



**Texas
Independent
Producers and
Royalty Owners
Association**

Time's running out to sign up for TIPRO's 2026 Summer Conference!

TIPRO adds more speakers to its Summer Conference line-up

Two new speakers have just been added to the agenda for TIPRO's 2026 Summer Conference, happening August 17-18! TIPRO is excited to announce that Marshall Adkins, who leads the Raymond James energy investment banking team, will take the stage at TIPRO's Summer meeting in San Antonio. Adkins will give TIPRO members a detailed market outlook and forecast oil and gas pricing conditions leading into the next year.

Bradley Ehrman, chief executive officer of Dorchester Minerals, LP, will also be joining TIPRO at this year's Summer Conference. Ehrman, who has been a leader serving various roles at his company Dorchester for more than 20 years, will highlight minerals acquisition and divestiture (A&D) trends in a special panel discussion alongside Rachel Racz, senior vice president of listings and president of Nasdaq Texas.

TIPRO's speaker presentations and panel discussions at the upcoming Summer Conference are not to be missed. Exclusive insights and perspectives offered by TIPRO's distinguished list of presenters will cover a wide-range of top priorities for Texas oil and gas producers and royalty owners, including energy policy changes and market forces shaping the future of the Texas oil and natural gas industry.

See TIPRO's full agenda for the Summer Conference on Page 2 of this newsletter and read more about the association's conference program in the Chairman's Message featured on Page 4. Online registration for the event is available [here](#) or members can use the conference registration form included on Page 3. Additional information on the Summer Conference is available on TIPRO's website [here](#).

Announcing TIPRO-LOGA's Haynesville Policy and Technical Seminar

This Fall, the Texas Independent Producers & Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO) and the Louisiana Oil and Gas Association (LOGA) are teaming up to host the first-ever Haynesville Policy & Technical Seminar, a brand-new event put on by the two partner associations specifically for Haynesville shale operators. TIPRO and LOGA will be bringing together the top regulatory and political leaders from both Texas and Louisiana in one room for one purpose: to discuss the many operational issues plaguing both sides of the border.

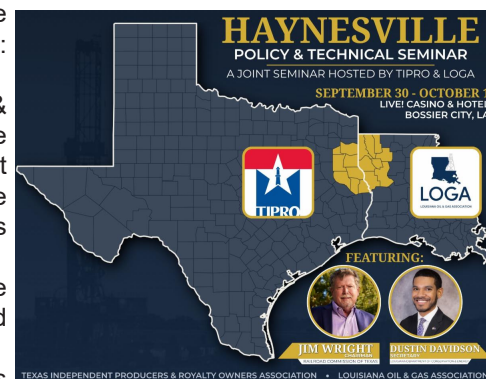
The seminar is scheduled to take place September 30 - October 1, 2026, at the Live! Casino & Hotel in Bossier City, Louisiana. Confirmed speakers include Jim Wright, chairman of the Railroad Commission of Texas, and Dustin Davidson, secretary of the Louisiana Department of Energy & Conservation. The chiefs of the Texas and Louisiana regulatory bodies will be joined by a line-up of Texas and Louisiana legislators, academic experts and industry leaders who work in the Haynesville every day.

This event is exclusive to oil and natural gas industry representatives operating in the Haynesville shale and space is limited. Registration is accepted on a first-come, first-served basis and will close once capacity is reached.

Registration is \$250 per person. Sponsorships are also available for \$2,000, which includes five registrations plus your company's logo featured on all event signage, email communications, the event website and social media posts.

To book a hotel reservation for the event under the group room block at the Live! Casino & Hotel Louisiana, [click here](#). Please note the hotel cut-off date is August 31.

For questions or to sign up for the seminar, email info@tipro.org.



Judge signs off on settlement agreement ending the Dunes Sagebrush Lizard ESA listing

On July 22, U.S. District Judge David Counts approved a [legal settlement](#) removing controversial endangered species protections for the Dunes Sagebrush Lizard. As [TIPRO has reported](#) to the membership, this summer, the Trump Administration's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) asked a federal judge to approve a legal agreement that vacates the lizard's listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The Dunes Sagebrush Lizard was classified as endangered in 2024 by the Biden Administration. The state of Texas sued to challenge the lizard's ESA designation, arguing it was an unlawful regulatory maneuver that violated the ESA and the Administrative Procedure Act and did not take into consideration the ongoing voluntary conservation efforts already in place at a local and state level. Officials with the USFWS later conceded that their analysis of habitat restoration efforts for the Dunes Sagebrush Lizard was incomplete and possibly inaccurate.

To settle the lawsuit, the USFWS agreed to roll back the Dunes Sagebrush Lizard ESA protections. Under terms of the court agreement, the agency still must conduct further review of the lizard's status and must issue a new 12-month finding on whether the lizard should be classified as endangered or threatened.



CONFERENCE AGENDA AND SCHEDULE

MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2026

- 1:30 P.M. **TIPRO AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING**
- 3:30 P.M. **TIPRO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**
- 5:30 P.M. **TIPRO WELCOME RECEPTION**
- 7:00 P.M. **DINNER ON YOUR OWN**

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2026

- 7:30 A.M. **BREAKFAST**
- 8:30 A.M. **START OF GENERAL SESSION**
WELCOME & SPONSOR RECOGNITION
 - ED LONGANECKER, PRESIDENT OF TIPRO**OPENING REMARKS**
 - THOMAS JANISZEWSKI, CHAIRMAN OF TIPRO, VICE PRESIDENT – LAND, REGULATORY, GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS, OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM CORP.
- 8:45 A.M. **EVOLVING FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY LANDSCAPE**
 - SCOTT MASON, EPA REGION 6 ADMINISTRATOR
- 9:15 A.M. **WELLHEAD TO WATER PRESENTATION AND MODERATED Q&A**
 - DAVE LAWLER, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, CATURUS ENERGY, LLC
 - MODERATOR – MIKE HOWARD, CHAIRMAN AND CEO, HOWARD ENERGY PARTNERS
- 10:00 A.M. **PRIORITIES FOR THE 90TH TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION**
 - REPRESENTATIVE DREW DARBY, CHAIRMAN, HOUSE ENERGY RESOURCES COMMITTEE
 - SENATOR KEVIN SPARKS, CHAIRMAN, SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
 - SENATOR CHARLES PERRY, CHAIRMAN, SENATE WATER, AGRICULTURE, AND RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
 - MODERATOR – ED LONGANECKER, PRESIDENT, TIPRO
- 10:55 A.M. **FEDERAL POLICY UPDATE**
 - U.S. CONGRESSMAN MICHAEL CLOUD (R-TX27)
- 11:25 A.M. **TEXAS POLICY UPDATE**
 - TEXAS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR DAN PATRICK
- 11:55 A.M. **TIPRO NETWORKING LUNCHEON**
- 1:15 P.M. **GENERAL SESSION CONTINUES**
ENERGY CAPITAL MARKETS AND MINERALS A&D TRENDS
 - BRADLEY EHRMAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, DORCHESTER MINERALS, LP
 - RACHEL RACZ, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, LISTINGS AND PRESIDENT, NASDAQ TEXAS, LLC, NASDAQ
 - MODERATOR – ED LONGANECKER, PRESIDENT, TIPRO
- 2:00 P.M. **TEXAS RAILROAD COMMISSION CANDIDATE SESSION**
 - BO FRENCH, REPUBLICAN NOMINEE FOR TEXAS RAILROAD COMMISSIONER (FORMER CHAIRMAN, TARRANT COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY)
 - JON ROSENTHAL, DEMOCRATIC NOMINEE FOR TEXAS RAILROAD COMMISSIONER (TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 135)
- 2:55 P.M. **NAVIGATING THE STORM: OIL & GAS MARKETS AMID THE IRAN CONFLICT**
 - MARSHALL ADKINS, HEAD OF ENERGY, RAYMOND JAMES
- 3:55 P.M. **CLOSING REMARKS**
- 4:00 P.M. **AFTERNOON BREAK**
- 6:00 P.M. **RECEPTION AND CHAIRMAN'S DINNER, FOLLOWED BY THE PRESENTATION OF THE MR. TIPRO AWARD, LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AND CASINO NIGHT**



TIPRO 2026 SUMMER CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Using the form below, sign up for TIPRO's annual summer meeting, happening August 17-18, 2026, at the Hyatt Hill Country Resort & Spa in San Antonio. We look forward to seeing you there!

REGISTRATION FEES

MEMBER FEES:

FULL PASS INCLUDES ALL CONFERENCE SESSIONS AND MEALS

- ☐ MEMBER: \$625
- ☐ SPOUSE: \$395
- ☐ CHILDREN (12-UP): \$195
- ☐ CHILDREN (5-12): \$125
- ☐ CHILDREN (5-UNDER): FREE

NON-MEMBER* FEES:

FULL PASS INCLUDES ALL CONFERENCE SESSIONS AND MEALS,
AS WELL AS A ONE-YEAR COMPLIMENTARY TIPRO MEMBERSHIP

- ☐ NON-MEMBER: \$795
- ☐ SPOUSE: \$395
- ☐ CHILDREN (12-UP): \$195
- ☐ CHILDREN (5-12): \$125
- ☐ CHILDREN (5-UNDER): FREE

*Please note: The non-member rate is intended for individuals who are not TIPRO members or for former members whose memberships have been inactive for more than two years.

REGISTRANT INFORMATION

Attendee Name: _____

Company: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Billing Address (if different than above): _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Spouse's Name (If Attending): _____

Children's Names (If Attending): _____

In order to help TIPRO plan our conference, below please confirm which events all registered guests will be attending by checking the corresponding box:

	Member/Non-Member	Spouse	Child	Child	Child
TIPRO Reception	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
TIPRO Breakfast	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
TIPRO Luncheon	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Chairman's Dinner/Casino Night	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐



Have special dietary needs, allergies or other considerations?

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Payment Total: _____

☐ Enclosed Check No. _____

Credit Card: ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ AMEX

Credit Card Number: _____

Exp. Date: _____ CID/Security Code: _____

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Please return your completed form by mail:

TIPRO
919 Congress Avenue, Suite 810
Austin, Texas 78701

Forms may also be submitted electronically by emailing
info@tipro.org.

Paying by credit card? Consider signing up online
through TIPRO's easy-to-use and secure
registration portal at
<https://membership.tipro.org/event-6691899>!

NO REFUNDS FOR CANCELLATIONS AFTER AUGUST 7, 2026.

A message from TIPRO's Chairman

Dear TIPRO members,

I am pleased to invite you to TIPRO's upcoming [2026 Summer Conference](#), taking place in just three weeks on August 17 and 18 at the Hyatt Hill Country Resort and Spa in San Antonio. This conference coincides with TIPRO's 80th anniversary and the agenda for TIPRO's Summer meeting reflects the scope and substance our members expect from this organization.

We meet at a consequential moment for our industry. Oil markets have moved through significant volatility this year as the conflict involving Iran has repeatedly disrupted trade through the Strait of Hormuz, a critical energy chokepoint and one of the world's busiest oil and LNG shipping channels. This market disruption carries direct consequences for Texas producers, from rig counts and capital allocation to hedging strategy. Market volatility is also fueling a debate amongst various industry factions, policymakers and the public as to the value of domestic energy security versus windfall profits taxes and exports. To help sort this out, the TIPRO Summer Conference will feature our session, "Navigating the Storm: Oil and Gas Markets Amid the Iran Conflict," with commentary from Marshall Adkins, head of energy at Raymond James and one of the most respected analysts in the industry. Adkins will give a comprehensive market outlook to TIPRO members and share his read on what this volatility means for operators across the state in the months ahead.

Capital markets and the minerals space will also get dedicated attention this year at the TIPRO conference. Our session on energy capital markets and minerals A&D trends will bring together Bradley Ehrman, chief executive officer of Dorchester Minerals, LP, one of the largest and longest-standing publicly traded mineral and royalty companies in the country, and Rachel Racz, senior vice president of listings and president of Nasdaq Texas, for a conversation on acquisition and divestiture trends and the broader capital markets environment shaping our industry.

TIPRO's conference also comes as Texas prepares for the 90th Legislative Session. We are fortunate to have several of the most influential voices in Texas government joining us this year at the Summer Conference, including Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, State Senator Charles Perry, State Senator Kevin Sparks and State Representative Drew Darby. Their participation will give our membership direct insight into the legislative priorities for the oil and gas industry heading into the next session, from produced water policy, permitting for energy infrastructure, dispatchable power generation and the broader regulatory framework governing oil and gas operations in Texas.

The federal landscape, meanwhile, is also continuing to see big policy shifts and TIPRO's program addresses it directly. U.S. Congressman Michael Cloud (TX-27) and EPA Region 6 Administrator Scott Mason will both speak at TIPRO's Summer Conference, reviewing federal developments that affect producers across the state, from permitting reform efforts in Congress, to regulatory priorities at the agency level. These issues carry real weight for our members' operations and their bottom line.

On the operational side, David Lawler, chief executive officer of Caturus, will highlight trends and best practices shaping the natural gas and LNG sector, and Mike Howard, chairman and CEO of Howard Energy Partners, will round out the perspectives on this year's agenda. TIPRO is also hosting a Texas Railroad Commission candidate session, giving members an opportunity to get to know the candidates seeking to lead one of the most important regulatory bodies for our industry.

This agenda reflects what TIPRO conferences have always delivered. The speakers joining us are the people currently shaping policy and markets in Texas, and the discussions will have direct bearing on how our members plan and operate their businesses in the coming year.

Our venue for the conference is also a special one. The Hyatt Hill Country Resort and Spa offers members and their families an excellent setting for the time surrounding the conference program. Our welcome reception on Monday evening and the Chairman's Dinner and Casino Night on Tuesday, featuring live entertainment, and numerous hotel amenities remain among our members' most anticipated parts of this event and will provide substantial networking opportunities alongside the formal sessions. Please note, the TIPRO hotel room block at the Hyatt Hill Country Resort is now full, but TIPRO's Joanne Reynolds can help you if you still need accommodations. She can be reached at joanne@tipro.org or (512) 477-4452.

I look forward to seeing you in San Antonio this August as we celebrate 80 years of TIPRO's leadership for Texas producers and royalty owners.

Sincerely,
Thomas A. Janiszewski
Chairman, TIPRO Board of Directors



Thomas Janiszewski

Reminder: Texas Senate Natural Resources Committee holding interim hearing on Aug. 11

As TIPRO first reported in the [June 4th TIPRO Target newsletter](#), members of the Texas Senate Natural Resources Committee will meet on Tuesday, August 11, for [an interim legislative hearing](#). During the hearing, senators will be monitoring the implementation of legislation passed last year by the 89th Legislature, including [Senate Bill 1145](#), authorizing the TCEQ to issue permits for the land application of produced water, and [House Bill 49](#), which modified Texas law regarding the treatment and use of fluid oil and gas waste.

TIPRO CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
AUGUST 17-18, 2026 SAN ANTONIO — TIPRO's 2026 Summer Conference. For information, email info@tipro.org .	AUGUST 18, 2026 HOUSTON — TIPRO/HPF/IPAA "Leaders in Industry" Luncheon. For information, email info@houstonproducersforum.org .	SEPTEMBER 15, 2026 HOUSTON — TIPRO/HPF/IPAA "Leaders in Industry" Luncheon. For information, email info@houstonproducersforum.org .

Hear about the latest trends in energy dealmaking at next month's TIPRO-HPF-IPAA luncheon

Connect with Houston's top energy leaders at the next 'Leaders in Industry' luncheon, hosted monthly by the Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO), Houston Producers Forum (HPF) and Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA). The joint luncheon is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at the Petroleum Club of Houston.

During the event, also hear about energy dealmaking trends from two industry powerhouses: Jeff Nichols, partner and chair of the Energy Practice Group at Haynes Boone, and Victor Mendoza, managing partner at Legado Capital Advisors. With over 25 years of experience in structured energy transactions, Nichols brings deep expertise in credit facilities, merchant energy, and complex industry agreements. As the chair of Haynes Boone's Energy Practice Group, Nichols has broad experience in all facets of the energy business with a focus in the merchant energy industry particularly on working with ISDA, NAESB, EEI and other industry form agreements. He is also a member of Haynes Boone's Executive Committee.

Joining him on stage will be Victor Mendoza, an investment banking veteran who has 15 years of oil and gas corporate and investment banking experience. Over his career, Mendoza has structured over \$10 billion in energy deals, pioneered major asset-backed securitization (ABS) strategies, and earned recognition in Hart Energy's Forty Under 40. In 2024, Mendoza founded his firm, Legado Capital Advisors. Prior to Legado Capital, Mendoza was the head of Structured Finance at Donovan Ventures, where he launched the ABS strategy in 2021, advising on nearly \$2 billion of ABS transactions. Before joining Donovan Ventures, Mendoza was a director at Société Générale focused on upstream transactions in the Americas (U.S., Canada, LatAm). At Societe Generale, he was a key member in the firm's Offshore Financing buildup, which grew to over \$2 billion in commitments in three years.

Together at the Leaders luncheon, Nichols and Mendoza will deliver crucial insights on today's evolving energy finance, deal structuring and market dynamics.

To reserve your spot at the August 'Leaders' luncheon, please [click here](#).

New interim legislative charges issued by Lt. Governor Dan Patrick

As members of the state legislature continue their work preparing for next year's 90th Legislative Session, Texas Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, who serves as the presiding officer of the state Senate, released an additional seven interim charges on July 27th to be studied by lawmakers before the 2027 session begins. This latest release builds on the 74 interim charges for the senate previously put out by the lieutenant governor earlier this year (including rounds that were announced in January and March).

Among the new charges issued this week, the seventh interim charge assigned to the Senate Committee on Water, Agriculture, and Rural Affairs is particularly noteworthy. Specifically, through the charge assignment, the committee has been tasked with evaluating water availability, flow decline and administrative challenges within the Pecos River Basin.

The Pecos River watershed flows from north-central New Mexico into West Texas, emptying into the Rio Grande. Its geographic location overlaps the Permian Basin, the nation's largest oil producing region. Over the years, the Pecos River water system has faced severe drought pressures, limited and highly variable water supply, challenges associated with high salinity levels and increased municipal and industrial pumping.

At the direction of Lieutenant Governor Patrick, the committee will assess the growing water consumption and resource demands associated with energy-intensive technologies across the state, with a particular focus on the rapid expansion of data centers and large-scale computing/tech facilities. Legislators will also examine how the high volume of water required for cooling and operating these facilities impacts local groundwater, surface water availability, regional water planning strategies, and local infrastructure capacity. Based on the committee's assessment, the committee will deliver policy recommendations to ensure Texas balances technological and economic growth with long-term water conservation, regional resource sustainability and grid/water system reliability.

TIPRO members may read Lt. Governor Patrick's new 2026 interim charges by [clicking here](#).

To read Lt. Governor Patrick's 2026 interim charges released on March 27, 2026, [click here](#).

To read Lt. Governor Patrick's 2026 interim charges released on January 30, 2026, [click here](#).

Governor Abbott appoints a new secretary of state

Robert Howden has been sworn in as the 116th Secretary of State of Texas, Texas Governor Greg Abbott announced earlier in July. Howden, a senior advisor to the governor and the governor's legislative director, takes over the post for Jane Nelson, who [resigned](#) in June after three and a half years serving as the secretary of state of Texas.

"Robert Howden has served Texas with distinction in four Republican governors' administrations," the governor said in a statement. "His experience in the legislative process and extensive public service have prepared him to protect the integrity of Texas elections and represent our state with strength on the global stage."

Howden holds extensive experience in business and economic policy. He led the Texas division of the National Federation of Independent Business for a decade before joining the administration of Governor Rick Perry, first as communications director and then as a senior advisor overseeing the Governor's Task Force on Economic Development and Growth. Following those roles, he worked as a political affairs consultant. Early in his career, Howden also worked for Governor Bill Clements and at the Texas Department of Commerce.

Howden still needs to be confirmed as secretary of state by the Texas Senate when the 90th Texas Legislature begins its session this upcoming January. Until then, Howden can serve in the position without legislative approval.

Howden's appointment as secretary of state comes at a significant moment, with only a few months go to before the mid-term elections. In the position of secretary of state, Howden serves as Texas' chief election officer and is responsible for working with county election officials to ensure the uniform application and interpretation of election laws throughout the state.



Photo: Office of the Texas Secretary of State

TCEQ offering up to \$30 million in funding for its natural gas vehicle grant program

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) recently announced applications are now open for the Texas Natural Gas Vehicle Grant Program (TNGVGP), which is administered as part of the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP). Up to \$30 million is projected for to be offered for this grant round of the TNGVGP and will be used to help qualifying entities operating heavy-duty or medium-duty diesel or gasoline vehicles replace those vehicles with natural gas vehicles or repower them with natural gas engines.

Applications for the TNGVGP will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. Central Time on Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2026, or until all available funds have been awarded. Grants are administered by the TCEQ on a first-come, first-served basis.

Detailed eligibility requirements, application forms and instructions are available on the TNGVGP webpage [here](#). Applications may be submitted electronically and securely using TCEQ Send, or can be sent in by mail to one of the addresses listed in the Request for Grant Applications.

TCEQ staff this month hosted a webinar covering the TNGVGP and explaining how to apply for funding through the grant program. TIPRO members can watch the webinar recording at <https://tinyurl.com/zrscwcv8>. Slides presented at webinar also may be viewed [here](#).

TxMCW opens solicitation process for marginal well plugging contractors; Grant applications for well owners and operators expected in upcoming solicitation period

The Texas Voluntary Marginal Conventional Well Plugging Program, administered by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Air Grants Division, has opened a Request for Proposals to solicit plugging and abandonment vendors ahead of an upcoming Request for Grant Applications solicitation for well owners and operators. TxMCW is funded through the Inflation Reduction Act's Methane Emissions Reduction Program, under which TCEQ was awarded \$134.1 million to permanently plug and abandon marginal conventional oil and gas wells in Texas, defined as wells that produce a low volume of oil or gas. The program aims to reduce methane and other harmful air pollutants associated with low-producing wells.

TxMCW will select wells for plugging according to a published Well Prioritization Plan and a Methane Measurement Plan that requires methane measurement before and after plugging activities for every well funded under the program. Owners and operators of marginal conventional wells in Texas may be eligible to have select wells plugged and abandoned once the grant application period opens. Additional information, program updates, and eligibility criteria are available on the program's website.

For more information, [click here](#).



RRC sets new attendance records at agency's annual Regulatory Conference

Attendance at this year's Railroad Commission of Texas Regulatory Conference reached an all-time high, drawing over 1,100 attendees and 60 exhibitors to the agency's premier educational event, leaders of the Railroad Commission after the conference. Held July 13–15 at the Kalahari Resort and Convention Center in Round Rock, the regulatory conference featured over 90 educational sessions. Highlights from the event included an update from Commission Chairman Jim Wright on oilfield theft initiatives being led by the commission's STOPTheft Task Force, on which TIPRO President Ed Longanecker serves. Other sessions at the regulatory conference addressed oil and gas regulations, pipeline safety and critical infrastructure, inactive well compliance, Class VI injection wells, incident reporting, the evolving federal pipeline safety regulatory landscape and additional emerging regulatory issues impacting Texas energy.

"This conference provides an invaluable opportunity for stakeholders across the energy industry to collaborate, share ideas and help shape effective energy regulation in Texas. As the conference continues to grow, we're grateful for the strong participation and look forward to building on this momentum in 2027 to further strengthen energy regulation in Texas," commented Railroad Commission Executive Director Wei Wang.

Next year's regulatory conference hosted by the Railroad Commission has already been scheduled for July 12–14, 2027, and will be held back at the Kalahari Resort and Convention Center in Round Rock.

Railroad Commission launches specialized field inspector training program at Texas Tech

A new partnership between Texas Tech University's Department of Petroleum Engineering and the Railroad Commission is being launched to provide specialized training to oil and gas inspectors working for the state. The commission announced the new training program this week as part of its ongoing effort to further strengthen staff expertise and enhance the professional development of the commission's oil and gas inspectors.

According to the commission, the training program has been in development for nearly a year. At the end of July, the first class of inspectors attended the four-day course at the school's Oilfield Technology Center in Lubbock. The program has been designed to offer new or early-career inspectors with an enhanced, hands-on learning experience that will help them better understand the equipment and environment that they will encounter in the field. Utilizing the world-class educational tools available at the facility, the training included demonstrations on a variety of equipment, described the Railroad Commission, including the center's fully functional drilling rig, as well as training sessions covering key stages of a well's lifecycle, such as cementing, blowout prevention and well plugging.

"This partnership represents a meaningful step forward in how we connect education, industry and regulation," said Dr. Marshall Watson, chair of the Bob L. Herd Department of Petroleum Engineering at Texas Tech. "By providing hands-on training in a realistic environment, we're helping inspectors build the skills they need to ensure safe and efficient energy operations across Texas."



TWDB adopts the 2027 State Water Plan

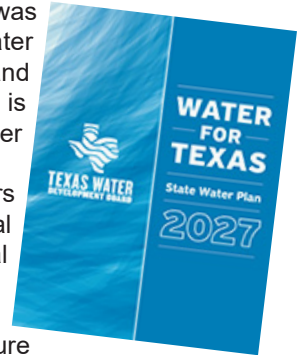
State leaders at the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) last week voted to give initial approval of the 2027 State Water Plan, a critical resource used by regional and state officials to guide water planning and ensure sufficient water supplies remain available for Texans. The TWDB this year is developing the 2027 State Water Plan in two phases. Phase I, which was just adopted, was completed on an accelerated timeline to support 2026 financial assistance commitments for the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT)—which has committed more than \$17 billion in financial assistance and generated over 2 million acre-feet of new water supplies since the program began in 2015. Phase II, which is expected to follow this fall, will incorporate additional and more robust analysis, in line with previous state water plans, that decision-makers rely upon at the local, regional and state levels.

"The TWDB understands the importance and responsibility of publishing the state water plan every five years to help ensure sufficient water supplies during drought-of-record conditions. We recognize that water is essential to communities, households, agriculture, businesses, and others," described TWDB Chairwoman L'Oreal Stepney.

The 2027 water plan identifies thousands of actionable strategies and projects—complete with projected costs and sponsoring entities—that show how Texas can meet its water needs and remain resilient during future droughts. This information provides a critical roadmap for ensuring that Texas communities continue to have reliable water supplies both now and in the future.

"Developing the state water plan is truly a collaborative effort that is only possible through the support of our sister agencies, regional water planning group sponsors and staff, technical consultants, water providers, water districts, and professionals representing diverse interest groups across Texas," added Stepney.

To download a copy of the 2027 State Water plan, [click here](#).



Interior Dept. finalizes additional ESA regulatory revisions

The Trump Administration is continuing to incorporate reforms and what it calls necessary revisions to regulations under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). In mid-July, leaders of the U.S. Department of Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced the finalization of the following changes to its regulations that administer Sections 4(d) and 4(b)(2) of the ESA:

- **Threatened species protections (Section 4(d)):** Eliminates the burdensome "blanket rule" option under section 4(d) of the ESA for "threatened" species created in the final months of the Biden Administration. The blanket rule created a default for all "threatened" species that incorrectly treated them as "endangered," unless an exception was made with a specific 4(d) rule. Moving forward, the USFWS says "threatened" species will be appropriately treated as "threatened," not "endangered," and the service may tailor a customized 4(d) rule to better suit each species.

- **Critical habitat exclusions (Section 4(b)(2)):** Revises the "critical habitat" designation process to follow the law and consider the economic, national security and other relevant impacts following the designation of any particular area as "critical habitat." The revision also allows an area to be excluded from a "critical habitat" designation if that exclusion will not cause the extinction of the species.

"We are following the original intent of the law, looking at the facts on the ground and listening to local voices when making decisions under the ESA," Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum said. "For too long, the ESA has been weaponized to stop almost any new project in America, driving up costs for families, weakening our competitiveness, and undermining our national security," he continued. "At the same time, results have fallen short. Nearly 97 percent of species ever placed on the list remain there today. Success should be measured by species recovery and delisting, not by adding more species to the list."

TIPRO members can learn more about this ESA action [here](#).

The USFWS, with the Department of Commerce, also in July finalized another rulemaking rescinding the outdated regulatory definition of "harm" under the ESA, as [TIPRO reported](#) in the July 16th *TIPRO Target* publication. TIPRO members can find additional information on this ESA update by [clicking here](#).

Administration officials stress that even with the revisions and modifications to ESA provisions, the ESA's core protections remain firmly in place. Recent ESA reforms are intended to enhance the transparency, clarity, predictability and efficiency in the administration of the ESA while remaining consistent with the statute's true purposes.

U.S. Energy Department opens \$65 million in new funding for oil and gas research

The U.S. Department of Energy recently announced it will be offering \$65.5 million in federal funding for cost-shared research, development and deployment projects to strengthen domestic oil and natural gas production. The funding also will be provided to innovations and R&D projects improving the efficiency and reliability of critical energy infrastructure and those helping convert underutilized resources into valuable products.

Under Secretary of Energy Kyle Haustveit said the investments by the Trump Administration aim to support advancements being worked on that will boost America's oil and natural gas industry and reinforce the critical infrastructure that powers the U.S. economy. "This funding opportunity will help American producers eliminate waste, improve efficiency, and deliver the affordable, reliable, and secure energy that powers our economy and strengthens our national security," described Haustveit.

TIPRO members can read more about this notice of funding opportunity [here](#). The application deadline is September 22, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. ET.

This funding opportunity follows the department's other \$150 million federal funding initiative, [announced on July 6](#), which focuses on enhancing recovery efficiency from unconventional oil and gas reservoirs, advancing hydraulic fracture characterization technologies and developing innovative approaches for produced water management. See full details [here](#).



NASDAQ TEXAS

Where Greatness is Built

From the expansive oil fields to the booming tech corridors, Texas is where innovation and perseverance meet, providing a vibrant home for companies to grow and thrive. Nasdaq Texas is a prospective dual listing venue that would serve Texas innovators and businesses driving economic opportunities and shaping the next frontier.

www.nasdaq.com/nasdaq-texas



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