



Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association

TIPRO's Summer Conference addresses today's biggest issues impacting Texas oil and gas producers and royalty owners

Oilfield theft, price swings, tariffs and forthcoming industry rulemakings were just a few of the leading topics reviewed by presenters at the Texas Independence Producers & Royalty Owners Association's (TIPRO) 2025 Summer Conference, held last week on August 4-5 at the Hyatt Hill Country Resort in San Antonio. The annual TIPRO event, which brings together members of the association, industry executives and energy professionals, was packed with engaging sessions, insightful discussions and networking events.

TIPRO's Summer Conference this year opened with commentary from Lyndal Cissell, president of Americas Land for SLB, the world's largest oil-services provider. Cissell spotlighted SLB's long-standing partnership with TIPRO, dating back nearly 80 years, and underscored shared efforts in pushing the industry forward. She also spoke to TIPRO about how her company is innovating to stay responsive to industry needs and to continue delivering relevant, effective solutions for producers.

Railroad Commission Chairman Jim Wright also joined TIPRO President Ed Longanecker on stage at the conference for a fireside chat to discuss regulatory updates directly with the association's membership, including new UIC permitting rules, the commission's progress on well plugging and other responsible production practices. As part of an in-depth state regulatory panel, Texas Railroad Commission Assistant Director for Technical Permitting Paul Dubois later in the day also talked to TIPRO about forthcoming industry rulemakings that members of TIPRO should be watching for, including regulations for orphan wells that will be developed by the Railroad Commission over the next year to comply with [Senate Bill 1150](#) passed by state lawmakers during this year's legislative session.

Another one of the state's top regulators, Catarina Gonzales from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), praised Texas' restored partnership with federal leaders during her remarks at the TIPRO meeting, following the change-over in presidential administrations at the start of the year. "It has been night and day differences," she told TIPRO, while commending the new EPA Region 6 Administrator Scott Mason who Commissioner Gonzales said she had visited with recently.

During TIPRO's CEO panel, Riverbend Energy Group's Managing Partner, Founder and CEO Randy Newcomer, Jr. joined Gene Shepherd, CEO of VTX Energy Partners, LLC, for a conversation moderated by Grant Johnson, chairman of TIPRO and president of Lone Star Production Company. The executives shared stories, thoughts and wisdom with the attendees at TIPRO's Summer Conference about strategies to build successful oil and gas companies and approaches to enduring volatility in the industry.



Railroad Commission Chairman Jim Wright pictured at the Summer Conference with TIPRO President Ed Longanecker

See more coverage of the TIPRO Summer Conference inside this issue of The TIPRO Target!

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OF TIPRO'S CONFERENCE SPONSORS!

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Update on the EPA's Oil and Natural Gas NSPS interim final rule

On July 28, 2025, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) extended several unworkable compliance deadlines in the Biden Administration's Clean Air Act rules for the oil and natural gas industry – commonly known as OOOOb/c. In an interim final rule signed into effect on July 28, 2025, the EPA said it was providing more realistic timelines for owners and operators of new and modified oil and natural gas sources across the country. The interim final rule marks the first of several actions EPA plans to take. On March 12, 2025, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin announced that the agency is [reconsidering](#) the Clean Air Act regulations for the oil and gas industry to unleash energy dominance and continue the nation's trajectory as a leader in clean energy and emissions reductions.

To read the interim final rule and related materials, [visit the EPA's website](#) for the oil and natural gas rules.

Chairman's message

Greetings, fellow TIPRO members-

For those who attended last week's Summer Conference in San Antonio, it was great to see you. For those who couldn't make it, you truly missed a good one.

A special thank-you goes to TIPRO's Meetings Committee for helping shape an agenda that balanced policy and regulatory updates with educational sessions and plenty of networking opportunities. Our committee members—Todd Witmer (U.S. Energy Development Corp.), Rajan Ahuja (Texegy), Kent Brock (Strand Energy), Lee Elsner (Sequitur Energy), Rowdy Stilwell (McClure Oil) and Chase Morris (Noble Royalties)—brought perspectives from across the state to ensure we met the needs of our members.

I also want to recognize Ed, Joanne, Ryan, Anjelica and Kelli, who once again proved why they are the best trade association staff in Texas. From managing speakers and attendees to coordinating sponsors, AV and catering, their efforts were superb. The recently renovated Hyatt Hill Country provided an excellent setting for the conference, and of course, none of this would have been possible without our generous event sponsors—thank you for your continued support!

One of my favorite aspects of TIPRO conferences is that many of our speakers stay to participate throughout the event. This allows members ample time to visit and engage with leaders in our industry, unlike many other conferences where presenters rush in and out. Ed and the team have created an atmosphere that makes connecting with speakers the norm, not the exception.

Networking has always been a hallmark of TIPRO events, and this year's Summer Conference was no different. We kicked things off with a lively opening reception where members caught up with old friends and met new ones before heading out to dinner. Breakfast and lunch on Tuesday were casual and unstructured, encouraging conversations around the table. That evening's casino night brought everyone together over friendly games of craps and blackjack, with a few lucky winners taking home gift baskets. Live music filled the room, and the night ended with a bit of line dancing.

Summer Conferences hosted by the association have long been known as family-friendly gatherings, and this year was no exception. I've heard many stories over the years—like the Anderson boys growing up attending these events while their dad, Bruce Anderson served in TIPRO's leadership. This year's Mr. TIPRO Award went to the very deserving Eugene Garcia, president of Hurd Enterprises, Ltd., who was surprised by more than 15 family members sneaking into the room to celebrate this huge achievement with him. Later that evening, I enjoyed watching our newest board member, Rowdy Stilwell, and his wife Michelle, dance with their young children—a reminder of the family nature that makes TIPRO's Summer Conference so special.

Looking ahead, we are planning a couple of regional events this fall. One will be a reception in Fort Worth Stockyards area at the newly renovated historic building of U.S. Energy Development Corp. We are working on another regional reception in Houston later in the year—details to come. If you have suggestions for a regional event in your hometown, please reach out.

Thank you for your continued participation in TIPRO. Your involvement makes our work possible and ensures we remain a strong advocate for our members and our industry.

T. Grant Johnson



T. Grant Johnson

Join TIPRO, IPAA and HPF at the upcoming “Leaders in Industry” luncheon in Houston

There is still time to sign up for the upcoming ‘Leaders in Industry’ Luncheon, happening next Tuesday, August 19th at the Petroleum Club of Houston. The luncheon, hosted by the Texas Independent Producers & Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO), Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA) and Houston Producers Forum (HPF), will feature two titans of energy finance: Brad Thielemann, partner at EnCap Investments L.P., and Patrick McWilliams, partner at NGP!

Prior to rejoining EnCap in September 2006, Thielemann worked in the Investor Relations and Strategic Planning Groups at Plains All American Pipeline, L.P. Previously, he was an Associate at EnCap from 2000 to 2003 and a Treasury Analyst at Dynegy. Thielemann serves on the board of directors of several EnCap portfolio companies and is a member of the Houston Producers Forum and the Independent Petroleum Association of America.

McWilliams serves as partner of the NGP funds and concentrates on NGP’s transaction sourcing and execution, as well as the monitoring of active portfolio companies. He is a member of the NGP Investment committee, and he joined NGP in 2015. Patrick has an extensive background in the energy sector, having spent 22 years primarily focused on energy financing alternatives for the upstream and midstream industries. Prior to NGP, Patrick was a managing director with JPMorgan Securities, which he joined in 2012 to launch and build the Middle Market Oil and Gas Finance platform. In addition to directly covering oil and gas companies, Patrick and his team led the coverage of energy-focused private equity sponsors.

To sign up for the August ‘Leaders in Industry’ luncheon, go to <https://tinyurl.com/5k38uu4j>.

TIPRO CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
<div>AUGUST 19, 2025 HOUSTON — TIPRO/HPF/IPAA “Leaders in Industry” Luncheon. For information, email info@houstonproducersforum.org.</div>	<div>SEPTEMBER 16, 2025 HOUSTON — TIPRO/HPF/IPAA “Leaders in Industry” Luncheon. For information, email info@houstonproducersforum.org.</div>	<div>OCTOBER 21, 2025 HOUSTON — TIPRO/HPF/IPAA “Leaders in Industry” Luncheon. For information, email info@houstonproducersforum.org.</div>



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TCEQ issues Request for Information for agency's Marginal Conventional Well Plugging Program

State regulators at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) are seeking information from industry stakeholders to help enhance the agency's understanding of the technologies, practices, pricing structures and challenges associated with methane measurement and the plugging and abandonment of marginal conventional oil and gas wells (MCWs). The TCEQ's latest Request for Information (RFI), which went out on July 24, will support the development of the Texas Voluntary Marginal Conventional Well Plugging Program (TxMCW), a grant-funded initiative under the Methane Emissions Reduction Program (MERP), made possible through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The program aims to reduce air emissions by permanently plugging MCWs across Texas.



The TCEQ anticipates that program activities may include pre-plugging methane measurement using qualitative or quantitative methods, plugging of MCWs in compliance with applicable state and federal requirements, and post-plugging methane measurement and site restoration. The information collected through this RFI will assist TCEQ in refining program design, developing appropriate scopes of work, and informing future solicitation strategies.

Responses to the RFI are due by August 29, 2025, at 2 p.m. CST. Additional submission requirements and guidelines can be found in the posted RFI, available [here](#). Visit the [TxMCW webpage](#) for more information.

Texas Transportation Commission chairman dies unexpectedly

J. Bruce Bugg Jr., chairman of the Texas Transportation Commission, passed away unexpectedly last Wednesday at the age of 70, following complications from a back surgery, according to media reports. Bugg, a San Antonio banker, was appointed by Governor Greg Abbott as commissioner of the Texas Transportation Commission in 2015 and two years later named chairman of the commission in 2017. In 2021, Governor Abbott reappointed Bugg to a new six-year term to continue serving as chairman. Bugg's current term at the Transportation Commission was set to expire in 2027.

"Cecilia and I are heartbroken by the sudden loss of our close, personal friend Chairman Bruce Bugg," said Governor Abbott. "Bruce was a remarkable and tireless public servant whose vision and leadership reshaped the future of Texas. As chairman of Texas Department of Transportation, he helped redesign our state's infrastructure not just for today—but for the next 50 years."

"Chairman Bugg was a steadfast leader whose vision and dedication helped shape the future of transportation across our state. His commitment to improving safety, expanding mobility, and strengthening Texas' infrastructure has left an enduring legacy that will benefit generations to come," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. "Beyond his professional achievements, Chairman Bugg was a man of integrity, compassion, and genuine care for the people he served. He listened intently, led decisively, and always placed the needs of Texans at the forefront of every decision."

Texas Congressman Brian Babin (TX-36) called the passing of Bugg "a tremendous loss for Texas." "Bruce was not only a friend but a devoted public servant whose leadership at TxDOT helped transform transportation across our state," reflected the congressman. "I had the privilege of working with him on multiple occasions and witnessed firsthand his passion for improving infrastructure, mobility, and safety for all Texans. His legacy will endure for generations."



Special legislative session in Texas spirals into political chaos as House Dems break quorum

In a special session of the Texas Legislature meant to address redrawing the state's congressional districts, flood aid for those impacted by the historic July 4th flash floods, property tax relief and other priorities [identified](#) by Texas Governor Greg Abbott, Democrat House members in early August fled the state, breaking the quorum necessary to take a vote on any bills in the legislature's lower chamber, stalling work for the state's legislative body and denying lawmakers the opportunity to conduct business. The move has been met with fury of other state leaders, including Governor Abbott and Speaker of the House Dustin Burrows, who have since pursued legal punishment by working with Attorney General Ken Paxton and considered maneuvers to kick Democrats out of office for abandonment of duties.

In case the House can re-establish a quorum – or in anticipation of additional called sessions – the Senate last week nevertheless still moved a number of significant bills, including its own redistricting bill, Senate Bill 4. That map, identical to the version passed by a House committee earlier in the special session, would add five Republican seats to the state congressional delegation. It is expected to be taken up on the Senate floor this week, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick said.

As a reminder, though no items specific to the oil and gas industry were included on the governor's agenda for the current special session, on behalf of our membership, the Texas Independent Producers & Royalty Owners Association will continue monitoring the legislature.

Bill introduced by Texas Congressman August Pfluger would cut red tape for LNG bunkering

New legislation led by U.S. Representatives August Pfluger (TX-11) and Laurel Lee (R-FL) seeks to ensure that LNG bunkering is not hindered by red tape, so that U.S. energy ports can continue to expand, drive job creation, and compete globally. The Cutting LNG Bunkering Red Tape Act by Pfluger and Lee would codify a Trump-era Department of Energy order clarifying that ship-to-ship transfers of LNG used as marine fuel—commonly known as LNG bunkering—are not considered exports under Section 3 of the Natural Gas Act unless conducted in foreign waters.

"LNG exports unequivocally benefit our economy, domestic prices, national security, and partners and allies around the world that want our product. Unfortunately, the Biden Administration spent four years imposing one regulation after another on these exports, stifling the energy industry," explained Representative Pfluger. "This legislation permanently reverses one of these misguided policies to ensure American LNG can compete on the global stage by removing regulatory uncertainty and streamlining its use as a cleaner, more efficient fuel source for maritime transportation. I am proud to lead this legislation with my good friend from Florida, Representative Laurel Lee."

Read the full text of this legislation [here](#).

PHMSA to build a new federal LNG Safety Research Center in Louisiana

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) recently announced it has signed a 20-year lease for the construction of the PHMSA National Center of Excellence for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Safety. The center will facilitate research, training and regulatory coordination between federal agencies and will encourage the development of LNG safety solutions to real-world challenges through global and domestic collaboration among LNG stakeholders. PHMSA and other federal agencies – including the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Department of Energy and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) – have worked together to help ensure the new LNG Center will be focused on its mission of making the United States the global leader in LNG operations. Earlier this year, federal leaders announced that [McNeese State University](#) in Lake Charles, Louisiana, [was selected](#) as the site of the PHMSA LNG Center. McNeese is the first undergraduate institution in the U.S. to offer a certificate program in LNG business and is already the site of its own LNG Center of Excellence.

"We are excited to reach another important milestone in the construction of the Center, which will be a hub for advancing U.S. LNG safety," commented PHMSA Acting Administrator Ben Kochman.

"LNG production is one of the most critical ways our nation can unleash our energy dominance and protect our national security... I'm proud to see the U.S. Department of Transportation take this major step forward in building our National Center of Excellence for LNG Safety in Lake Charles. This center will be a game changer for our region and be the tip of the spear for LNG innovation, operations, and safety in the U.S.," remarked Senator John Kennedy (R-Louisiana).

The new LNG Center being built by PHMSA was mandated by Congress through the Protecting our Infrastructure of Pipelines and Enhancing Safety (PIPES) Act of 2020.

TIPRO members can find additional information about the LNG Center being built by PHMSA [here](#).

Department of the Interior implements new policies after One Big Beautiful Bill is signed into law

The U.S. Department of Interior is taking action to deliver on provisions of the newly signed "[One Big Beautiful](#)" Bill. After President Donald Trump signed the legislation, H.B. 1, on July 4, officials at the Interior recently announced significant changes that will be implemented through an expedited rulemaking process, which include:

- Onshore lease sales will be required quarterly in compliance with the Mineral Leasing Act.
- The Bureau of Land Management, or BLM, must now lease nominated parcels within 18 months and may not add new restrictions outside of the conditions of approval included in the resource management plans.
- New legal definitions for "eligible" and "available" lands are being adopted to reduce leasing disputes.
- The BLM will update oil and gas regulations that would make it easier for operators to combine, or commingle, production from multiple leases. This measure reduces costs, improves production and decreases surface use.
- The One Big Beautiful Bill Act eliminates expression of interest fees, paid by lessees to nominate land for leasing.
- Upon approval, a permit to drill will now be valid for a four-year period.
- The royalty rate for new federal onshore production will also return to a minimum 12.5 percent, reversing the 16.67 percent rate established in the Inflation Reduction Act. This royalty rate reduction will lead to an estimated 225 additional leases in 2026, said the Interior, and over the following few years, will lead to an average of 160 wells drilled on these additional leases.
- The royalty requirement is repealed on extracted methane established by the Inflation Reduction Act, which forced producers to pay extremely burdensome fees or to shut-in production.
- In the Gulf of America, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is mandated to hold at least two offshore lease sales each year through 2039. The first of these lease sales is scheduled on December 10, 2025. The second of these lease sales will be held by March 15, 2026, and the third will be held by August 15, 2026.
- The federal royalty rate is reduced to no less than 12.5 percent and no greater than 16.67 percent. This change gives the Department of the Interior increased discretion to encourage domestic Outer Continental Shelf production and investment by lowering the royalty rate charged to producers. In 2022, the Inflation Reduction Act mandated a 16.67 percent minimum royalty rate, discouraging investment in domestic oil and gas production.
- Under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) must approve commingling requests unless safety or resource recovery would be harmed. Downhole commingling is the production of oil or natural gas from multiple reservoirs through a single well. The process allows for more efficient and cost-effective production.

In addition to the measures listed above, the Interior Department said it also was taking actions to address other provisions from the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, including an end to years of subsidies for economically unviable wind and solar projects. "The One Big Beautiful Bill Act is a historic piece of legislation that will restore energy independence and make life more affordable for American families by reversing disastrous Biden-era policies that constricted domestic energy production," commented Interior Secretary Doug Burgum. "This marks a significant shift in how we manage our public lands, support energy development and work with local communities. The department is proud to implement President Trump's agenda and get the federal government back to working for the American people."

Second Texas Energy Fund loan agreement announced for natural gas facility in Houston

NRG Energy has secured a multi-million-dollar state loan through the Texas Energy Fund (TEF) to build two new natural gas units at an existing power plant in Houston. Texas Governor Greg Abbott [announced](#) the new TEF loan agreement on August 4, the second of its kind to be finalized under the TEF's In-ERCOT Generation Loan Program, which provides low-interest loans for projects that add new, dispatchable power to the ERCOT region. "Texas is the top energy producer in the nation—fueling growth and innovation across our state and around the world," said Governor Abbott. "This 456-megawatt investment in the Texas grid will help bear the load of the largest electricity demand area in the state, further ensuring reliable and affordable power for countless homes and businesses in the greater Houston area. By investing in reliable, dispatchable energy, we will build a stronger, more powerful Texas for generations to come," added the governor.

Trump Administration announces proposal to rescind EPA's 2009 Endangerment Finding

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lee Zeldin late last month released the agency's proposal to [rescind](#) the 2009 Greenhouse Gas Endangerment Finding, a rulemaking which has been used to justify over \$1 trillion in regulations, including the Biden-Harris Administration's electric vehicle (EV) mandate. If finalized, the proposal would repeal all regulations that require new motor vehicle and new motor vehicle engine manufacturers to measure, report, or comply with the standards for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, thereby reinstating consumer choice and giving Americans the ability to purchase a safe and affordable car.

"Rescinding the Endangerment Finding and resulting regulations would end \$1 trillion or more in hidden taxes on American businesses and families," asserted Administrator Zeldin.

"Thanks to President Trump's leadership, America is returning to free and open dialogue around climate and energy policy - driving the focus back to following the data," said U.S. Secretary of Energy Chris Wright. "Today's announcement is a monumental step toward returning to commonsense policies that expand access to affordable, reliable, secure energy and improve quality of life for all Americans."

Texas Railroad Commissioner Wayne Christian also praised the EPA's plans to rollback its 2009 'endangerment finding' rule, pointing to progress already underway in air emission reductions in the United States. "U.S. CO2 emissions have already declined by 20 percent over the past two decades and our oil production is 23 percent cleaner than the global average. Meanwhile, large fossil fuel-producing nations like China and Russia continue to emit with impunity," explained the commissioner, who said he applauded President Trump and EPA Administrator Zeldin for their efforts to challenge climate catastrophists.

Written comments on the EPA's proposal may be submitted now through September 15, 2025. To provide written comments to the EPA electronically, visit the federal eRulemaking Portal for this proposal at <https://www.regulations.gov/> and search for Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2025-0194. Click on the "Comment" box under the proposed rule document, which is the first document listed under the "browse comments" tab.

The EPA also is planning to hold a virtual public hearing for this proposed rule, Reconsideration of 2009 Endangerment Finding and Greenhouse Gas Vehicle Standards. The hearing is scheduled to occur on August 19 and August 20, 2025. An additional session may be held on August 21, 2025, if necessary to accommodate the number of testifiers that sign up to testify. Please check the EPA website [here](#) for updates about the dates and times of the hearings.

Energy Dept. seeking comment on report evaluating impacts of greenhouse gases on climate

A government [report](#) released at the end of July by the U.S. Department of Energy has concluded, among key findings, that CO2-induced warming appears to be less damaging economically than commonly believed. The assessment from the Department of Energy

also finds that U.S. policy actions are expected to have undetectably small direct impacts on the global climate and any effects will emerge only with long delays. The new report, developed by the department's 2025 Climate Working Group assembled by Energy Secretary Chris Wright, evaluated existing peer-reviewed literature and government data on climate impacts of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions to provide a critical evaluation of the conventional narrative on climate change.

The Energy Department's Climate report was published following the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) announcement on July 29th it will seek to repeal the 2009 Endangerment Finding. EPA's proposed rule, if finalized, will mark a critical step forward in achieving President Trump's commitment to unleash American energy dominance and return to commonsense policymaking.

"The rise of human flourishing over the past two centuries is a story worth celebrating. Yet we are told—relentlessly—that the very energy systems that enabled this progress now pose an existential threat," described Secretary Wright. "Climate change is real, and it deserves attention. But it is not the greatest threat facing humanity. As someone who values data, I know that improving the human condition depends on expanding access to reliable, affordable energy."

"We stand at the threshold of a new era of energy leadership," Secretary Wright concluded. "If we empower innovation rather than restrain it, America can lead the world in providing more abundant energy—lifting billions out of poverty, strengthening our economy, and improving our environment along the way."

Public comments on this report are being accepted now through September 2. Comments can be submitted to [Federal Register](#), refencing Docket No. DOE-HQ-2025-0207. Information received may be used to assist planning the scope of future research efforts and may be shared with other Federal agencies.

The landing page for the Energy Department's Climate Report can be found here: www.energy.gov/topics/climate.



**API HOUSTON
GENERAL MEETING**

In Collaboration with the
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Jay Graham
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September 9, 2025
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
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www.APIHouston.org

TOPIC:
Inside the Northwest Shelf: A Strategic Outlook on the Permian

Join API Houston and the Houston Strategy Forum for an executive luncheon featuring Jay Graham, Chairman & CEO of Spur Energy Partners. In this exclusive keynote, Jay will share Spur's insights on disciplined growth and strategic execution in the Permian Basin's Northwest Shelf.

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This is a must-attend event for executives, engineers, and investors seeking a grounded perspective on private energy leadership and the long-term outlook of North American production. www.APIHouston.org

Former TIPRO Chairman Eugene Garcia receives association's highest honor

Eugene Garcia, president of Hurd Enterprises Ltd. in San Antonio, was honored with the Mr. TIPRO award by the Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO) at its 2025 Summer Conference this week in San Antonio. Presented annually, the award is TIPRO's top honor and recognizes members of the association who have proven to be loyal and involved over the years. Recipients of the Mr. TIPRO award are selected for demonstrating distinctive service and dedication to the association and its mission and recognized for significant achievements in their careers benefiting the Texas oil and natural gas industry.

Garcia has been a member of TIPRO for over 17 years and is a former chairman of the association. During his term leading TIPRO's Board of Directors from 2018-2020, Garcia was the association's first "third generation" chairman, following in the footsteps of his grandfather, Ambassador John G. Hurd (who served as chairman from 1960-1962), and his uncle, JR Hurd (who was TIPRO chairman from 2004-2006). Today Garcia still serves on TIPRO's board and remains a continued sponsor and supporter of the organization. Through his longtime involvement and active participation with TIPRO, Garcia has been an important source of leadership for the association on a wide range of industry priorities.

Garcia began his career working for NASA, before later joining the tech world where he worked in successful positions with both Intel Corporation and Dell. In 2004, he was brought back into the family business where he has been working alongside his family at Hurd Enterprises as the company's president. Hurd Enterprises is one of the most active independent producers exploring for natural gas in the Wilcox, Frio and Vicksburg trends along the Gulf Coast and in deep South Texas. The company also operates a commercial cattle business in South Texas and Southeastern Kansas and delivers over 5,500 feeder steers each year. Hurd's real estate business has a portfolio of over 3 million square feet of commercial real estate in premier locations like San Antonio, New Braunfels and Laredo.

Outside of his career and industry accomplishments, Garcia has been involved with a number of charitable organizations. He is chairman of the board of directors for Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio & Guadalupe Valley. He has also served on the board for the Mission Road Ministries and the Boy Scouts of America, Alamo Area Council and as a member of the McDonald Observatory Board of Visitors. Additionally, he has been the chair of the First Presbyterian Church Local Missions Committee.

"Throughout the years, Eugene has demonstrated his outstanding leadership for Texas energy and our association is proud to recognize him as this year's Mr. TIPRO," said Ed Longanecker, president of TIPRO. "We appreciate Eugene's commitment to TIPRO and his enthusiasm that's helped propel the state's oil and gas industry forward."



TIPRO's Summer Conference coverage... continued from Page 1

Power demand for U.S. natural gas is exploding with the surge in AI and growing need for more data centers, TIPRO presenter Marshall Adkins, who leads Raymond James' energy investment banking practice, highlighted during his [oil and gas outlook](#) at the association's 2025 Summer Conference in San Antonio last week. According to Adkins, '26-'30 total power growth could be up to ~20 Bcf/d gas "equivalent," or looked at from another way, power drives ~3.0 Bcf/d gas demand growth through the year 2030 (though this estimate could also be very conservative, reasoned Adkins, looking at trends). Increasing demand for liquefied natural gas (LNG) also is driving big gas demand, explained Adkins, with LNG demand forecasted to go up 2.5 Bcf/d in 2026. With all this growth in natural gas demand, combined with Permian infrastructure constraints lasting until late-'26, natural gas prices in the next year should drift higher (up to \$5-\$7/bcf), he said.

Adkins also cautioned that price fundamentals in the oil market looked "ugly" for energy producers through late-2026, before prices then would eventually rise leading into 2027. In his opinion, Adkins forecasted oil prices will hover between \$60-\$70 through September before weakening in late 2025 and the first half of 2026.

Jim Rogers and Austin Hughes from Petrie Partners, a boutique investment bank that specializes in M&A, A&D and strategic advisory for the energy industry, also were featured guests at the TIPRO Summer Conference, offering their [candid perspectives](#) on energy dealmaking trends given the current oil and gas financial landscape. In their discussion, Rogers and Hughes pointed to a higher mid-cycle commodity price ahead due to sustained underinvestment. LNG's ongoing growth and a favorable shift in investor sentiment meanwhile are driving optimism, they both noted. Corporate consolidation continues in the foreseeable future, they indicated, with more mergers expected. Finally, the pro-energy stance of the current administration is seen as a tailwind for the industry, Rogers and Hughes added, though regulatory challenges will still remain.

In remarks to TIPRO, Howard Energy Partners Chairman and CEO Mike Howard [advocated](#) for broader global energy development, a necessity he emphasized to meet rising energy demand especially in developing and poor nations and to help address global poverty rates. Howard urged the industry to share its story and educate the public on its role in improving quality of life worldwide. He also warned of U.S. infrastructure gaps and permitting delays and called for more natural gas capacity to meet long-term demand. Legal reforms, grid reliability and a balanced energy mix were also highlighted by Howard as urgent needs.

Additionally, at the TIPRO meeting, Cheniere Energy's Nishita Singh underscored U.S. LNG's role in supporting global energy stability, particularly in Europe. She called for expanded supply, streamlined permitting of LNG, and recognition of LNG exports as a public interest priority.

The conference's general session closed with a unifying message from TIPRO's speakers: innovation, regulatory cooperation, and infrastructure investment will define the future strength of Texas' energy sector. To close out the event, TIPRO guests enjoyed additional networking time, live entertainment from the Grooves Band, a local Texas favorite, and participated in TIPRO's always-popular casino night.

***Be sure to check out
all the event photographs
from TIPRO's
Summer Conference
and review available
presentations on the
TIPRO website [here!](#)***

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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 810
Austin, Texas 78701
Phone: (512) 477-4452
Fax: (512) 476-8070
www.tipro.org