

Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association

Industry leaders and state officials join TIPRO next month for association's 75th Annual Convention

ANNUAL CONVENTION

A VIRTUAL INDUSTRY SUMMIT

APRIL 5 - 6, 2021

The Texas Independent Producers & Royalty Owners Association's (TIPRO) 75th Annual Convention - A Virtual Industry Summit is just a few weeks away! On Tuesday, April 6, 2021, join TIPRO for a lively discussion with our distinguished panel of speakers on leading priorities of the Texas oil and natural gas industry. During TIPRO's virtual summit, presenters will share with TIPRO's audience key insights on a wide-range of important matters warranting attention from Texas producers and royalty owners, from the industry's recovery to last year's market upheaval to new oil and gas policies being considered by state lawmakers during this year's legislative session.

The Honorable Greg Abbott, governor of Texas, will kick off the TIPRO meeting on the morning of April 6th with welcome remarks, immediately followed by the conference industry keynote presentation delivered by Occidental Petroleum Corporation President and Chief Executive Officer Vicki Hollub. Schlumberger Oilfield Services' Chad Peterson will then talk with TIPRO about where the oilfield services sector may be headed after historic challenges brought on in 2020.

With the 87th Texas Legislative Session now in full swing and entering a critical phase for lawmakers to act on passing meaningful policy reforms, Speaker of the Texas House

Dade Phelan (R-Beaumont) will also provide an update to TIPRO from the state capitol on work underway by the Texas legislature.

TIPRO also looks forward to remarks provided during the convention by Sean Strawbridge, leader of the Port of Corpus Christi, the nation's second largest exporter of crude oil and a major gateway to international and domestic maritime commerce. Strawbridge will highlight the rise of U.S. energy exports and future opportunities for the Texas oil and gas industry to sell more of its products abroad.

Additionally, as market trends support a rebalance of global energy supplies and indicate demand recovery, Dr. Edward Morse from Citi Research will enlighten TIPRO on expectations for the industry's short and long-term future. Following the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, last spring's oil price collapse and other significant challenges recorded over the last year, Dr. Morse will offer his opinion on whether shale producers in the U.S. oil and gas patch will again earn the nickname as America's "come-back kid."

Finally, U.S. Representative Dan Crenshaw (R-TX-2) will wrap up the TIPRO convention sharing his thoughts on the federal policy landscape for the Texas oil and gas industry.

Make your plans today to participate in the association's April summit. See the latest event updates, register and sponsor by visiting the TIPRO Annual Convention page on the association's website at https://bit.ly/38iiNk4 and find other information about the TIPRO convention starting on page 5 of this newsletter.

Biden Administration lays out plans for its comprehensive review of the federal oil & gas program

Nearly two months after the president ordered a temporary suspension of new leasing for oil and natural gas drilling on public lands and offshore waters this past January, the U.S. Department of Interior has offered an update on some of the next steps the Biden



Administration anticipates following as part of its larger review of the nation's federal fossil fuel program. The Interior Department said in early March that it is working on developing an interim report that will provide initial findings on the state of the federal conventional energy programs, and will share recommendations on how the federal government may improve stewardship of public lands and waters, create jobs and build a just and equitable energy future.

To help guide the government report, a virtual forum hosted by the Interior Department will be held on Thursday, March 25, 2021. The forum, expected to be livestreamed, will feature several panels highlighting perspectives from industry representatives, labor and environmental justice organizations, natural resource advocates, and other experts. The discussion between forum

participants will support the interim report that will be completed in early summer by the Interior Department.

"It's time to take a close look at how to best manage our nation's natural resources with current and future generations in mind," said Laura Daniel-Davis, principal deputy assistant secretary of land and minerals management at the Department of Interior. "This forum will help inform the department's near-term actions to restore balance on America's lands and waters and to put our public lands' energy programs on a more sound and sustainable conservation, fiscal and climate footing."

The March 25th public forum will take place from 12:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. CT via Zoom Webinar. Anyone interested in viewing the session will need to register via Zoom at https://bit.ly/30VmJDj. If you are unable to join live or the forum reaches capacity, please note that the forum may be watched on the Department of the Interior's website at www.doi.gov/events.

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Chairman's message

Fellow TIPRO Members.

Most of us think Texas is synonymous with energy and a lot of efforts have been made in the last few weeks to understand why our system, one supported by the leading production of energy supplies in the nation, would let us all down in this regard when we needed it most. In the aftermath of the major energy disruption caused by February's historic winter storm, heads have rolled and fingers have been pointed, with more than a few pointed directly at the oil and gas industry. As such, I wanted to take a simplistic look at what really went wrong. With greater understanding of what actually happened from an industry-perspective during the winter weather emergency, hopefully the powers that be in Austin will address the issues and prevent this situation from ever happening again.

The statistics show that electricity generated by natural gas the week of the winter storm grew from an average of around 300,000 megawatt hours before the storm system moved in to over 600,000 megawatt hours during the storm and later peaked at almost 900,000 megawatt hours. That is a huge ramp up in output that cannot be matched by any other energy source. The problem is that Texas needed more, a lot more. Let's take a closer look at what happened in the upstream and midstream sectors during the winter weather event.



Brent Hopkins

Upstream:

The winter storm impacted the ability of wells to produce in primarily four ways, including compression, gathering, transportation and water disposal and handling. Compressor problems stem from ice forming in the pressure regulator as temperatures plummeted and freezing weather took hold. This can normally be prevented by injecting methanol and wrapping and winterizing the facilities. A lot of operators took this precaution on wells with high enough deliverability to warrant the additional expense, though most low-volume stripper wells (of the 89,620 active gas wells in Texas, approximately 61,568 make less than 100 thousand cubic feet of gas per day or mcfgd) do not support the added \$3-\$5,000 expense to equip wells for a once every 100-year weather event. Looking at the production statistics, it appears that out of the nearly 90,000 active gas wells in Texas, only 3,548 of them produce over 1,000 mcfgd and would justify the added costs. The gathering systems in low-volume well areas typically pipe the gas to a central facility before the gas goes through dehydration and compression. These lines are subject to freezing and can be very problematic during a weather event, with the economics again failing to warrant winterization in many instances. Meanwhile, issues concerning transportation safety also arise when the tankage on location becomes full and trucks do not have the ability to get to the facility site to haul loads of either water or oil. When the tanks fill up, the wells have to then be shut in. Many operators tried to alleviate this problem by getting additional frac tanks hauled to locations as temporary storage, but ultimately the duration of the storm still took many high deliverability wells offline. On the transportation front, for safety reasons, a lot of operators chose to shut in production to keep wellsite personnel off unsafe roads. Lastly, the water gathering and disposal is typically run by electric pumps and even when the wells can produce without electric, if you can't move water then you can't produce the wells. When the electric went off, the production soon followed. From an upstream standpoint, there are not a lot of economically viable options to mitigate these problems and that is the primary reason for gas storage.

Midstream:

Obviously the midstream sector was impacted by the production decline outlined above but also suffered some additional issues that hopefully can be remedied in the future. Midstream pipelines are typically buried and thus insulated from the elements. In weather events like what we just experienced, marketers rely heavily on gas storage and the ability to access multiple pipelines to get gas where it is needed. Still, issues started to arise for pipeline operators when the power was shut off to electric compressor stations in the midst of the winter storm. This caused the classic "chicken and egg" problem -- no electricity without gas and no gas without electricity. Some of these problems were caused by the compressor stations not being listed as critical infrastructure, so power companies shut the power off. Sadly, I have been unable to quantify the extent of this problem, but if only one power plant went offline because of this, it was one too many. Rest assured, every midstream operator was doing everything in their ability to move gas where it was needed and they were pulling gas out of storage as fast as they could. Over 150 billion cubic feet of gas (BCFG) was pulled out of storage the week of the weather event.

From a pure business perspective, every operator in Texas wanted to produce as much gas as they possibly could during this crisis, as they had an economic reason to fill the pipelines, but for the challenges mentioned above, they were not able to meet those needs and thus natural gas could not make up for the systemic declines in the other energy sources.

So, many have asked, what might be the solution?

The population and peak energy demand in Texas have nearly doubled since the state last experienced a real deep freeze like this in 1989. The system we have in place today with the added emphasis on renewables will have to be augmented by more traditional and reliable sources. Municipality energy mandates make great sound bites but they need to be grounded with realistic expectations and understanding of the variable nature of that energy supply. Governing policies must mandate the ability to augment that energy when situations like this arise. Our elected officials need to take a non-partisan look at all the facts, do the math and give the people of Texas a reliable system that can handle our accelerating demand. Hopefully, the proposed House Bill 14 will be a good first step. I am an optimist, so I will look forward to hearing our policymakers' ideas on how to strengthen our energy grid!

This month's quote: "Energy is the key vital and essential ingredient to lift people out of a life of poverty" - D. Lawrence All the best,

Brent Hopkins

[As usual the opinions expressed above are my own and I could be wrong.]

Energy Resources chair files bill establishing new Electricity Supply Chain Mapping Committee

As state leaders hope to take meaningful action to address system-wide shortfalls following last month's winter storm disaster, the Texas legislature is currently working on new policy proposals that would impose significant reforms meant to add more power to the state's electric grid and require other measures to ensure Texas never runs out of power again, as happened in the midst of February's



severe winter weather event. One such legislative proposal, filed under House Bill 14, calls for the creation of a designated committee called the Texas Electricity Supply Chain Mapping Committee made up of leaders from the Railroad Commission (RRC), Public Utility Commission (PUC), Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) and Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) to map the state's electricity supply chain, identify critical infrastructure sources along the state's electricity supply chain and designate priority service needs in extreme weather events. This bill, authored by House Energy Resources Committee Chairman Craig Goldman (R-Fort Worth), in its current form does not place any additional requirements upon the oil and gas industry, and will help ensure that

members of the electricity supply chain do not get power cut off in the future so that electric providers can continue to produce energy. During TIPRO's most recent State Issues Committee meeting held this past Monday, March 15, Chairman Goldman discussed with the association's membership his reasons for filing House Bill 14. He also reviewed with TIPRO the agenda and priorities for the House Energy Resources Committee during this year's legislative session.

TIPRO State Issues Voting Committee has voted to support this legislative measure. House Bill 14 is expected to be heard Monday, March 22nd in the House Energy Resources Committee at 2 p.m. or upon final adjournment.

Chairman Goldman's bill is one of at least seven legislative proposals filed in the Texas House to strengthen the state's electric grid and provide other important reforms in the wake of February's historic winter storm. Other bills recommend restructuring the leadership of ERCOT's board (House Bill 10), requiring transmission and generation facilities to be weatherized against the spectrum of extreme weather Texas may face (House Bill 11), creating a new statewide alert system to inform Texans about impending disasters and significant weather events (House Bill 12), banning variable rate products for residential consumers that can result in exorbitant electricity fees (House Bill 16) and preventing any political subdivision from prohibiting the connection of residential or commercial buildings to specific infrastructure based on the type or source of energy that will be delivered to the end user (House Bill 17).

Railroad Commission adopts revisions to instructions for its Monthly Production Report

The Railroad Commission of Texas announced earlier this month it has accepted changes to the instructions for Form PR, *Monthly Production Report*, used to support the state's regulation of flaring and venting of natural gas. Specifically, the commission says Form PR instruction updates include the following three changes:

- "Disposition Code 4", which was used to report the volume of gas that was vented or flared, has been discontinued.
- Two new disposition codes have been implemented to allow operators to allocate gas. For gas that was flared, use "Disposition Code 10". For gas that was vented, use "Disposition Code 11". This change will allow the RRC to quantify the legal disposition of gas that was flared and vented.
- When an operator allocates gas to Disposition Codes 10 or 11, the operator will be required to enter one or more two-letter codes to the existing "REMARKS" field on the form. Those two letter codes correspond to the authority under which the gas was flared or vented, and include the following:
 - O AR Authorized by Rule
 - O AE Authorized by Exception
 - O EP Exception Pending
 - O EX Exempt

Also, according to the Railroad Commission, the former Form PR instructions required an operator to "indicate why the gas was vented or flared in REMARKS on Form PR". The revised form will now make these remarks uniform by requiring categorization of the authorization for the release.

Form PR is currently being modified, indicates the commission, but implementation of new requirements will be delayed, providing operators and the agency time to make necessary updates to production reporting systems. Operators will continue to use the existing Form PR until the phased implementation, which will be as follows:

- On September 1, 2021, Disposition Code 4 will no longer be accepted. Gas that is flared must be allocated to Disposition Code 10 and gas that is vented must be allocated to Disposition Code 11.
- On January 1, 2022, operators must report the applicable 2-letter authorization codes in the "REMARKS" field on the form. To view the Form PR and its instructions, visit the RRC website at https://rrc.texas.gov/oil-and-gas/oil-and-gas-forms/.

TIPRO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 22, 2021

CONFERENCE CALL — TIPRO State Issues Committee meeting. For information, please email rpaylor@tipro.org.

MARCH 29, 2021

CONFERENCE CALL — TIPRO State Issues Committee meeting. For information, please email rpaylor@tipro.org.

APRIL 5, 2021

CONFERENCE CALL — TIPRO State Issues Committee meeting. For information, please email rpaylor@tipro.org.

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With bipartisan support, U.S. Senate confirms new EPA administrator



EPA Administrator Michael Regan

In mid-March, Michael Regan was confirmed by members of the U.S. Senate in a 66-34 vote to become the 16th administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Regan was then sworn into office on Thursday, March 11th as the new head of the EPA. Administrator Regan becomes the first African American man and only the second person of color to lead the U.S. EPA in the agency's history.

"I'm grateful to President [Joe] Biden for entrusting me to lead the EPA at this critical moment in our country's history," said Administrator Regan. "EPA's career officials are the backbone of this agency, and I am humbled to work alongside them as we confront climate change, stand up for justice and equity, and ensure science is at the heart of our decision-making. We will prove that environmental protection and economic prosperity go hand in handand we will seize this opportunity to create a healthier, more just future for all."

Regan previously served as the secretary of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) prior to his nomination as EPA administrator. As a state regulator, he spearheaded the development and implementation of North Carolina's seminal plan to address climate change and transition the state to a clean energy economy, and built a reputation for developing policies that aligned social inequities, environmental protection and community empowerment. Notably, Regan started his career as an employee of the EPA working on federal air quality and energy programs during the Clinton and Bush Administrations. During his time at EPA, he rose to the role of national program manager responsible for designing strategic solutions with industry and corporate stakeholders to reduce air pollution, improve energy efficiency and address climate change.

Now, as the chief of the federal environmental agency, Regan has said he will prioritize restoring the role of science and transparency, addressing climate change and achieving environmental justice.

Deb Haaland will be America's first Native American Interior secretary

Deb Haaland, a first-term congresswoman representing the state of New Mexico, this week was sworn into office as the nation's first Native American cabinet secretary and the new head of the U.S. Department of Interior after being confirmed for the post late Monday, March 15th in a vote of 51-40 by the U.S. Senate.

Haaland takes helm of the Interior with a department already working to execute orders set forth earlier this year by U.S. President Joe Biden to overhaul permitting and leasing for energy development on federal lands. Though Haaland is expected to spearhead policy changes at the Interior Department on behalf of the Biden Administration addressing climate change and land conservation, during her confirmation hearings last month before the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Haaland recognized that there was no question fossil energy would continue to play a



nterior Secretary

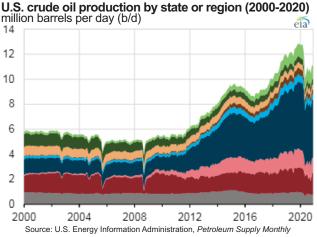
Deb Haaland

major role in America for many years to come. "I know how important oil and gas revenues are to fund critical services," Haaland stated in testimony before the committee. "We must also recognize that the energy industry is innovating, and our climate challenge must be addressed. Together we can work to position our nation and all of its people for success in the future, and I am committed to working cooperatively with all stakeholders, and all of Congress, to strike the right balance going forward," she added. Haaland has also promised to work across party lines to implement bipartisan solutions to protect public lands and ensure Interior decisions are based on science.

U.S. sees largest ever annual decline of crude oil production in 2020

Last year dealt historic challenges to domestic energy producers, with new figures from the U.S. Energy Information Agency (EIA) capturing how market upheaval, substantially lower oil prices and reduced drilling activity collectively affected crude oil output in the United States in 2020. According to the EIA, U.S. crude oil production averaged 11.3 million barrels per day (b/d) in 2020, down 935,000 b/d (8 percent) from the record annual average high of 12.2 million b/d in 2019. The 2020 decrease in production was the largest annual decline in the EIA records, noted the federal data agency.

"In January 2020, U.S. crude oil production reached a peak of 12.8 million b/d. In March 2020, crude oil prices decreased because of the sudden drop in petroleum demand that resulted from the global response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The declining prices led crude oil operators to shut in wells and limit the number of wells brought online, lowering the output for the major oil-producing regions. In May, U.S. crude oil production reached its lowest average monthly volume for the year at 10.0 million b/d," explained the EIA.



The EIA noted that in 2020, the Federal Offshore Gulf of Mexico recorded the largest decrease in crude oil production, with output dropping by 245,000 b/d (13 percent) to an annual average of 1.65 million b/d in 2020, as operators scaled back drilling efforts offshore, and several hurricane and tropical systems forced the evacuation of drilling platforms and caused production to be shut-in as a safety precaution. North Dakota had the second-largest decrease at 242,000 b/d (17 percent) to an annual average of 1.18 million b/d, added EIA analysts, while Oklahoma had the largest percentage decrease last year at 19 percent, falling to an annual average of 469,000 b/d.

Texas remained the leading oil producer in 2020, pumping more crude oil from its oilfields than any other state or region of the United States. The Lone Star State accounted for 43 percent of the national total, calculated the EIA, as crude oil production in Texas averaged 4.87 million b/d in 2020, a decrease of 205,000 b/d (4 percent) from the record high of 5.07 million b/d set in 2019.

TH ANNUAL CONVENTION A VIRTUAL INDUSTRY SUMMIT APRIL 5-6, 2021

IN ORDER TO CONTINUE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY AND HEALTH OF OUR MEMBERS AND ATTENDEES, TIPRO'S 2021 CONVENTION WILL REMAIN A VIRTUAL EVENT. AS WE CELEBRATE OUR 75TH YEAR, TIPRO REMAINS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING AN EXCEPTIONAL CONFERENCE AGENDA. THE ASSOCIATION LOOKS FORWARD TO ENGAGING WITH PARTICIPANTS AND CONNECTING INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS IN THESE UNPRECEDENTED TIMES.

VIRTUAL REGISTRATION FEES:

*Registration includes access to all live speaker presentations, conference materials and TIPRO's Virtual Sponsor Pages







Questions about the 2021 TIPRO meeting?

Please contact the association at (512) 477-4452 or email info@tipro.org!

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CANCELLATION POLICY:

In order to receive a refund for the TIPRO convention, the association must be notified of your cancellation no later than March 30, 2021.

Please return your completed registration form by mailing to: TIPRO, 919 Congress Avenue, Suite 1000, Austin, Texas 78701.



SPONSORSHIP BENEFITS

Sponsorship opportunities for this event include a variety of benefits outlined under each package as well as the chance to participate in a scheduled zoom presentation.* Each sponsor who wishes to take advantage of this option will set up and host a 30-minute virtual presentation on Monday, April 5th for TIPRO attendees. Make the most of a time slot to be able to share information about your product and services or answer questions and engage.

*Limited spots available.

VIRTUAL SPONSOR PROFILES

SPONSOR PROFILE SETUP: Sponsors will share key contact information, company logo, website and other company social media links with conference attendees through TIPRO's event portal. Depending on the sponsor package, there will be areas to upload a video, include brochures or other handouts in pdf format. Banner ads used throughout the event app will help bring attention on landing pages and your sponsor profile page.

BOOTH BINGO: As another way to engage attendees and help them connect with TIPRO sponsors, the association will be hosting a game of Virtual Sponsor Bingo! When attendees visit your sponsor profile, they will obtain a code to add to their playcard. Once completed, attendees qualify for the grand prize giveaway to be announced at the end of the event.

The virtual sponsorship does not end when the event closes - TIPRO will be posting the recorded sessions and your sponsor virtual booth will stay active for others who subscribe to the on-demand event.

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There will be up to three zoom meetings allowed per time slot.

or contact Joanne Reynolds by phone at (512) 477-4452 or email joanne@tipro.org.

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Reach out to TIPRO today to discuss how to offer a giveaway for attendees.

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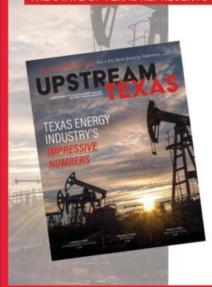


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REACH

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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.

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