



THE TIPRO TARGET



**Texas
Independent
Producers and
Royalty Owners
Association**

TIPRO legislative update from the state capitol: Interim hearings review oilfield theft laws, produced water and other energy priorities

State lawmakers are actively preparing for the upcoming 90th Regular Legislative Session, which convenes in January. Ahead of the official opening of the 2027 Legislative Session on January 12, legislative interim hearings have continued this month at the state capitol in Austin, covering issues vital to independent producers, royalty owners, and the members of the Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO).

The Texas Senate Committee on Natural Resources, chaired by State Senator Kevin Sparks (R-Midland), met earlier this week on Monday, September 21, to discuss priority legislative charges for TIPRO, including the implementation of oilfield theft laws enacted by the state legislature in 2025. During the hearing, committee members examined operational progress on House Bill 48, which created a dedicated organized oilfield theft prevention unit within the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to coordinate multi-agency investigations, manage crime databases, and offer specialized training to local law enforcement. Committee members also evaluated statutory enforcement mechanisms under Senate Bill 494 and Senate Bill 1806. These measures established a specialized task force focused on the theft of petroleum products, expanded law enforcement inspection authority over cargo tanks and increased criminal penalties for the unauthorized possession or theft of oilfield equipment, crude oil, and copper infrastructure. Industry representatives testifying at the hearing emphasized that aggressive enforcement of these regulatory tools remains essential to safeguarding physical assets in Texas' oilfields, protecting operational safety and preserving state revenues that are generated from oil and gas activities.

Meanwhile, the Texas House Committee on Energy Resources convened for two days of hearings last week to review interim charges assigned by Speaker of the House Dustin Burrows. Discussions spanned a broad array of energy topics, including seismicity, injection wells, severed well operations, P-13 water wells, commercial carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) in Texas, as well as oversight of the Railroad Commission of Texas. The committee also received an update on the implementation of Senate Bill 1150 and evaluated policy options to reduce the number of inactive wells turning into orphaned wells.

Produced water management also remains a top priority among state officials and legislative leaders, who are working to build a robust regulatory framework for beneficial reuse while removing barriers to market utilization of produced water. Railroad Commissioner Jim Wright noted in his testimony last week to the House Energy Resources Committee that the proper management, treatment, and disposal of produced water is one of the greatest long-term challenges facing the state's energy sector and future oil and gas extraction, particularly in the Permian Basin. However, he added that treatment of this water also represents a major opportunity for the state's water resources, particularly in those areas most impacted by drought conditions.

Lastly, the Texas House Environmental Regulation Committee also met last week for an interim hearing to discuss recommendations for improving regulatory efficiency, enhancing interagency coordination, and providing greater certainty for regulated industries.

On behalf of the association's members, TIPRO continues to actively monitor and track all legislative interim proceedings, committee hearings, policy discussions and relevant legislative developments leading into the 90th Regular Legislative Session.

Railroad Commission chair outlines agency priorities heading into next year's legislative session

With the upcoming 90th Legislative Session scheduled to begin in January, Railroad Commission Chairwoman Christi Craddick last week was at the state capitol in Austin to review the agency's main focus and priorities. Chairwoman Craddick testified at the September 15th House Energy Resources Committee hearing, informing state lawmakers about the Railroad Commission's ongoing work addressing key issues and challenges facing the state's oil and gas industry and providing an update on the commission's implementation of major legislation from the 89th Legislature. The head of the Railroad Commission also talked to the House Energy Resources Committee about anticipated needs to allow the agency to continue to keep up with regulatory oversight of the Texas energy industry.

"One of our highest priorities since the closing of the 89th Legislature is the rulemaking authority and implementing Senate Bill 1150 - well plugging legislation," described Chairwoman Craddick to committee members. "This legislation in our mind represents one of the most comprehensive updates to Texas' inactive well regulatory framework in many years. These issues involve balancing several important public interests. We must encourage responsible operation, protect taxpayers from future plugging liabilities, preserve economic production where appropriate, and maintain a regulatory framework that is both effective and predictable. Staff has been working with operators of all sizes, royalty owners, land owners, industry associations and other stakeholders to evaluate implementation challenges and assure resulting rules accomplish the legislature's objectives," she mentioned.



Story continued on Page 4...

A message from TIPRO's Chairman

TIPRO Members,

TIPRO's engagement with regulators and policymakers has stayed active this month, and I would like to highlight a few recent examples.

On the regulatory side, TIPRO met again with the Texas Railroad Commission (RRC) last week to discuss recommendations for the Senate Bill 1150 rulemaking on inactive well plugging and brief staff on the latest meeting of the Inactive Well Task Force. RRC staff indicated they plan to formally release the proposed rule for public comment at the October 6th Commissioners' Conference. TIPRO is now updating its comprehensive informal comments in advance of that release. Once the rule is approved for publication on October 6, it will be posted to the Texas Register, opening a formal public comment period that must run a minimum of 30 days under the Texas Administrative Procedure Act. TIPRO will submit its formal comments during that window and members are encouraged to submit their own comments or endorse TIPRO's. Members who want to stay close to this issue are encouraged to join TIPRO's Inactive Well Task Force.



Thomas Janiszewski

TIPRO also recently joined a Texas-Louisiana Legislative Energy Roundtable in Austin, convened by Texas House Energy Resources Chairman Drew Darby and Louisiana House Natural Resources and Environment Chairman Brett Geymann. Lawmakers and industry representatives covered production outlooks, the regulatory environment and market conditions, then moved into carbon capture, produced water management, induced seismicity and the state's role in advanced nuclear development. A separate discussion addressed data center siting and the implications of large load growth for grid reliability, closing with a conversation on transmission needs and next steps for continued coordination between the two states.

TIPRO's event calendar remains full heading into the fall. TIPRO and the Louisiana Oil and Gas Association (LOGA) will jointly host the first Haynesville Policy and Technical Seminar September 30 and October 1 at the Live! Casino and Hotel in Bossier City, bringing together top regulatory and political leaders from both states to address issues affecting operators on both sides of the border. Confirmed speakers include Railroad Commissioner Jim Wright and Louisiana Department of Energy and Conservation Secretary Dustin Davidson, Texas State Representative Jay Dean and Louisiana State Representative Brett Geymann, along with technical experts from ExxonMobil, bpx Energy, Expand Energy, and the University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology. Registration and sponsorship details are available [here](#).

This month also brought a strong turnout for TIPRO's joint 'Leaders in Industry' luncheon in Houston. Roughly 220 attendees heard from Francisco Leon, president and CEO of California Resources Corporation. Our [next luncheon](#) takes place October 20th with Talos Energy CEO Paul Goodfellow, followed by a fireside chat with former Pioneer Natural Resources CEO Scott Sheffield on [November 17](#).

Finally, TIPRO continues to provide comprehensive and relevant updates to its members through *The TIPRO Target* Newsletter, 'Week in Review' and various committees, in addition to maintaining a robust industry education and communication platform that reaches hundreds of thousands of contacts monthly.

Taken together, this is what consistent and effective industry representation looks like. It is the ongoing dedicated work of keeping members informed, being responsive to member requests, and interfacing with state and federal policymakers on a regular basis, building the relationships and credibility that let TIPRO speak effectively for its members when it matters most.

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

Voter registration deadline approaching for the midterm elections

Monday, October 5, is the last day to register to vote in Texas for the upcoming November 3rd general midterm elections. If you have not already registered to vote, or if you are unsure of your registration status, visit the Texas Secretary of State's 'My Voter Portal,' which allows you to look up your voter registration record in the statewide voter registration database. This voter portal can be accessed through the ["Am I Registered?"](#) feature at [VoteTexas.gov](#).

If you still need to register to vote, voter registration forms are available [here](#). A voter will need to print, sign and mail their application before the October 5th deadline. Texans who have recently changed their name or moved also need to update their voter registration, which can be done [online](#).

Early voting in person will run from October 19 - October 30. Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2026.

TIPRO CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 1, 2026 BOSSIER CITY, LA — TIPRO-LOGA Haynesville Policy and Technical Seminar. For information, email info@tipro.org .	OCTOBER 20, 2026 HOUSTON — TIPRO/HPF/IPAA "Leaders in Industry" Luncheon. For information, email info@houstonproducersforum.org .	NOVEMBER 17, 2026 HOUSTON — TIPRO/HPF/IPAA "Leaders in Industry" Luncheon. For information, email info@houstonproducersforum.org .

Talos Energy CEO and former Shell executive to headline next month's joint TIPRO luncheon

On Tuesday, October 20, members are invited to join the Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO), Houston Producers Forum (HPF) and Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA) for the joint monthly 'Leaders in Industry' luncheon at the Houston Petroleum Club. During the event, commentary and insights will be shared by our featured presenter Paul Goodfellow, CEO and president of Talos Energy Inc.

Goodfellow was appointed chief executive officer and president of Talos Energy Inc. in March 2025. He has over 34 years of domestic and international experience in the oil and gas industry during a distinguished career at Shell plc, where he held a series of positions from 1991 until joining Talos.

During his tenure at Shell, Goodfellow held various senior executive roles, including leading Shell's global deepwater business, which included the U.S. Gulf of America, Offshore Mexico, Brazil, West Africa, Malaysia, the North Sea and other international areas. Additionally, he held positions overseeing Shell's global drilling, completion and well intervention organization and served as a key member of the Projects & Technology and Upstream leadership teams.

Before Talos, Goodfellow most recently served as Shell's executive vice president and group chief internal auditor from August 2023 until February 2025, and executive vice president, Deep Water, Shell Upstream from April 2019 to August 2023. He also served as the chairman of the board of Shell Midstream Partners GP LP ("Shell Midstream GP") (formerly NYSE: SHLX) from October 2019 to August 2023 and was a director beginning in October 2014.

Goodfellow received a Bachelor of Science in Mining and Mineral Engineering and a Doctor of Philosophy in Rock Mechanics, each from the Camborne School of Mines in the United Kingdom. Goodfellow has been a Chartered Engineer since 1990, a member of the UK Institute of Mining and Metallurgy since 1991 and a member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers since 2000.

Reserve your seat today for the upcoming October luncheon to hear insights firsthand from an industry leader and connect with industry peers: <https://tinyurl.com/zywb94t>.



Paul Goodfellow

Texas House Natural Resources Committee to cover water supply, TCEQ oversight at next hearing

Members of the Texas House Committee on Natural Resources are scheduled to come together on Tuesday, October 6th for a [hearing](#) covering several interim charges. The hearing will take place in El Paso, at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research Center.

At the October hearing, lawmakers will conduct agency oversight of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), which is under the committee's jurisdiction. Lawmakers will also consider innovative water supply strategies, looking at the feasibility of the various project types eligible under the New Water Supply for Texas Fund. Members will hear invited testimony from experts on project impediments and strategies to increase their implementation and contribution to the state's overall water supply.

The interim hearing will also give legislators an opportunity to review the longstanding and legally binding [Rio Grande Compact](#), which ensures Texas receives its equitable share of quality water from the Rio Grande and its tributaries. The committee will use its next hearing to determine if the Compact Decree fairly provides for Texas to receive from New Mexico its equitable apportionment of water. Members will also identify any additional areas of dispute arising from the Rio Grande Compact left unresolved by the Compact Decree.

Senate Business and Commerce Committee holding interim hearing on transmission planning

As power infrastructure expansion remains a central focus across Texas, state lawmakers are preparing to continue critical discussions on modernizing the electrical transmission grid. The Texas Senate Business and Commerce Committee, chaired by Senator Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown), will [convene a public hearing](#) next Wednesday, September 30, 2026, to evaluate proposals aimed at improving transmission planning, construction, and ratemaking processes to protect Texas consumers from escalating electricity costs.

During the upcoming hearing, committee members are also expected to evaluate strategies to maximize existing transmission assets and alleviate grid congestion through the integration of residential distributed energy resources, energy storage systems, and advanced grid technologies. Lawmakers also will review proposed modifications to ERCOT's interconnection process to establish stronger regulatory guardrails, enhance operational transparency and market accountability, and encourage sustained capital investment across the state's energy infrastructure.

Throughout the legislative interim period, which remains ongoing, the committee has conducted comprehensive reviews of the broader Texas electricity market, with specific oversight regarding the deployment of 765-kilovolt transmission lines under the [Permian Basin Reliability Plan](#). Senator Schwertner has stated that during the upcoming 90th Legislative Session lawmakers should work on reforming the state's transmission approval process to increase public notification standards, broaden opportunities for community participation and ensure ratepayer interests remain protected.

State leaders join panel reviewing how to protect the oil and gas industry from theft

As Texas lawmakers continue their work on putting a stop to oilfield theft, top energy leaders from the state legislature participated in a recent oilfield theft panel during the Texas Border Prosecution Unit's Oilfield Theft and Organized Crime Summit. Speaking on the panel were House Energy Resources Chairman Drew Darby, Senate Natural Resources Chairman Kevin Sparks and Senator Pete Flores, who moderated the discussion.

"Oilfield theft is organized crime, and it costs Texas producers millions. I'll keep fighting to give law enforcement the tools to shut this down," commented Senator Flores.

Chairman Darby said the panel had a productive discussion on how to close the gaps criminals exploit to get away with oilfield theft and protect the industry that drives the state's economy. He also vowed to keep working to give law enforcement and prosecutors the tools and resources needed to shut down oilfield theft and hold thieves accountable.

RRC commissioner urges oil and gas operators to report petroleum product and property theft

Oilfield theft has taken an astounding \$4.3 billion economic hit on Texas, state leaders were told this week during the September 21st Texas Senate Natural Resources Committee hearing. Appointed representatives serving on the [State Task Force on Petroleum Theft \(STOPTheft\)](#) testified before the committee on oilfield theft-related economic losses, describing to state legislators the toll of petroleum product theft to Texas oil and gas companies and the state's economy.

Following Monday's hearing, Texas Railroad Commissioner and oil and gas regulator Wayne Christian put out a call to state producers, asking for more reporting on stolen oil, equipment and critical assets, so that state officials have better data to understand and combat the ballooning economic impact of oilfield theft happening in Texas. In particular, the commissioner noted the need for smaller oil and gas operators, who face even greater difficulty absorbing the financial burden from oilfield theft, to report their losses that are being caused by oilfield theft.

"It has become clear that increased reporting of oil theft by industry is essential to identifying trends and quickly gathering available evidence," Commissioner Christian explained. "While industry participation is critical, we must also continue to work to restore confidence that when an oil theft is reported, justice will be served."

"We must remain vigilant and continue working together to protect the strength of our oil and gas industry while keeping energy affordable for every Texan," added the commissioner. "We are not just talking about stolen oil. Criminals are stealing equipment, vehicles, materials and other property that our producers need to keep operating. The combined cost of these losses continues to put significant pressure on smaller operators, who are less able to absorb these costs."

Commissioner Christian also commended Senator Kevin Sparks, chairman of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, for authoring Senate Bill 494 during the 89th Legislative Session. His legislation created the STOPTheft task force to evaluate petroleum product theft and develop preventative strategies in coordination with energy producers and local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. A formal report from the STOPTheft task force, where TIPRO President Ed Longanecker serves as an appointed member, will be submitted to the Texas Legislature by December 1, 2026.

"I want to again thank Chairman Sparks for his leadership in authoring SB 494 to ramp up Texas' fight against petroleum product and property theft," Christian said. "He accurately identified that when you bring the right people to the table, you get results. We still have work to do, but the impact of this legislation is already measurable."

RRC chair testifies on her legislative agenda for the agency... continued from Page 1

At last week's House Energy Resources interim hearing, Railroad Commission Chairwoman Craddick also updated legislators on the commission's work related to Senate Bill 494 on oilfield theft, saying the state is making "real progress" on the issue in part thanks to the legislature giving the commission the ability to put a task force together, STOPTheft, which brings together local, state and federal law enforcement in the room with industry representatives to study the problem and provide solutions for prevention, investigation and enforcement.

"The task force is still carrying out its work," said Chairwoman Craddick. The group already has held three meetings, said Chairwoman Craddick, with a fourth meeting to come. "You will see a report by December which will be important for additional legislation," added Chairwoman Craddick, hinting that the task force will request additional personnel to work on implementing the task force's recommendations tied to oilfield theft.

With record-setting oil and gas production, Chairwoman Craddick also explained the need to continue ensuring adequate and consistent funding for the state's oil and gas regulatory body. "Every additional well, any pipeline, an inspection, permit application, complaint and enforcement action ultimately requires commission oversight so our priorities remain focused on the commission's core statutory mission," she said. "The commission really depends on experienced inspectors, engineers, geologists, specialists and other technical staff. We're asking for additional funding [from the legislature] to allow staff to manage enforcement activities in the field as well as allow us to confront challenges in oil and gas. Recruiting and retaining those professionals is essential to carry out our mission," she emphasized to lawmakers.

Chairwoman Craddick also noted the commission's continued modernization of its technology infrastructure and system improvements to permitting, inspections, data accessibility, cybersecurity and customer service.

The chairwoman also told the House Energy Resources Committee in her recent testimony that in the upcoming legislature cycle, the Railroad Commission will seek an additional \$100 million to fund ongoing work on well plugging efforts. "Last session, the legislature gave us \$100 million to produce results and today we've plugged over 2000 wells with those dollars," reported Chairwoman Craddick. "This fiscal year, we have more than 50 rigs running in the state that we've contracted to plug wells, double what we've ever had before. Today we have 12,000 orphaned and abandoned wells on the books - two years ago, that was 8,000. Yes the number has gone up even though we've continued to plug. This is an ongoing issue, so we're again asking for another \$100 million to continue well plugging for the next cycle."

Railroad Commission schedules October 13th public listening session

The Railroad Commission of Texas' Office of Public Engagement will host its next Listening Session on Tuesday, October 13, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The sessions, now held monthly by the Railroad Commission, provide an opportunity for the public to share their perspectives on the agency's regulatory oversight and ask commission staff questions.

In-person sessions will take place at the William B. Travis building in Austin, while virtual sessions may be accessed via phone or Teams. Registration is required for participation and commenting.

TIPRO members can sign up for next month's Listening Session by [clicking here](#). Learn more about the Listening Sessions on the Railroad Commission's website by visiting www.rrc.texas.gov/public-engagement/listening-sessions/.

House Energy Resources chairman vows review of the Railroad Commission next session

After being told to testify on his recently proposed [Public Engagement and Participation Policy](#) for the Texas Railroad Commission, which was adopted by the commission at its August 18th Open Meeting, Railroad Commissioner Wayne Christian said in a [letter](#) addressed to House Energy Resources Committee Chairman Drew Darby (R-San Angelo) he would not appear before the committee at its September 15th public hearing, which had been scheduled to discuss oversight of the Railroad Commission as well as cover the agency's recent decision to change its public comment policy during commission meetings.

Commissioner Christian cited scheduling conflicts, including the commission's September 15th Open Meeting and the agency's public listening session also scheduled the same day for not being available to appear before the committee. "My first responsibility today is to perform the official duties Texans elected me to carry out at the Railroad Commission," he stated.

The commissioner also pointed to what he called "political conflicts," with a sitting committee member, Rep. Jon Rosenthal, actively running to join the Railroad Commission in this year's election cycle. "The committee risks transforming a taxpayer-funded legislative hearing into a political platform that unfairly impacts an election over a dispute involving a procedural policy implemented by three democratically elected statewide officials," Commissioner Christian added in his letter. "The bottom line is that public participation at the Railroad Commission remains alive and well, and is now more accessible to Texans across the state," he said. Read his full letter submitted to Chairman Darby [here](#). In his absence, the commissioner submitted written testimony over the agency's updated public engagement policy, which can be viewed [here](#).

"I do not recall my request for the commissioner's presence as being optional," Chairman Darby responded at the start of the committee meeting. "It is beyond clear that Commissioner Christian has willfully chosen to defy this committee. A sitting commissioner absconding from his agency's oversight hearing is nothing more than a mockery of the Texas Legislature and the legislative process." He said the Texas Legislature created the Railroad Commission and writes the laws it enforces. "We could abolish the Railroad Commission with a simple majority vote in the legislature if we so choose. The legislature giveth and it taketh. That is not a threat. It is a fact." He said the legislature will review the commission's policies next session, including its new public engagement policy. Chairman Darby also said the committee will schedule another hearing with Commissioner Christian as the sole witness, and that if he continues to abscond, the committee shall take action to compel his attendance. Chairman Darby told Commissioner Christian to keep his calendar clear, explaining that if Commissioner Christian refuses again to appear before the committee, the committee would issue a subpoena.



East Texas State Rep. VanDeaver resigns from House District 1 seat

Texas Representative Gary VanDeaver announced this week he is stepping down as the representative for House District 1, effective at the close of business Monday, Sept. 21. He had previously decided not to seek reelection, and the House District 1 race will be determined by voters in November.

"My reasons for leaving the legislature before my term expires in January are two-fold," VanDeaver said in a statement. "First, the constituents of HD1 remain the priority and this decision will provide the opportunity for my successor to be better positioned to serve the great people of HD1 in the upcoming 90th legislative session. Secondly, this decision will allow me to better prepare for life after the legislature as I continue to search for ways to make Texas a better place."

On Tuesday, September 22, VanDeaver was announced as the next executive director of the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB), where he will officially begin his role on October 1.

Texas exploring options to expand state's energy portfolio, including natural gas projects

The state's General Land Office (GLO) in mid-September announced a new initiative seeking to unlock Texas' energy frontier and provide more opportunities for energy development on state land, including development of geothermal energy, small modular nuclear reactors (SMRs) and natural gas plants. "Texas built its economy by putting our natural resources to work, and we cannot afford to stop innovation now," said Texas Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D. "Our state needs dependable energy to power homes, businesses, manufacturing, and the next generation of American industries. We have an opportunity to look beyond traditional energy sources and develop the resources and technologies that can keep Texas powered for decades to come."

"Geothermal, advanced nuclear technology and natural gas plants represent very different approaches to the same challenge: producing dependable power right here at home. The GLO is going to explore every responsible opportunity to make Texas energy stronger, more reliable, and more secure," she added.

The Land Office is opening the Request for Information (RFI) process to qualified companies, developers, technology providers, energy producers and other interested parties regarding potential opportunities to develop these next-generation energy resources using Texas state lands.

TIPRO members can learn more [here](#), including how to provide input to the GLO in response to its new RFI.

ExxonMobil's carbon storage project receives approval from the Texas Railroad Commission

ExxonMobil's permit for its Rose carbon capture and storage project in Southeast Texas was approved by Texas regulators last week, allowing the company to proceed with its plan to permanently store about 53 million metric tons of carbon dioxide in Jefferson County near the Texas Gulf Coast. The [Rose Project](#) as it is known was formally approved by the Texas Railroad Commission at the commission's September 15th Open Meeting, with Commissioners Christi Craddick and Jim Wright voting in favor and Commissioner Wayne Christian voting against ExxonMobil's Rose Carbon Capture and Storage permit.

TIPRO members can learn more about the Rose Carbon Capture and Storage project [here](#).

Governor directs TCEQ to stop data center permitting approvals

A new directive issued by Texas Governor Greg Abbott on Monday, September 21st orders state regulators at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to halt issuing all permits sought by data centers until comprehensive audits can be completed by other state agencies investigating water and electricity usage from data center projects.

Governor Abbott previously directed the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) and ERCOT to audit all data centers undergoing ERCOT's interconnection process so their development does not compromise the reliability of the Texas electric grid and does not put Texans' natural resources at risk. On September 14, the governor told the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to compel data centers to comply with the state's water-use reporting requirements, impose legal consequences for past and future failure to comply with state law and partner with ERCOT on the audit to obtain additional water-use information. The PUCT, ERCOT, and TWDB will determine the impact of data centers on grid reliability and security and on the water resources needed by Texas communities.

"Because the information sought by the PUC, ERCOT, and TWDB is necessary to make informed decisions by each of those agencies, no other state agency shall move forward with regulatory approvals related to data centers until this information is acquired. Therefore, I direct the TCEQ to pause the issuance of all permits related to data center projects until ERCOT completes its review," said Governor Abbott.

As ERCOT and TWDB conduct their audits, TCEQ must align its permitting decisions with the Governor's directives and use the information from those audits. TCEQ shall provide an update to the Office of the Governor on its compliance with this directive by Monday, October 19, 2026.

Next session, Governor Abbott has said he intends to work with the state legislature to eliminate any financial incentives for data centers.

Read more [here](#).

Reminder: TCEQ's Marginal Conventional Well Plugging Program is open for applications

Texas operators who may be interested in voluntarily plugging marginal conventional wells can now apply for state-funded grants offered by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) Texas Voluntary Marginal Conventional Well Plugging Program (TxMCW). As previously [reported by TIPRO](#), the TxMCW [started accepting applications](#) earlier this month, with more than \$100 million in funding being offered through the program.

Applications for the TxMCW will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. CST on November 9, 2026. Wells will be selected for participation on a competitive basis.

TIPRO members may otherwise learn more about TxMCW well eligibility guidelines, submission requirements and application instructions on the [TxMCW webpage](#).



Latest TIPRO jobs report shows in upstream employment growth in Texas

Citing the latest Current Employment Statistics (CES) report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO) recently highlighted new employment figures for the Texas oil and natural gas industry. According to TIPRO, employment in the Texas upstream sector increased by 400 jobs between July and August 2026, reflecting a decline of 100 jobs in oil and natural gas extraction (62,600) and an increase of 500 service sector jobs (133,300), subject to revisions.

Texas upstream employment ended August higher than where it started the year after two consecutive monthly declines, explained TIPRO. Employment rose from 192,400 jobs in January to a peak of 197,300 in May, said TIPRO, then declined in June and July to a revised 195,500 before increasing to 195,900 in August. That August total is 1,400 jobs, or 0.7 percent, below the May peak. Measured against the January starting point, upstream employment is up 3,500 jobs, or 1.8 percent, for the year. That net gain reflects a much larger increase of 5,800 jobs from a February low of 191,500 to the May peak of 197,300, following an early-year decline of 900 jobs in February. The June and July losses of 300 and 1,500 jobs, respectively, subsequently gave back a portion of that spring gain. August's 400-job increase restored part of the July decline and ended the first back-to-back monthly losses of the year. July figures, initially reported as a 1,200-job decrease to 195,800, have since been revised and now reflect a 1,500-job decline from June to 195,500. Month-to-month fluctuation of this kind is common in upstream employment data over the course of a year and this period has been no exception, with declines in three of the seven monthly changes recorded so far, including the 900-job drop in February and the 1,500-job drop in July, the steepest monthly decline of the year.

TIPRO's workforce analysis continues to indicate strong job postings for the Texas oil and natural gas industry. According to the association, there were 11,641 unique industry job postings in Texas during the month of August, and 4,837 new job postings added during the month. In comparison, the state of Pennsylvania had 3,326 unique job postings in August, followed by California (3,232), Ohio (2,775) and New York (2,350). TIPRO reported a total of 68,377 unique job postings nationwide during the month of August within the oil and natural gas industry, including 25,470 new postings.

Among the 19 specific industry sectors TIPRO uses to define the Texas oil and natural gas industry, Support Activities for Oil and Gas Operations led in the ranking for unique job listings in August with 2,648 postings, followed by Gasoline Stations with Convenience Stores (1,989), Petroleum Refineries (960), and Pipeline Transportation of Natural Gas (764).

"August's 400-job increase after two months of decline shows that Texas oil and natural gas producers continue to hire even as costs rise and markets remain unsettled. Job postings remain strong, production is headed for another record year, and Texas output is the principal safeguard against global supply disruptions," said TIPRO President Ed Longanecker.

"The industry still needs additional infrastructure to move production to market, more dispatchable power and transmission in the producing regions, and permitting reform that matches the scale and capital intensity of these operations," advised TIPRO's president. "TIPRO will keep working to secure those conditions so Texas can continue adding jobs, generating tax revenue for the state, and supplying the energy the country and our allies require."

Trump EPA finalizes repeal of greenhouse gas emission rules for fossil fuel-fired power plants

In what officials call the “largest power sector deregulatory action in U.S. history,” the Trump Administration last week announced the repeal of federal rules limiting greenhouse gas emissions from U.S. power plants. The final rulemaking was made public on September 14th by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and pulls back federal regulations promulgated by the Obama and Biden Administrations in a move projected to save over \$300 billion in industry costs.

“For over 15 years, the Obama and Biden Administrations implemented a war on coal to destroy reliable and affordable energy. The Trump Administration has come in to protect American energy and to make sure you can afford to keep the lights on,” reflected EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin. “We are working to go even further so that American energy can be fully unleashed. Realizing the full potential of American energy means more jobs, lower prices, and a more prosperous America,” he added.

“The Trump Administration is saving Americans hundreds of millions of dollars through common sense energy solutions that put an end to the Biden administration's disastrous Green New Scam policies enacted at the cost of our nation's energy security and future,” said Chairman of the National Energy Dominance Council and Interior Secretary Doug Burgum. “This necessary reversal restores efficiency to our energy sector and allows our vital resources to be used for the benefit of the American people. Under President Trump, this administration will continue reversing course on out-of-touch Obama and Biden-era policies by unleashing American energy and securing our nation's energy independence for generations to come.”

“During periods of peak electricity demand, coal and natural gas continue to play a critical role in keeping the lights on,” U.S. Energy Secretary Chris Wright also commented. “Today's announcement will help ensure reliable electricity generation regardless of whether the wind is blowing or the sun is shining by allowing coal and natural gas plants to keep generating power when Americans need it most. Unlike past administrations that prioritized the interests of climate alarmists, President Trump promised to put the American people first and he is delivering.”

TIPRO members can find more information on the EPA's regulatory action [here](#).

Legal challenges against the EPA's rule change already have been filed by environmental and public health advocacy groups. Last Thursday, a [petition](#) was submitted requesting that the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit review if the EPA's action conflicts with the Clean Air Act.

Nat G CNG Solutions heavy duty advanced Diesel Dual-Fuel systems cut fuel costs and lowers carbon intensity in oilpatch operations

Nat G CNG Solutions (Nat G), a NatPro company, a leader in alternative fuel solutions, has expanded its off-road Diesel Dual-Fuel (DDF) systems engineered specifically for harsh oilpatch environments to include MTU 12 and 16 valve powered equipment. The systems enable heavy-duty diesel engines—including hydraulic fracturing spreads, drilling rigs, and heavy haul fleets—to run on a blend of field gas, CNG/RNG/LNG, or local natural gas without sacrificing engine performance or torque. The company previously offered systems for Caterpillar and Cummins diesel powered equipment and Class 8 on road CNG DDF conversions.

Current diesel fuel pricing is averaging over \$6.00 a gallon, drastically increasing operating costs. As exploration and production (E&P) operators face mounting pressure to reduce emissions and lower operating costs, Nat G's solutions deliver up to **70 percent substitution** of high-cost diesel with cleaner-burning natural gas. The dynamic gas blending system allows operators to not only use CNG/LNG and RNG but also tap directly into properly conditioned wellhead gas or flare streams, turning waste gas into operational fuel.



RIDE WITH US.

Key Oilfield Benefits Include:

- **Dynamic Diesel Displacement:** Achieves up to 70% natural gas substitution under heavy engine loads, delivering immediate fuel cost savings. Displacement under lighter duty cycles with high idle times may vary but still achieve 40-50% displacement.
- **ESG & Emissions Compliance:** Substantially lowers greenhouse gas (GHG) footprint, NO, and particulate matter (PM) emissions to help operators meet corporate and regional emissions targets. Use of RNG offers carbon negative impact.
- **Wellhead & Flare Gas Utilization:** Capable of running on raw field gas depending on specific chemistry, directly reduces flaring while substituting expensive delivered diesel.
- **Zero Downtime / Dynamic Fallback:** Features automatic, seamless fallback to 100% diesel fuel if natural gas supply is interrupted, ensuring uncompromised field reliability.
- **Extreme-Environment Durability:** Built with industrial-grade components designed to withstand vibration, dust, and extreme temperature swings common in basin operations.

"In today's oil patch, producers can't afford to compromise on engine reliability or power density just to meet ESG goals," said Dennis Foose, CEO of Nat G. "Our dual-fuel technology gives pressure pumping and drilling teams the exact performance they demand while drastically reducing diesel consumption and flare volumes directly at the wellpad."

Nat G is currently accepting field trial bookings and commercial orders for E&P operators, service companies, and drilling contractors looking to decarbonize their field operations across all North American oil producing territories including Permian Basin / Montney / Eagle Ford, Bakken and North Slope Alaska].

Nat G CNG Solutions LLC is a NatPro LLC Company and is Texas leading provider of alternative fuels systems and service serving public and private fleet operators of all sizes. Our CNG/RNG/LNG and Propane Conversion and Service Center is fully licensed by the Texas Railroad Commission and is a Ford Factory Qualified Vehicle Modifier with CNG/RNG/LNG and Propane certified technicians, CSA qualified cylinder inspectors, and the expertise you need to make the transition to clean, cost-effective natural gas for your fleet. Learn more at www.nat-g.com.

2027 NAPE SUMMIT

FEB. 3-5 | HOUSTON, TX

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION: SAVE UP TO \$200 BY OCT. 2

NAPE Summit is where independent producers and royalty owners make a year's worth of deals in under 3 days. We bring E&Ps, Royalty Owners, and Capital Market Companies together all in one place make deals happen with property, purposeful networking and real market insights.

Join 8,000+ energy professionals to experience what NAPE has to offer.

Don't forget to check out the Mineral & NonOp and Prospect Hubs!

LEARN MORE & REGISTER



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
