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**Texas
Independent
Producers and
Royalty Owners
Association**

Data shows U.S., Permian and Texas hit record production while cutting flaring intensity by half or more in new Texans for Natural Gas report

Texans for Natural Gas (TNG), a campaign of the Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association (TIPPRO), recently released its annual flaring report, “U.S. Permian and Texas See Record Production While Cutting Flaring Intensity By Half or More”. The report analyzes flaring emissions in the U.S., Permian and Texas, highlighting the continued dedication of oil and gas producers in keeping emissions low while continuing to set new production records.

“The level of flaring reductions the industry has been able to accomplish over the past five years is very significant, in some regions it’s been nearly halved. Achievements to that degree don’t just happen. It’s proof that the industry’s commitment to the environment wasn’t just a talking point, but rather clear action in the way it operates and invests in its business,” Ed Longanecker, president of TIPPRO, said.

The TNG analysis found that since 2019, U.S. flaring intensity declined 45 percent, falling from 3.86 m³/bbl to 2.12 m³/bbl in 2024. Notably, those improvements occurred while production grew 8 percent. Much of the progress was driven by Texas and the Permian Basin, two regions that saw record production growth while flaring intensities fell 50 and 62 percent, respectively, from 2019 levels.

Production volumes in the Permian and Texas exceeded that of many major oil-producing nations in the Middle East and in the Americas. The Permian produced 6.3 million barrels per day (b/d) of crude, while Texas broke through a new billion-barrel threshold for the first time, producing over 2 billion barrels of oil annually. Early 2025 data indicates both regions will keep production high, and the Permian will once again account for [48 percent](#) of U.S. oil production.

“Record production output across the United States, supported in major part by the hardworking people in Texas and the Permian Basin, highlights our industry’s ability to meet rising global energy demand, secure energy supplies and provide a stabilizing force to an otherwise volatile global energy market,” Longanecker added.

Key takeaways from the TNG report:

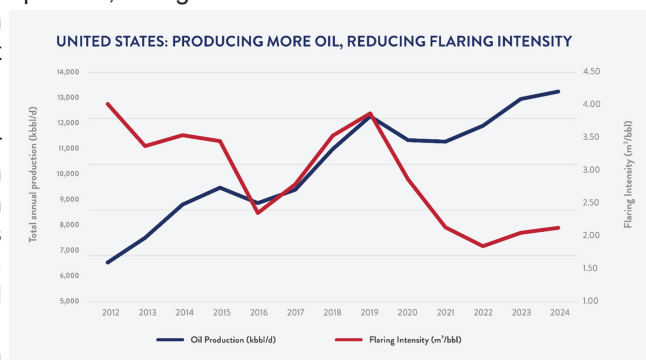
- Since 2019, the United States has nearly halved its flaring intensity from 3.86 m³/bbl in 2019 to 2.12 m³/bbl in 2024 while still increasing production by 8 percent. Flaring intensity between 2023 and 2024 rose slightly from 2.04 m³/bbl to 2.12 m³/bbl, likely due to a rapid increase in production that outpaced gas takeaway capacity in other producing regions in the country.
- Between 2023 and 2024, Permian Basin production grew by 6 percent, while flaring intensity dropped nearly 10 percent and volumes fell 4 percent. The drop in flaring intensity and volume is largely due to additional pipeline takeaway capacity coming online in the form of new and expansion projects like Matterhorn Express, Gulf Coast Express and Gray Oak.
- Texas surpassed 2 billion barrels of oil production for the first time in history in 2024. Early 2025 production [data](#) points to that number growing to 2.1 billion barrels. Between 2019 and 2024, oil production grew 12 percent, while flaring intensity declined by nearly 50 percent.
- Infrastructure development has played a critical role in reducing flaring across the Permian Basin and Texas. Major pipeline projects like Gulf Coast Express, Permian Highway Pipeline and Matterhorn Express that move energy products from major production regions to markets like the Texas Gulf Coast have expanded natural gas takeaway capacity and reduced flaring during production.

TIPPRO members can read the full report [here](#).

New EPA guidance on flaring provides important regulatory clarity for independent producers

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) last week put out new guidance clarifying when U.S. oil and natural gas producers can flare beyond the 2026 phase out deadline that was set by Biden Administration’s 2024 Clean Air Act (CAA) rules for oil and natural gas, commonly known as OOOOb/c. The guidance, which came in the form of a memorandum from EPA Air Chief Aaron Szabo to regional EPA administrators, addresses concerns presented by several oil and natural gas owners and operators acknowledging that scenarios outside their control could require flaring past the rule’s deadline of May 7, 2026, with the alternative being the shutdown of production at some well sites. After assessing the concerns, the EPA determined that current regulations provide flexibility to allow producers to temporarily flare after the phase out deadline in the specific scenarios raised by the stakeholders.

Read more on Page 5...



A message from TIPRO's Chairman

TIPRO members --

For years, the domestic oil and natural gas industry argued that the path to American energy security ran directly through regulatory reform, and that the greatest obstacle to production was not the resource base but the policy environment surrounding it. That argument has been validated. The momentum building across the federal government on permitting reform, leasing and infrastructure development represents the most significant shift in energy policy in a generation, and Texas producers are positioned to lead the way.

The policy changes that began in early 2025 were not incremental. The Trump Administration's executive orders directed federal agencies to identify and remove undue burdens on domestic energy development, established the National Energy Dominance Council and imposed enforceable deadlines on permitting processes that had become notorious for delay. The Department of Energy followed with directives requiring more efficient permitting timelines to enable private sector investment and expedite the construction of critical energy infrastructure. These were not aspirational policy statements. They carried operational weight and set the stage for congressional action.

The passage of the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act* in mid-2025 translated many of those objectives into durable law. Quarterly onshore lease sales are now mandated, royalty rates for new federal production have been reduced to encourage investment and approved permits to drill now carry a four-year validity window. Each provision addresses a specific, documented friction point that domestic producers have raised for years.

The compounding effect of these changes, including reduced carrying costs, greater regulatory certainty, and longer permit windows, is precisely what encourages the long-term capital commitment that sustains domestic production and supports Texas jobs.

Congress has continued to build on that foundation. The House passed a series of permitting measures in late 2025 addressing longstanding inefficiencies in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process and federal transparency requirements. Legislation introduced in the Senate in 2026 would go further, setting firm deadlines for state water quality certification reviews under the Clean Water Act, requiring written justification for any project denial and confining state review authority to legitimate water quality concerns. That last point matters enormously. The certification process has repeatedly been used to delay or block pipeline and infrastructure projects on grounds wholly unrelated to water quality. Closing that avenue is not a procedural footnote. It is fundamental to whether lawfully approved projects can actually be built on a reasonable timeline.

TIPRO President [Ed Longanecker has been direct on this point](#), noting that prolonged permitting timelines raise costs, discourage investment and delay projects that support jobs, state revenues and reliable energy supply. His assessment reflects what Texas producers experience on the ground every day. Importantly, comprehensive permitting reform also strengthens our national security and also ensures the United States remains a dependable energy partner to allies around the world.

LNG export infrastructure has received commensurate attention. American natural gas exports reached record levels in 2025 and are forecast to climb further through 2026, driven by sustained European demand as those nations continue reducing dependence on Russian supply and by growing consumption across Asian markets. The geopolitical case for American LNG is no longer a projection. Allied nations whose energy security now depends in meaningful part on supply originating from Texas and the broader Gulf Coast have made that clear. That is a responsibility the industry takes seriously and one that reinforces the case for continued infrastructure investment. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has reinforced that direction, with new leadership focused on pipeline development as a tool for enhancing electric reliability and expanding export capacity, and processing times for infrastructure applications have improved noticeably as a result.

The broader policy case has grown stronger as electricity demand surges. Data centers, artificial intelligence infrastructure, and reshored domestic manufacturing are placing unprecedented load requirements on the American grid. Natural gas is the dispatchable, reliable resource meeting that demand today, and no credible forecast suggests that role diminishes in the near term. Permitting reform is therefore not simply an industry priority. It is a national infrastructure imperative.

The Texas Congressional delegation has played a meaningful role in driving these outcomes. Texas members have been persistent and effective advocates for permitting reform, domestic leasing, and LNG export expansion, using their committee positions and legislative relationships to ensure that energy security remains a front-burner priority in Washington. Their engagement has helped translate industry concerns into legislative language and executive action, and that connection between Texas producers and Texas lawmakers remains one of the most consequential in American energy policy.

Texas producers have always understood that energy security is not built on rhetoric. It is built on wells drilled, pipelines permitted, export terminals approved and regulatory timelines that function with predictability and integrity. The policy environment is finally aligned with that understanding. The Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association, alongside its members and industry partners, has worked to advance that case at every level of government and the progress reflected in this column is a product of that collective effort. The task now is to ensure these reforms are implemented with the consistency and rigor that investors and operators require, and that the legislative progress of the past year is defended and extended.

The foundation is in place. What comes next depends on our continued engagement.

T. Grant Johnson



T. Grant Johnson

TIPRO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 19, 2026

HOUSTON — TIPRO/HPF/IPAA
“Leaders in Industry” Luncheon.
For information, email
info@houstonproducersforum.org.

JUNE 16, 2026

HOUSTON — TIPRO/HPF/IPAA
“Leaders in Industry” Luncheon.
For information, email
info@houstonproducersforum.org.

JULY 21, 2026

HOUSTON — TIPRO/HPF/IPAA
“Leaders in Industry” Luncheon.
For information, email
info@houstonproducersforum.org.

Limited seats still available for the May TIPRO-HPF-IPAA luncheon - sign up today!

Be part of the next 'Leaders in Industry' luncheon that's coming up on Tuesday, May 19th at the Petroleum Club of Houston. The gathering, hosted by the Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO), Houston Producers Forum (HPF) and Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA), will feature informative commentary from guest speaker Charlie Shufeldt, chief executive officer and president of [Elk Range Royalties](#), who will share insights on the upstream minerals and royalties market and discuss how his team at Elk Range Royalties has become one of the largest and most active acquirers in the space.



Shufeldt formed his company, Elk Range Royalties, in early 2020s to acquire minerals and royalties in core oil and gas basins in the U.S. Elk Range remains an active buyer of mineral and royalty interests in the U.S. and has partnered with NGP Energy, an investment firm with an over 30-year history of investing in the oil and gas business. Elk Range now has a portfolio of over 300,000 net royalty acres (NRAs) and an interest in over 23,500 producing wells.

Prior to forming Elk Range, Shufeldt was a co-founder and managing director of IOG Capital, LP and president of IOG Resources, LLC. During his time with IOG, the company was a pioneer in structuring DrillCo transactions, deploying over \$800mm in capital across more than 500 wells since 2015. Shufeldt began his career with Bank of America in California and New York before moving to Texas with HBK Capital Management. He is a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and holds a bachelor's degree from Stanford University, where he studied Economics and Computer Science. Shufeldt has remained involved with his alma mater and previously served as chairman of the Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability's Petroleum Investments Committee (PIC). He remains an active leader in the Young Presidents Organization (YPO) Dallas Chapter and serves on the board of several Dallas non-profits.

To register for this month's TIPRO-HPF-IPAA "Leaders in Industry" luncheon, please [click here](#).

Early voting for Texas' primary runoff starts May 18th

Later this month, Texas voters will return to the polls to settle primary runoff races for party nominations for various state and federal positions, determining the Democratic and Republican candidates who will advance to the general election taking place in November.

Below are the statewide Republican primary runoff contests:

- U.S. Senate: John Cornyn and Ken Paxton
- Texas Attorney General: Mayes Middleton and Chip Roy
- Texas Railroad Commissioner: Jim Wright and Bo French
- Texas Court of Criminal Appeals Place 3: Alison Fox and Thomas Smith

Meanwhile, the statewide Democratic runoffs will be for:

- Texas Lieutenant Governor: Vikki Goodwin and Marcos Vélez
- Texas Attorney General: Nathan Johnson and Joe Jaworski

Early voting for the upcoming statewide primary runoff election begins on Monday, May 18th and runs through Friday, May 22. Election day for the statewide Texas primary runoffs is on Tuesday, May 26.

As a reminder, voters who already participated in the Republican or Democratic primary this year (the March 3rd Primary Election) can only vote in that same party's primary runoff elections. Voters who did not vote in March, however, can choose to vote in either party's runoff if participating in the runoff elections (Texans do not have to formally register with a party.) When arriving at a polling location, voters will be asked in which party's primary runoff they wish to participate.

Reminder: Public hearing scheduled for May 27th reviewing the Draft 2027 State Water Plan

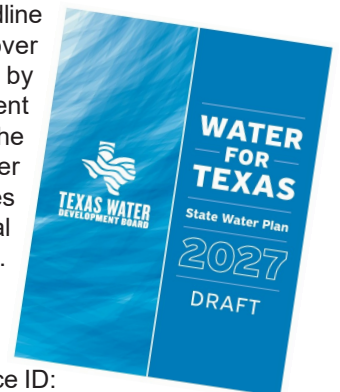
As TIPRO previously [reported](#), the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) has approved the Draft 2027 State Water Plan. The draft was developed using a two-phase approach to meet the 2026 State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) commitment deadline while allowing additional time for TWDB to deliver a more comprehensive final water plan by the statutory deadline of January 5, 2027, explains the board. This initial draft of the updated State Water Plan calls for over \$170 billion in investment over the next 50 years to meet Texas' projected 53 percent population increase by 2080 (as the state's population surges from 34.2 million in 2030 to 52.3 million in 2080), aiming to prevent massive water shortages across the state and economic damage. The newest water plan developed by the TWDB includes thousands of actionable strategies and projects, with a strong focus on conservation, water reuse and new water supply management strategies for drought resilience. The state water plan also serves as a meaningful guide to state water policy and identifies river and stream segments of unique ecological value and sites of unique value for the construction of reservoirs that the board recommends for protection.

The TWDB has scheduled a public hearing on its Draft State Water Plan for 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 27, 2026, in Room 170 of the Stephen F. Austin Building, located at 1700 North Congress Avenue in Austin. For those unable to attend in person, the hearing will also be available virtually via a Teams Meeting (Meeting ID: 280 904 566 316 4; Passcode: fp9Lk2bs. Audio access only: (512) 298-6360; phone conference ID: 508 590 523#). If individuals would like to provide public comments in person or via virtual attendance, please fill out the TWDB's [online registration form](#) and send it to SWPPublicComment@twdb.texas.gov before May 27, 2026.

The TWDB is also currently accepting written comments from the public on the proposed 2027 State Water Plan until Friday, May 29. Comments may be submitted online using the TWDB's online form, available [here](#).

TIPRO members can find more information about the Draft 2027 State Water Plan by visiting the TWDB website at: www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/swp/2027/index.asp.

The final first phase of the State Water Plan is expected to be adopted by the TWDB this summer, and then it will be submitted to the governor, lieutenant governor and the Texas legislature.



Railroad Commission of Texas pays tribute to its 135 years of leading regulatory oversight

State regulators at the Railroad Commission of Texas recently commemorated the agency's 135th anniversary, marking a major milestone for the state's oldest regulatory body. The commission, which was originally founded in 1891 to oversee the rapidly expanding railroad system in Texas, has continuously evolved over its long history, and today is the primary regulator of Texas' oil and gas industry, enforcing rules on drilling, production activities, pipelines and related infrastructure. The commission over the years has built a reputation for its common-sense energy policies and is widely recognized as the global leader in the regulation of energy exploration and production.

"As we celebrate this anniversary, I invite you to reflect on the legacy of the Railroad Commission," said Wei Wang, executive director of the Railroad Commission. "For more than a century, the agency's hard work has helped shape Texas into the energy leader that it is today, an essential pillar of our state's economy and a foundation for our nation's energy independence and security. As we look to the future, we remain committed to our mission of protecting public safety and the environment."

The commission highlighted its progress, particularly in more recent times, to keep improving its regulatory work by implementing greater efficiencies and adopting new initiatives that foster greater transparency to the public. This includes multiple digital efforts and programs spearheaded by the Railroad Commission through the creation of online portals, including the State Tracking and Reporting ([LoneSTAR](#)) system, [RRC Online Inspection Lookup \(RRC OIL\)](#) and the Enforcement and Hearings Docket Management System - [RRC CASES](#), as well as the digitization of more than 100 million oil and gas records.

TIPRO members can read more about the Railroad Commission's 135th anniversary inside of the agency's April 2026 "Energy News" publication, available [here](#).

14 people federally indicted in large-scale oil theft conspiracy in the Permian Basin

More than a dozen suspects from Texas and New Mexico were [indicted](#) last month by a federal grand jury for their roles in an alleged large-scale oil theft conspiracy in the Permian Basin, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Texas announced recently. The individuals involved in the case have been federally charged with stealing crude oil and transporting it across state lines to sell the oil for profit.

According to the indictment, several of the defendants involved in the case are suspected of stealing crude oil from producers in the Eastern New Mexico region of the Permian Basin, some of which was then stored on federal land that one of the conspirators leased from the United States government. That conspirator then sold the stolen crude oil to others in the conspiracy at prices significantly below West Texas Intermediate ("WTI") pricing.

If convicted, each defendant faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison on the conspiracy charge and up to 10 years in federal prison on each count of interstate transportation of stolen property, and receipt, possession, or sale of stolen property.

Multiple law enforcement agencies were involved in the investigation of the oil theft ring, including local, state and federal partners from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)-Criminal Investigation Division and the local sheriff's offices in Lea County and Eddy County, New Mexico.

The indictment demonstrates growing efforts and collaboration to crack down on oilfield theft in the region. TIPRO, its members and other industry partners have for years advocated for new laws, resources, specialized training and enforcement tools that better deter oilfield theft and prevent this type of criminal activity.

Occidental Petroleum CEO Vicki Hollub will retire next month, company announces

Following a distinguished career of leadership and service, Occidental Petroleum President and Chief Executive Officer Vicki Hollub will retire June 1, 2026, the company announced on May 1. Upon Hollub's retirement, Occidental's board has named Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Richard Jackson to take over for Hollub in the executive role.

Hollub, who has served as CEO of Occidental Petroleum since 2016 and worked for Occidental for 40 years, will continue to serve on the company's Board of Directors following retirement, ensuring continuity and ongoing strategic guidance, noted the company.

"It has been a privilege to lead Occidental and work alongside such a talented team for more than 40 years. Following the recently completed decade-long transformation of the company, we now have the best portfolio and the best technical expertise in Occidental's history. With this strong foundation in place, a clear path forward and a leader like Richard, who has the experience and vision to elevate Occidental, now is the right time for this transition," Hollub said. "I look forward to supporting Richard and the board through my continued role as a director."

"On behalf of the board, I want to thank Vicki for her exceptional leadership and transformative contributions to Occidental," Occidental Board Chairman Jack Moore commented. "Richard is the right leader to guide the company into its next phase of our strategy."

The company's appointed CEO has a long established history working for Occidental, having first joined the company 23 years ago in its Middle East operations. During Jackson's time at Occidental, he has held pivotal leadership and technical positions, including president of U.S. Onshore Oil and Gas, president of Low Carbon Integrated Technologies, general manager of the Permian Delaware Basin and Enhanced Oil Recovery Oil and Gas, vice president of Investor Relations and vice president of Drilling Americas.

Interior Secretary Doug Burgum tours oil and gas rig sites in the Permian Basin

Joined by Texas Congressman August Pfluger (TX-11), U.S. Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum toured oil and gas production sites this week in the Permian Basin to observe industry practices firsthand, learn about innovations that are supporting record energy output in the region and highlight the Trump Administration's agenda for oil and gas. The officials stopped to visit a Diamondback Energy site in Reagan County and also participated in a tour of a Mewbourne rig, before meeting with hardworking energy professionals helping securing our nation's energy leadership.



Photo Courtesy of the Interior Department

Longanecker op-ed: Permitting reform reaches a critical juncture for American energy

A new editorial by TIPRO President Ed Longanecker published earlier this week argues U.S. lawmakers are facing a pivotal moment to take action on permitting reform and pass policies addressing key challenges associated with the permitting process that will unlock critical energy infrastructure development, create jobs, strengthen the economy and allow producers to deliver more energy to meet rising demands.

In his new op-ed, TIPRO's president highlights [new legislation](#) by U.S. Senator Dave McCormick (R-PA) that is designed to streamline the federal permitting process and bring greater certainty to the approval of energy infrastructure projects. Senator McCormick's "Unlock American Energy and Jobs Act," introduced on Capitol Hill last week, targets four specific chokepoints, including water permitting reform, LNG export deregulation, limits to NEPA litigation and modernization of nuclear licensing. Longanecker calls the bill by Senator McCormick "one of the most comprehensive permitting reform packages to emerge in this Congress."

Other policy framework improvements discussed by Longanecker also will go a long way towards supporting substantive permitting enhancements and modernizing the nation's permitting system. As Longanecker explains, Texas stands to gain the most from these permitting reforms, being the nation's largest oil and natural gas producer and a central hub for Gulf Coast LNG exports.

TIPRO members can read the full op-ed [here](#).

EPA flaring guidance... continued from Page 1

In its new guidance, the EPA clarifies that an existing regulatory provision, 40 CFR 60.5377b(d)(3), already allows operators to route associated gas to a flare or control device for up to 30 days per incident when a downstream gathering or pipeline system experiences an interruption outside the operator's control. The guidance also confirms that operators invoking this temporary flaring provision are not required to make a separate technical infeasibility demonstration under 40 CFR 60.5377b(g), a point that had been a source of significant industry confusion. Operators utilizing the temporary flaring provision must maintain records documenting the reason for each incident, the dates and duration of each flaring event and confirmation that all applicable closed vent system and flare requirements are met. The EPA also has indicated it intends to raise these issues in its forthcoming comprehensive OOOOb/c reconsideration proposed rule and solicit additional public comment to ensure the agency fully understands the operational challenges the industry is facing.

"America already produces energy better and cleaner than anywhere else in the world. That should not stop," remarked EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin. "EPA is providing certainty that oil operators and owners already have the flexibility under our regulations to navigate situations beyond their control and continue unleashing American energy. In doing so, the Trump EPA is advancing American energy dominance and lowering energy costs across the nation."

"The world needs more American energy, and we're delivering it responsibly," emphasized Energy Secretary Chris Wright. "This action gives operators the certainty they need to keep producing while continuing to reduce emissions. Forcing unnecessary shut-ins doesn't reduce demand, it just raises prices and shifts production elsewhere."

The EPA's policy announcement has been well received by oil and gas producers for providing much-needed regulatory clarity and allowing drilling operations to continue when scenarios outside of a company's control require flaring.

The new flaring guidance by the EPA does not change any federal regulation or rule; it serves as a clarifying reference for EPA's regulatory entities. It is consistent with current EPA regulations, as well as the agency's rulemaking record for OOOOb/c flaring regulations.

TIPRO members can view the EPA's complete guidance on the agency's website [here](#).

U.S. Energy Department offering \$11 million to help train America's energy workforce

Federal leaders from the U.S. Department of Energy on Monday announced up to \$11.3 million in federal funding will be available to institutions of higher education to train the next generation of America's energy workforce. The "Partnerships for Academic-Industry Career Training Initiative," being called PACT, will facilitate the development of hands-on training and credentialing programs in skillsets supporting the production of natural gas, oil, coal and geothermal energy by establishing regional academic-industry consortia. These efforts support President Trump's commitment to establish America's energy dominance by developing a highly skilled workforce focused on strengthening U.S. energy resilience and supplies.

"Ensuring a reliable, affordable, safe energy future demands robust partnerships between academia and industry to educate and empower America's next generation of energy workers," said Kyle Haustveit, assistant secretary of the U.S. Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy office. "Through the PACT Initiative, the Department of Energy is investing in targeted programs that will help meet the workforce needs of energy communities across the country, fortifying both our economic landscape and national energy security."

Regional consortia established through the Energy Department's new PACT Initiative will be made up of academic institutions (e.g., vocational schools, trade schools, technical colleges, community colleges, Tribal colleges, universities), industry employers, and workforce development entities. Each awarded consortium will develop hands-on training and credentialing programs for occupations that address a regional need for workforce in one or more of the following technology areas:

- Integration, safe use, and maintenance of oil, natural gas, coal, and geothermal energy technologies
- Using carbon dioxide to improve hydrocarbon recovery
- Produced water treatment and disposal
- Power generation for data centers or remote operations
- Technologies that enable any of the above technology areas, including but not limited to:
 - Construction related to the building-out of facilities or infrastructure
 - Applying and using artificial intelligence and machine learning
 - Geographic information systems

The initiative will be managed by TechWerx in partnership with the Department of Energy. To learn more, please [click here](#).



OUR TEXAS PRIDE RUNS DEEP

As a leading producer in the Permian Basin, Oxy applauds TIPRO's advocacy for Texas independent oil and natural gas producers, royalty owners and workers.

Learn more at [oxy.com](https://www.oxy.com)



BLM finalizes rule reflecting OBBB 12.5 percent royalty rate for federal oil and gas leases

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on April 29, 2026, published a direct final rule in the [Federal Register](#) revising existing regulations pertaining to royalty rates on production that will effectuate changes required by the One Big Beautiful Bill (OBBB) Act, signed into law by the president last summer. The rule amends the applicable regulation to return the royalty rate required for production from federal oil and gas leases issued after the enactment of that statute to 12.5 percent, restoring the rate that had existed prior to the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, which raised the royalty rate to 16.67 percent. The BLM determined that notice-and-comment rulemaking was unnecessary for this regulatory action because the revisions implement statutory requirements for which the agency has no discretion. The final rule is effective June 29, 2026. The bureau has said that it is taking additional action outside of this rulemaking to implement the royalty rate change for new leases going forward.

TIPRO members can find more information on this rulemaking [here](#).

Trump nominations for key energy roles expected be confirmed by the Senate later this month

The U.S. Senate at the end of April voted along party lines to pass a resolution that would allow the chamber to approve dozens of presidential nominees in a single "en bloc" vote, rather than taking each nomination up one by one for final confirmation. Senate Republicans have taken this route before to allow bundled nominations to advance with an "en bloc" vote, saying the move is necessary in order to address a persistent confirmation backlog resulting from Democratic stonewalling of nominees by President Trump, which has left key positions of the executive branch without confirmed leadership and allowed important federal posts to remain vacant and unstaffed.

[Senate Resolution 690](#) was introduced on April 27th by Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-South Dakota), who argues President Trump's nominees have faced a historic level of obstruction from Senate Democrats. His resolution for 'en bloc' confirmation votes was placed on the Senate Executive Calendar the same day as Calendar No. 5 and is now pending floor consideration. It is expected to be taken up next week, as early as Monday, May 11, when the Senate reconvenes.

Within the slate of nominations part of the 'en bloc' package is Stevan Pearce of New Mexico, nominated to become director of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM); David LaCerte of Louisiana to join the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for a new term expiring June 30, 2031; and Kyle Haustveit of North Dakota nominated to serve as under secretary of the Department of Energy, advancing from his current role as assistant secretary for the Office of Fossil Energy and Hydrocarbons.

Share your input: TIPRO Energy Benchmarking Survey

TIPRO, in partnership with Arise Energy, is conducting a short survey to better understand how Texas producers and operators approach electricity procurement — including timing, contract structure, and supplier selection. Aggregated findings will be compiled into an industry benchmarking report highlighting best practices and opportunities to optimize electricity spend, with results shared back with participants to help inform smarter purchasing decisions. The more members who participate, the more valuable the insights become for everyone. Individual responses remain confidential.

The survey takes only a few minutes to complete. [Take the Survey →](#)

ERCOT Market Update – Q2 2026

ERCOT is entering summer 2026 with elevated forward prices and tightening supply-demand conditions driven by continued load growth across Texas. For a free, independent daily signal on whether now is a good time to lock in your electricity rate, check out PriceWatch [here](#) — no account required.

TIPRO members invited to get involved with STEM Go Pro Day in Houston

As Houston prepares to host the world, Tech Fest Live is preparing the next generation to lead it. On July 30, 2026, STEM Go Pro Day returns to Shell Energy Stadium, bringing together 500+ middle and high school students, educators, and industry leaders for a hands-on, career-focused STEM experience. This event connects students directly with real-world opportunities across industries like energy, technology, engineering, and innovation giving them exposure to career paths they may not otherwise see.

For organizations across the energy sector, this is a unique opportunity to:

- Engage directly with future talent
- Showcase careers and innovation within your organization
- Be part of building Texas' next-generation workforce pipeline

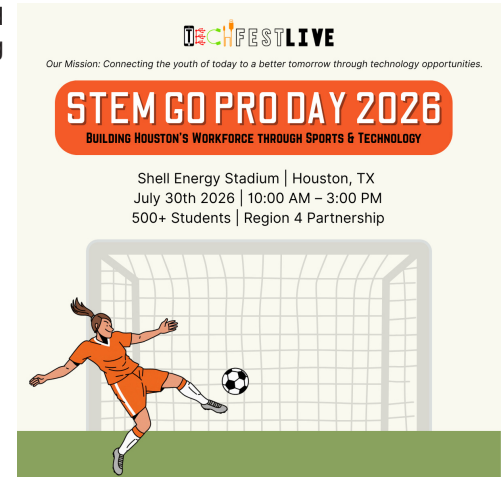
Get involved:

- Become a Sponsor: [STEM Go Pro Day Sponsor Deck](#)
- Host a Booth / Exhibit: [Exhibitor Registration](#)
- Volunteer Your Team: [Volunteer Registration](#)
- Encourage Students & Families to Attend: [Register to Attend](#)

Event details:

- Date: July 30, 2026
- Time: 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- Location: Shell Energy Stadium, Houston, Texas

For more information or to get involved, please contact Tech Fest Live at info@techfestlive.com.





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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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