the state's General Election in November. A number of high-profile state offices are included on the ballot for this year's primary runoff, as candidates in certain primary races did not secure more than 50 percent of votes during the March 1st primary election. As such, Texans will vote later this month in Democratic and Republican primary runoffs to finalize their party's nominations for office. There are 50 primary races headed to runoffs this year, including elections party nominations for Texas attorney general, lieutenant governor, railroad commissioner, land commissioner and comptroller of public accounts. Early voting for the elections will begin in two weeks and will run from May 16-20.

A reminder that under Texas law, voters who cast a ballot in a party's primary election can only then participate in that same party's primary runoff election. Voters are not allowed to switch parties after the main primary election to vote in another party's primary runoff election. However, if a voter did not cast a ballot in either party's primary election, they then have the option of voting in either party's primary runoff election.

A full list of candidates who will appear on each party's primary runoff ballot is available on the Texas Secretary of State's portal at: <https://bit.ly/3s9Q230>. Other important information on voter ID requirements and what to expect at your local polling location can be found at www.votetexas.gov.

TIPRO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 16-18, 2022

FORT WORTH — DUG Permian Basin & Eagle Ford Conference and Expo.

For information on this event, please call (713) 260-1072.

MAY 17, 2022

HOUSTON — IPAA/TIPRO/HPF "Leaders in Industry" Luncheon.

For information, email info@houstonproducersforum.org.

JUNE 21, 2022

HOUSTON — IPAA/TIPRO/HPF "Leaders in Industry" Luncheon.

For information, email info@houstonproducersforum.org.

TIPRO, IPAA & HPF invite you to join industry colleagues at upcoming 'Leaders' luncheon

Be sure to sign up for the May 'Leaders in Industry' luncheon, hosted by TIPRO and the association's partners, the Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA) and Houston Producers Forum (HPF). This month's luncheon will be held on Tuesday, May 17th at the Houston Petroleum Club, with remarks from Damien Courvalin, managing director, head of energy research and senior commodity strategist at Goldman Sachs.

Register for the next 'Leaders in Industry' luncheon at: <https://bit.ly/3vU8iOY>.



House speaker names four new appointments to the State Energy Plan Advisory Committee

Before the end of April, Texas Speaker of the House Dade Phelan (R-Beaumont) appointed four new members to serve on the State Energy Plan Advisory Committee. The committee was formed by the 87th Legislature last year and is tasked with preparing a comprehensive state energy plan that includes methods and strategies to improve the reliability, affordability and stability of the Texas energy grid. The committee must deliver its plan to the legislature before September 1, 2022.

New members invited to the advisory committee by Speaker Phelan include:

- NRG Energy's Senior Director of Regulatory Affairs Bill Barnes;
- Former ERCOT Board Chairman Mike Greene;
- Wendy King, vice president of the Gulf Coast business unit for ConocoPhillips; and,
- Pedernales Electric Cooperative CEO Caruthers Parsley.

"I'm confident that these individuals will bring an invaluable perspective to this new committee and help make thoughtful recommendations to the legislature," Speaker Phelan said. "The Texas House looks forward to learning more about the committee's recommendations on how to improve our electric service in Texas."

As TIPRO reported to members earlier this year, Texas Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick also has appointed WoodRock & Co. Managing Director Mark Ammerman, Pioneer Natural Resources Executive Vice President of Operations Jerome "Joey" Hall, Nolan Group President Edwin Patrick Jenevein III and CnHn Strategies President Kenneth Stevens to also serve on the State Energy Plan Advisory Committee.

State sales tax revenue sees strong growth in April, driven by elevated oil and gas activity

State sales tax revenue topped \$3.8 billion in April, 12.8 percent more than in April 2021, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar reported on Monday, May 2. Sales tax is an important source of funding used to support the state budget and accounts for 59 percent of all tax collections by the state government.

"State sales tax collections reached a new high for the month of April, with double-digit growth reflecting both inflation and continued expansion in real economic activity and employment," said Comptroller Hegar. "The strongest growth was in receipts from sectors driven by business spending, particularly the oil and gas mining sector, which surpassed pre-pandemic levels as capital spending in the sector picks up," the comptroller noted.

Last month, Texas collected \$666 million from oil production taxes, up 99 percent from April 2021 and the highest monthly collections on record. Natural gas production tax revenue also totaled \$339 million in April, up 46 percent from a year ago.

Texas electricity supply chain map adopted by a multi-agency committee... continued from Page 1

According to state officials, the current version of the electricity supply chain map features more than 65,000 facilities including electricity generation plants powered by natural gas, electrical substations, natural gas processing plants, underground gas storage facilities, oil and gas well leases, saltwater disposal wells, as well as more than 21,000 miles of gas transmission pipelines and approximately 60,000 miles of power transmission lines. In addition to infrastructure layers, the electricity supply chain map also includes elements such as Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) regions, emergency contact information for facilities and visualization of weather watches and warnings as they occur in any part of the state.

The map is a living document and will be updated twice a year, or more often if necessary, by the committee, which is composed of regulators from the Public Utility Commission, the Railroad Commission, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas and TDEM.

The Texas Energy Reliability Council (TERC) is scheduled to adopt the map at their next meeting on May 23, 2022. Following TERC's adoption of the map, a public meeting will be held by the Texas Electricity Supply Chain Security and Mapping Committee on May 31st regarding the map. Please note that this meeting will be livestreamed for the public at <https://bit.ly/3FhtKli>.

On behalf of TIPRO members, the association will continue to closely track regulatory developments relating to Texas' electric supply chain map, and implementation of other provisions of Senate Bill 3 which are forthcoming.

Railroad Commission to host annual regulatory conference in August

The Railroad Commission of Texas will host its annual oil and gas regulatory and pipeline safety conference at the AT&T Executive Hotel and Conference Center in Austin, Texas, on Monday, August 8 - Tuesday, August 9, 2022. The commission's event, which will be held in person, will inform and train energy industry representatives on the applicable laws, rules and procedures for hydrocarbon production in Texas.

Additional details, including the conference agenda and registration, will be announced by the Railroad Commission in early June. To view the event webpage with other information on this regulatory conference, visit the commission's website at <https://bit.ly/3LNz6r2>.

Railroad Commission looks to gain primary authority for permitting carbon storage wells

Commissioners at the Railroad Commission of Texas voted on Tuesday, May 3rd to move forward with proposed rule changes that seek to amend the agency's carbon dioxide regulations. Amendments as proposed will modify application requirements, notice and hearing requirements, permit standards and reporting, recordkeeping and more. The commission is also at this time seeking enforcement primacy from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for carbon capture and storage wells, also referred to as Class VI injection wells, that are used for underground storage of carbon dioxide (CO₂) from energy production, power generation or industrial sources. If ultimately approved by the EPA, primacy would mean that Texas operators would only need to apply with the Railroad Commission for Class VI permits rather than both regulatory agencies. North Dakota and Wyoming are currently the only other states with primacy oversight and enforcement authority over such permits.

"Clearly, there is concern today about levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and its impact on the environment," said the commission's chief geologist Leslie Savage. "Class VI injection wells have the potential to be part of the solution by trapping the CO₂ in appropriate geologic formations. We hope our program will be able to streamline the process and allow for the timely issuing of Class VI permits."

To see the proposed changes to Railroad Commission's Chapter 5 rules on carbon dioxide injection, please visit <https://bit.ly/3seTA4d>. The Railroad Commission will accept public comment through June 20th on the proposed rule amendments – TIPRO members may submit input on this rulemaking at: <https://bit.ly/3MWrEtt>.

Group of states ask Supreme Court to block key Biden climate accounting measure

In court papers filed last week, Republican attorneys general from 10 states, including Texas, asked the Supreme Court to reinstate an earlier court order blocking the Biden Administration from utilizing a key climate accounting measure in agency rulemakings. The federal government's "social cost of greenhouse gases" metric is at the center of the ongoing legal battle, a measurement that's used by regulators to assess global environmental damages caused from emissions and climate change.



In February, a federal judge granted a preliminary injunction that stopped President Biden's Executive Order 13990, which otherwise called for the analysis of the social cost of carbon and other pollutants to be included with federal regulatory actions and other meaningful decision-making. Months later, a panel of judges from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit ruled against the preliminary injunction, deeming claims presented by the states as largely hypothetical and allowing government regulators to again use the social cost metric for emissions. This decision has in turn led the group of states to call for intervention by the nation's highest court, where the legal officers hope the president's directive involving social cost of carbon emissions will be denied.

"The estimates are a power grab designed to manipulate America's entire federal regulatory apparatus through speculative costs and benefits so that the Administration can impose its preferred policy outcomes on every sector of the American economy," said the group of states in the legal challenge filed with the Supreme Court. The states also maintain that the federal formulas wrongly inflate the estimated costs of oil and gas leasing and other projects, and should therefore not be used as part of government actions.

Texas congress members lead bipartisan letter on federal pipeline infrastructure approval process

As reported previously by TIPRO, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is in the process of evaluating proposed updates to policy statements on certificate applications for critical natural gas infrastructure. The commission earlier this year released a modified version of its policy statements to include greater consideration of climate and environmental impacts; however, after receiving significant pushback, FERC later agreed to revert back to its previous policy position and instead has invited public commentary and feedback from stakeholders before pursuing implementation of regulatory changes.

During this period of regulatory review for the revised FERC policy statements, Texas Congressman Michael Burgess, M.D. (R-TX26) and Congresswoman Lizzie Fletcher (D-TX07) have led a bipartisan letter sent to FERC Chairman Richard Glick in late April that urges the commission to provide regulatory certainty necessary to encouraging investments in critical infrastructure for the energy industry. Other congressional members who also signed the letter to Chairman Glick include: Congressman Dan Newhouse (R-WA), Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia (D-TX), Congressman David McKinley (R-WV), Congressman Bill Johnson (R-Ohio), Congressman Vicente Gonzalez (D-TX), Congressman Clay Higgins (R-LA), Congressman Marc Veasey (D-TX), Congressman Jake Ellzey (R-TX), Congressman Neal Dunn, M.D. (R-Fla.), Congresswoman Debbie Lesko (R-Ariz.), Congressman Henry Cuellar (D-TX), Congressman Larry Bucshon, M.D. (R-Ind.), Congressman Buddy Carter (R-GA), Congressman Michael Cloud (R-TX), Congresswoman Stephanie Bice (R-Okla.), Congressman Mike Johnson (R-LA).

"Natural gas is key to ensuring that the American public has access to reliable and affordable energy. Ensuring the availability of that resource requires a FERC natural gas certificate review process that is clear, consistent, and timely," the members stated. "We appreciate the commission's efforts to review the 1999 natural gas certificate policy statement, however, the two new policy statements issued on February 18, 2022, only added significant uncertainty to the durability of FERC's certificate policy review framework... FERC must advance essential natural gas projects to meet energy affordability, reliability, and climate needs. We urge you and your colleagues on the commission in your work to update the 1999 gas certificate policy, to reach a unanimous, bipartisan decision which will provide a stable, thoughtful, and long-lasting basis to build out our nation's essential energy infrastructure."

TIPRO members may view the full text of the letter at <https://bit.ly/3kHJKmW>.

Biden Administration disburses energy revenues to Gulf oil and gas producing states

The Department of the Interior's Office of Natural Resources Revenue announced on April 29th the distribution of over \$252 million in Fiscal Year 2021 energy revenues to the four offshore Gulf oil and gas producing states – including Texas, Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi – and their coastal political subdivisions (CPS), such as counties and parishes. The federal funding is disbursed annually based on offshore oil and gas revenue, as provided under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) of 2006. According to the Interior Department, since GOMESA's passage, a total of \$1.26 billion has been supplemented to the coastal states and their CPS through the federal program.

Revenue received from the GOMESA fund can be used by states and their CPS to support coastal conservation and restoration projects, hurricane protection programs, onshore infrastructure projects and activities to implement marine and coastal resilience management plans. The state of Texas is slated to receive more than \$55 million from the energy revenue program. This amount, while substantial, is still down from thresholds received in past years. In 2020, for instance, Texas collected more than \$76 million from the GOMESA revenue program. That year, an overall amount totaling nearly \$353 million was disbursed by the Interior Department, which was \$138 million higher from revenue allocated in 2019.

As energy companies have been forced the past year to confront mounting legal and regulatory headwinds as well as take on other challenging conditions for producing oil and gas in the Gulf of Mexico, offshore development has slowed. This not only affects overall energy output by the United States, but also has an impact on funding generated for government coffers and related programs, like the GOMESA revenue-share program, which benefits habitat conservation and protecting public lands along the Gulf Coast.

U.S. Energy Department authorizes expanded exports of LNG from facilities in Texas and Louisiana

The U.S. government last week approved additional exports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from two projects, which will allow U.S. producers to sell more American energy supplies to partners overseas. The U.S. Department of Energy said on Wednesday, April 27th it had issued two long-term orders permitting an additional 500 million additional cubic feet to be exported per day from Golden Pass LNG in Texas as well as Magnolia LNG in Louisiana. The announcement is expected to strengthen U.S. trade as well as enhance energy security for U.S. allies.

Under the department's authorization, Golden Pass LNG will be eligible to export the equivalent of an additional 0.35 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d) and Magnolia LNG can export an additional 0.15 Bcf/d of natural gas as LNG to any country not prohibited by U.S. law or policy, shared regulators from the Energy Department. Long-term non-free trade agreement export orders were already provided for the majority of the projects' capacities, with Magnolia LNG's authorization for 1.08 Bcf/d in 2016 and an authorization for 2.21 Bcf/d issued to Golden Pass LNG in 2017, noted the Energy Department. Golden Pass, jointly owned by ExxonMobil Corporation and Qatar Petroleum International Limited, is currently under construction in Sabine Pass, Texas, with first exports expected in 2024. Magnolia LNG, owned by the Glenfarne Group LLC, is planned to be developed in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

As part of its announcement last week, the Energy Department also highlighted how LNG exports from the United States have recently reached new highs of approximately 12 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d) and are expected to grow to more than 13 Bcf/d by the end of this year as additional export capacity comes online.

"At such a critical time for global energy needs, I'm proud to have led the fight to press the Department of Energy to help secure permits for export at two new LNG export facilities," remarked U.S. Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas). "This is a tremendous victory for Texans, American jobs, trade, and our European allies who will now have greater access to our clean natural gas exports. America produces the cleanest energy in the world, and I want to thank Secretary Granholm for listening to my concerns about how the delays in permitting was hurting our economy and working productively with me to finally issue these permits."

Energy Department awards \$12 million toward cybersecurity protections for U.S. energy systems

While America looks to boost defenses against cyber attacks and vulnerabilities, particularly for the energy sector, the U.S. Department of Energy recently said it will offer \$12 million to support six new research, development and demonstration (RD&D) projects that advance innovative cybersecurity technology to help ensure energy delivery systems are designed, installed, operated and maintained to survive and recover quickly from cyberattacks.

Projects selected to receive federal funding will specifically advance anomaly detection, artificial intelligence and machine learning, and physics-based analytics to strengthen the security of next-generation energy systems. These systems include components placed in substations to detect cyber intrusions more quickly and automatically block access to control functions, outlined department officials.

"Investing in cutting-edge cyber security technology keeps us at the forefront of global innovation and protects America's power grid in the face of increasing cyber threats from abroad," said U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm.

Before the department confirmed the grants for cybersecurity energy technologies, U.S. Senators John Barrasso (R-WY) and Joe Manchin (D-WV), along with U.S. Representatives Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) and Frank Pallone (D-NJ), in early April had sent a letter to Energy Secretary Granholm pressing the Department of Energy to ensure it was fulfilling duties as the leading cybersecurity agency for the energy sector. In their outreach, lawmakers also advised the Energy Department to make certain the federal government was not imposing duplicative cyber incident reporting requirements on businesses part of the energy sector. "Companies in the energy sector must focus their attention on maintaining cybersecurity and responding to cyber events. The federal government should act as a valuable partner in tracking and responding to cyber threats to critical infrastructure and avoid inconsistent and duplicative requirements. Establishing consistent reporting requirements is especially important now. As President Biden recently announced, the Russian government is 'exploring options for potential cyberattacks' against critical infrastructure," legislative leaders said.

EOG Resources collaborates on conservation study examining land restoration in the Eagle Ford

EOG Resources Inc. (EOG), a member of TIPRO, will partner with Texan by Nature (TxN), the Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute (NRI) and EcoMetrics, LLC (ECO) for a new 2-year project that will assess the environmental and economic return of restoring rangeland in the Eagle Ford Shale play in South Texas with native vegetation, TxN leaders announced in late April. Outcomes from the research study will be later shared with industry members and other oil and gas companies to demonstrate the value of investing in conservation in conjunction with energy development and provide an approach to quantifying the benefits of future conservation projects.

“EOG seeks to innovate throughout our operations using technology and science supported by data,” said Nick Groves, vice president of safety and environmental at EOG Resources, Inc. “We want to develop science-based and data-backed conservation models for our sustainability efforts as well as the industry’s. This collaboration with TxN, NRI and ECO is a fundamental step toward reaching this goal.”

“EOG’s investment in this conservation research study is a prime example of the pioneering steps industry leaders in our state are taking to demonstrate innovative models of conservation that are good for business and benefit all Texans,” added TxN CEO and President Joni Carswell. “We are proud to connect industry leaders with conservation experts to accelerate replicable projects and models for the globe.”

EOG, one of the largest crude oil and natural gas producers in the United States, previously received TxN certification for another company initiative and project also in the Eagle Ford shale, which initiated reseeded 350 acres of native pollinator habitat on downsized pipeline rights-of-way and well pad sites to create a network of wildlife food plots over thousands of acres.

ConocoPhillips reports success with program restoring burrowing owl habitats in the Permian



*Burrowing owl, Quail Ranch
Image courtesy of ConocoPhillips*

More than 300 acres of native land has been successfully restored in the Permian Basin through a program designed to re-establish burrowing owl habitats, supported by ConocoPhillips, a member of TIPRO. Land in Upton County, Texas, which is owned by Quail Ranch LLC, a subsidiary of ConocoPhillips, was utilized for the initiative to create contiguous grassland habitat for the owl, a ground-dwelling bird which commonly breeds in the Panhandle and West Texas. For the project, ConocoPhillips partnered with Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) and was recognized last year by Texan by Nature’s project certification program for the effort.

“The restoration project began with the removal of 202 acres of mesquite, an invasive species of grassland habitats, in summer 2019,” described the company.” Twenty pairs of artificial burrows were installed in September 2019 with assistance from the Midland chapter of Stewards of the Wild, sponsored by Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation. For the next phase, which was initiated in 2020, ConocoPhillips provided funds to re-seed using a native seed blend and to install an additional 21 pairs of burrows.”

After the project is completed, ConocoPhillips reports that approximately 950 acres of contiguous grassland habitat and native rangelands will have been restored to benefit burrowing owls, as well as other native species from the area including pronghorns and black-tailed prairie dogs.

Aerial surveys underway to capture latest population trends of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken

Through mid-May, the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) is conducting aerial surveys across five states home to the Lesser Prairie-Chicken, including Texas, in an effort to tally populations of the bird as well as determine how the Lesser Prairie-Chicken has been responding to management strategies included under government-approved conservation plans. WAFWA first initiated aerial surveys of the bird earlier this Spring beginning in March utilizing a consistent methodology to estimate Lesser Prairie-Chicken population abundances. Results from this year’s aerial surveys are expected to be made available by July 1, WAFWA representatives indicate.

As TIPRO members recall, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) is currently considering a regulatory proposal to list two distinct population segments (DPS) of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Last year, the USFWS said it is seeking to list the Southern DPS of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken as endangered under the ESA and also has proposed to recognize the Northern DPS of the bird as threatened with a 4(d) rule that tailors additional protections.

On behalf of the association’s membership, TIPRO submitted comments in August to the USFWS expressing disagreement with the proposed listing of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken under the ESA. TIPRO as part of its comments reinforced the significant progress already demonstrated toward the stability of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken population through voluntary programs, which have assisted in the development and ongoing support of successful habitat management and conservation programs. TIPRO also mentioned that industry participants have contributed more than \$65 million to beneficial conservation practices to protect and promote the bird’s populations across 6,228,136 total acres. Furthermore, the association observed the success of voluntary Lesser Prairie-Chicken management and conservation programs, as shown through an increase in the total Lesser Prairie-Chicken population size from 2013 to 2020. The estimated total population of Lesser Prairie-Chicken increased from 15,397 birds in 2013 to 34,408 birds in 2020. “Under the ESA, ‘endangered’ means a species is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Clearly, a species whose population has more than doubled in the last seven years does not fit this definition,” explained TIPRO. Other officials from Texas also have opposed the listing of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken under the ESA, including Texas Congressman August Pfluger and state Senators Charles Perry and Kel Seliger as well as state regulators with the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Enverus offers free new digital management tool for individual mineral owners

A free, online tool has been released by Enverus, a member of TIPRO, that empowers mineral owners with a simple, easy-to-use portfolio management product. Enverus' MineraliQ brings together a range of information for royalty owners, from production data and well locations to post-production costs and expenses, providing perspective on mineral assets rarely available to anyone other than big investors. This first-of-a-kind product is also the first consumer-focused product Enverus has released to the public, according to the company.

"Individual or family-owned mineral owners often rely on mailed royalty checks as a key source of income and information. In time, that valuable information can be lost, overlooked or misunderstood. By tailoring this product to consumers and creating an online tool that is as easy to use as popular money management tools that many consumers use today to track budgets or investments, we're providing the same transparency that large mineral owners and royalty companies take for granted. It gives non-institutional mineral owners a one-stop, overall view of their mineral portfolio, making it easier to manage their assets," said Lindsey Artman, vice president of product management for Enverus.

In addition to its financial management tools, Enverus' MineraliQ also offers an education center that addresses common questions for royalty owners on topics like post-production charges, how to read a check stub, mineral leasing options and useful information for selling mineral interests.

Once an account is created, an owner enters their information to connect them to their mineral assets, described Enverus. Then MineraliQ automatically links revenue statement details to wells from the Enverus database, providing information in a format that's well-organized and easy to digest. The product includes an interactive map displaying well locations and nearby oilfield activity, a feature of interest to the many mineral owners who are physically removed from their mineral interests and have difficulty keeping track of drilling and completion activities taking place around their property.

"Many royalty owners find themselves using paper spreadsheets to track their oil and gas interests, due to lack of a better system. MineraliQ allows them to digitize their own financial information and enables options that may have previously been seen as out of reach," noted Phillip Dunning, director of product management for Enverus.

TIPRO members can visit MineraliQ.com to learn more.

Lucas Petroleum Group founder and TIPRO supporter, Harry Lucas Jr., passes away

Harry Lucas, Jr., founder and chairman of Lucas Petroleum Group, died Monday, April 18, at age 90. Lucas was an executive member of TIPRO and involved with the association for 24 years.

Lucas was born in February 1932 in Orange, Texas, and grew up nearby the oil boom town of Beaumont, Texas. He attended the University of Texas at Austin in the fifties and studied mathematics for two years, before returning to Beaumont where he graduated from Lamar University in 1955. After his father's death, he became more involved in the family business of Gulf Coast oil and gas leases, wildcat drilling deals and royalty investments.

In 1973, he established the Lucas Petroleum Group, a privately held oil and gas enterprise with the purpose of direct investment in upstream oil and gas exploration and mineral acquisition.

Later in his career, Lucas was among the first American independent oilmen to participate in a concession in the North Sea, leading to two major field discoveries. Over his life, Lucas was also involved in several civic and charitable causes. In 2000, he was inducted into the Hall of Honor of the University of Texas College of Natural Sciences.

PPROA

**LAST WEEK FOR EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION!
TRUE 10-STAND CLAYS**

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The Best Clay Target Sports Facility in the Texas Panhandle

May 20, 2022

Amarillo Gun Club - 4521 Osage, Amarillo, Texas

Lunch at noon; shoot at 1:00 p.m.

Registration \$700 per 4-man team

Deadline to Register & Payment Received - May 18, 2022

Early Bird Deadline - May 6, 2022 - \$650 per 4-man team

PPROA True 10-Stand Clays ♦ May 20, 2022 ♦ Amarillo Gun Club

While the oil and gas industry has had some large price increases due to foreign markets controlling our economy, it seems like we should be doing well; however, inflation and government overreach actually reduced profit margins below previous returns when prices were lower.

It is important to remember PPROA is not "just an oil and gas advocate." We are a citizens, state, and national advocate. We fight to keep the government and overregulation out of your lives by fighting for the Constitutional Amendments and your rights, both statewide and congressionally.

We welcome your questions on how those goals are achieved, but more importantly - let's take a break, forget our difficulties for a bit, and share fellowship and fun!

To download the registration and sponsorship forms, visit <https://pproa.org/pproa-clay-shoot/>.

Industry coalition releases new flaring resource

The Texas Methane & Flaring Coalition, of which TIPRO is a supporting partner, recently released a new resource to better inform stakeholders about flaring in Texas, associated state regulations and new reporting measures tracking flaring activities. The coalition's resource, available online, also highlights a new online research query system implemented by state regulators at the Texas Railroad Commission this year that provides increased transparency in flaring exceptions.

Additionally, the coalition has recently updated a few other helpful one-pagers and resources to provide credible information on important issues related to flaring. Check them out, and also find the latest news and educational resources about flaring in Texas, by visiting the coalition's website at the link that follows: www.TexasMethaneFlaringCoalition.org.



Straight Talk

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Texas Independent Producers & Royalty Owners Association

With nearly 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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