



Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association

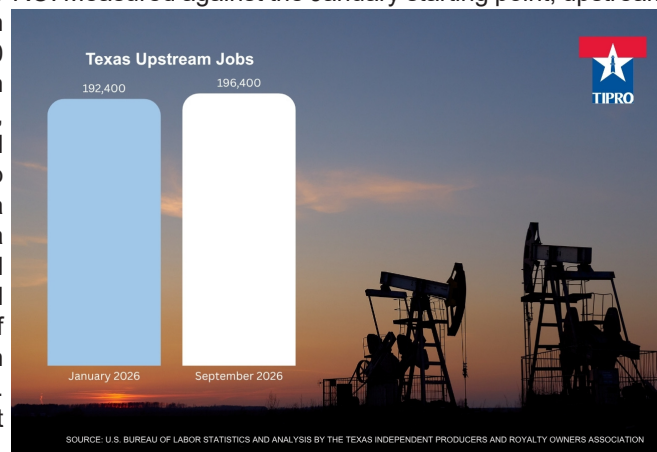
New TIPRO analysis shows Texas upstream employment softened in September

New analysis from the Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO) shows Texas upstream oil and gas employment dropped last month, though still remains up 4,000 jobs from workforce levels that were counted at the start of the year. Citing the latest Current Employment Statistics (CES) report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), TIPRO said employment in the Texas upstream sector decreased by 500 jobs between August and September 2026, reflecting a decline of 100 jobs in oil and natural gas extraction (62,600) and a decline of 400 service sector jobs (133,800), subject to revisions.

Upstream employment rose from 192,400 jobs in January to a peak of 197,300 in May, TIPRO explained, then declined in June and July to 195,500 before increasing to a revised 196,900 in August and then again slipping to 196,400 in September. That September total is 900 jobs, or 0.5 percent, below the May peak, noted TIPRO. Measured against the January starting point, upstream employment is up 4,000 jobs, or 2.1 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 revised 1,400-job increase restored part of the July decline. September's 500-job decline partially offset the August gain. 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, added TIPRO, and this period has been no exception, with declines in four of the eight 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.

"September's modest 500-job decline leaves Texas upstream employment well above its January level and job postings for the industry remain strong. Texas production continues to set the pace for U.S. output and serves as the primary buffer against global supply disruptions," commented TIPRO President Ed Longanecker.

"Producers are operating with greater efficiency even as costs remain elevated. Sustaining this performance requires reliable energy infrastructure and a regulatory framework that allows capital to move at the pace of the resource. TIPRO will keep pressing for those conditions so the industry can maintain its workforce, support state revenues and deliver the energy security the nation requires," concluded Longanecker.



Hear from industry legend Scott Sheffield at next month's joint TIPRO luncheon in Houston!

TIPRO members are invited to the final joint TIPRO-IPAA-Houston Producers Forum luncheon of the year, featuring legendary energy executive Scott Sheffield. Over a distinguished career spanning five decades, Sheffield served as founder, president and CEO of Pioneer Natural Resources, the second-largest crude oil producer in Texas, and played a monumental role in unleashing the American shale revolution. At TIPRO's 80th Annual Convention in Houston earlier this year, the association was proud to present Sheffield with its inaugural 'Energy Icon' award for his outstanding industry leadership and essential role building a promising future for development in the Permian Basin, the crown jewel of American energy. Sheffield has also earned numerous other accolades throughout his career for his contributions to the energy industry and the Permian Basin community.

Joining Sheffield on stage at the upcoming joint luncheon will be moderator Jim Rogers of Petrie Partners, a trusted colleague and seasoned investment banker who managed the high-profile merger of Pioneer Natural Resources into ExxonMobil.

Together, Sheffield and Rogers will deliver an engaging, candid conversation exploring the evolution of upstream oil and gas development, capital markets and strategic M&A across the energy sector. Attendees will also have the unique opportunity to participate in an exclusive VIP meet-and-greet and book signing with Sheffield, who has just published his new memoir, titled *"From Tehran to the Permian: Leading the Shale Revolution and My Fight for Energy Independence."*

The luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, November 17th at the Petroleum Club in Houston, Texas. Be sure to get your ticket early, as the event will sell out! Register by [clicking here](#).



A message from TIPRO's Chairman

Dear TIPRO Members,

Early voting is underway across Texas, and Election Day is less than two weeks away on Tuesday, November 3. I encourage every TIPRO member, along with their employees, families and colleagues, to vote.

All 150 seats in the Texas House and 16 of the 31 seats in the Texas Senate are up for election, along with all 38 Texas congressional seats and a U.S. Senate seat. Statewide races include Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, Land Commissioner, Agriculture Commissioner and a seat on the Railroad Commission.

Bill filing for the 90th Texas Legislature opens November 9, six days after the election, and the session convenes January 12, 2027. The members elected this fall will take up the matters TIPRO has worked on throughout the interim, including produced water management, grid reliability, transmission in the Permian Basin, inactive well plugging, oilfield theft and the broader framework governing oil and natural gas development. Much of what we are discussing with agency staff and legislators today will be carried forward by the legislature that takes office in January.

The Texas Legislature meets for only 140 days every two years, and incumbents with a record of supporting responsible energy development have already addressed many of these issues in prior sessions. Keeping those members in office preserves that experience and institutional knowledge next session. Where seats are open or contested, I encourage TIPRO members to apply the same standard, looking closely at a candidate's record, public statements and understanding of how this industry operates.

At the federal level, TIPRO is working to see comprehensive permitting reform enacted during this Congress. Senate committee leaders from both parties introduced a permitting package on September 30. Senate negotiators have indicated that floor action will likely come after the election. The Congress seated in January will also shape the tax treatment of domestic production and oversight of agencies such as the EPA and the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the same standard applies to congressional and U.S. Senate candidates.

Severance taxes on Texas oil and natural gas production flow to the state's Rainy Day Fund and the State Highway Fund, and royalties from minerals the state owns support public schools through the Permanent School Fund. The industry also sustains jobs and local economies from the Permian Basin to the Eagle Ford and East Texas, and Texas once again led the nation in both oil and natural gas production in 2025. Energy produced here strengthens national security and supports reliable fuel and power for families and businesses across the country. It's critically important that our members help to maintain our pro-business environment and advance our priorities that will support the continued buildout of energy infrastructure and domestic production.

Legislative and local races can be decided by a small number of votes, and those who work in this industry, own minerals, lease land or supply services are directly affected by the results. Early voting continues through Friday, October 30, and polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Election Day. VoteTexas.gov, the Secretary of State's official site, provides polling locations, voter ID requirements, and ballot information. Campaign finance reports are searchable through the [Texas Ethics Commission](#) and [Texas Legislature Online](#), which shows how legislators have voted on bills. If you have any questions, I encourage you to contact TIPRO via email at info@tipro.org.

TIPRO will be engaged with the newly elected legislature from the first day of session, and our 81st Annual Convention, happening February 22- 24, 2027, at the Otis Hotel in Austin, is timed to coincide with the legislative session. I hope you will attend this important conference hosted by TIPRO.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Janiszewski

Chairman, TIPRO Board of Directors



Thomas Janiszewski

Reminder: Texas Voluntary Marginal Conventional Well Plugging Program deadline is Nov. 9th

Don't forget the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is still accepting grant applications under the Texas Voluntary Marginal Conventional Well Plugging (TxMCW) Program. This initiative offers financial assistance to owners and operators of marginal conventional wells in Texas who are interested in voluntarily, permanently plugging and abandoning eligible oil or natural gas wells located on non-federal lands. To qualify, wells must have a known operator, be accessible via existing roads, and either remain idle or produce an average of 15 barrels of oil equivalent per day or 90 thousand cubic feet of gas (Mcf) per day or less over a calendar year.

Applicants must submit an individual application to TCEQ for each well through the agency's secure online portal before the upcoming deadline at five p.m. Central Time on November 9, 2026. Applications will be evaluated and prioritized according to the criteria detailed in the official Request for Grant Applications.

Program guidance and application materials are available directly on the TCEQ website at <https://tinyurl.com/mry5ubxu>.

TIPRO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 17, 2026

HOUSTON — TIPRO/HPF/IPAA

"Leaders in Industry" Luncheon.

For information, email

info@houstonproducersforum.org.

JANUARY 19, 2027

HOUSTON — TIPRO/HPF/IPAA

"Leaders in Industry" Luncheon.

For information, email

info@houstonproducersforum.org.

FEBRUARY 22-24, 2027

AUSTIN — TIPRO's 81st

Annual Convention.

For information, email

info@tipro.org.

Texas oil and gas regulator makes the case for broader industrial reuse of treated produced water

As the state continues to explore new strategies and solutions to meet rising water needs, Texas Railroad Commissioner Wayne Christian is pushing for greater utilization of produced water, arguing there are a multitude of beneficial avenues for the application of treated produced water, particularly with data centers. In a new statement this month, the commissioner called on state lawmakers as well as fellow regulators to work towards fast-tracking a clear and efficient regulatory pathway for the industrial reuse of treated produced water.

Highlighting findings from research conducted by the [University of Texas at Austin](#) and the [Texas Produced Water Consortium](#) at Texas Tech University, Commissioner Christian emphasized that the oil and gas sector sits on an immense volume of water that can be successfully cleaned and repurposed to meet surging industrial water needs. Advanced pilot projects from recent years demonstrate that modern treatment technologies can effectively lower salinity and contaminants, yielding water that meets strict quality parameters for non-potable uses such as data center cooling and manufacturing, he said.

"Texas desperately needs more water, and our oil and gas industry sits on an ocean of it," explained Commissioner Christian. "Texas must streamline the process to allow for the industrial reuse of treated produced water. This is a common-sense, win-win solution. We need clear, predictable rules that enable data centers and private industry to put this resource to work safely, efficiently and economically. If gaps in regulatory authority remain, let's close them this legislative session."

"Texans deserve both water and energy abundance," the commissioner continued. "It's become clear that some would rather halt Texas' vital oil and gas production than apply this proven solution to Texas' water needs, and that's unfortunate. Treated produced water reuse has faced fierce opposition from the get-go, before the technology even had a chance to prove its worth. This research shows that treated produced water is safe for industrial use. Texas just needs big brother government to get out of the way."

Comments now being accepted on Railroad Commission's SB 1150 rulemaking

As a reminder, the Railroad Commission of Texas is now accepting public comment on proposed regulatory amendments to Statewide Rules 15 and 58 that codify required changes to the inactive well plugging extension application and approval process, transfers of inactive wells and annual operator reporting on inactive wells, due to the 89th Legislature's enrollment of Senate Bill (SB) 1150. The proposed amendments codify SB 1150's creation of a new class of inactive well, the "15/25 well," which is a well that has been inactive for at least 15 years and was completed at least 25 years ago. The proposed amendments also enact the four allowable plugging extension options for 15/25 wells. TIPRO members can view the commission's full proposed rulemaking [here](#).

The deadline for public comments is Friday, November 13, 2026. Comments may be submitted online using the Railroad Commission's [online form](#) (select §§3.15 and 3.58 from the provided list). Comments may also be emailed to rulescoordinator@rrc.texas.gov.

Under statute, the Railroad Commission is required to adopt the implementing rules by December 31, 2026. Those rules, and the amended plugging requirement in Natural Resources Code section 89.023, will take effect September 1, 2027.

Gov. Abbott praises state's energy leadership and booming economy at recent forum in Odessa

Texas Governor Greg Abbott headlined the 2026 University Lands Energy Forum earlier this month in Odessa, participating in a special fireside chat moderated by Vice Chairman of the University of Texas System Board of Regents Rad Weaver. The conversation with the governor focused on Texas' unmatched leadership in energy development, especially as the top oil and natural gas producing state in the nation, and touched on innovation in the oil and gas industry. The governor also in his remarks spoke about Texas' surge in job creation and business expansion and the state's growing workforce.



"Texas is more than a production hub, we are a stabilizing force for the nation," said Governor Abbott. "Our growing, skilled workforce and innovative training programs make the Lone Star State the blueprint for economic success. The men and women of the Texas oil and gas industry are vital to our thriving economy as we build a stronger, more prosperous future for generations to come."

Texas comptroller launches new online portal to report fraud and public corruption

A new reporting tool and online web [portal](#) offered by the Texas comptroller's office will give members of the public a direct line to send in tips about fraud, corruption, tax evasion, waste and abuse involving state tax dollars. The comptroller's Law Enforcement Operations (LEO) division, which has in recent months been reorganized by new state comptroller Don Huffines, has opened a new whistleblower portal that allows tips to be submitted securely and directly to the agency's investigators. Texans can use the portal to file detailed reports, upload supporting documentation and remain anonymous if they choose. These tips will be investigated by the LEO division to protect the fiscal integrity of the state.

"The comptroller's LEO Division finds those who lie and cheat to steal taxpayer money, recovers what they took, and builds the cases that send the crooks to prison," described Comptroller Huffines. "Texans see things we cannot. If you witness or suspect fraud, tax evasion, waste, or abuse, report it. Together we strive to protect all taxpayer money and hold accountable those who steal it or refuse to pay their share."

"Fraudsters, tax cheats, and anyone misusing taxpayer money should take notice. We will aggressively pursue anyone who defrauds the state of Texas, and now every Texan can help us find them," Huffines declared.

For more information, visit the comptroller's website at <https://comptroller.texas.gov/web-forms/tax-fraud/>.

New TxDOT campaign promotes safe driving in state's energy-producing regions

New statistics released recently by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) show there were more than 77,000 traffic crashes last year in the state's five major energy regions. Failure to control speed and driver inattention were among the leading causes of these traffic accidents, said transportation officials from TxDOT. Below is a breakdown from TxDOT of crashes per energy region for 2025:

- Permian Basin: 25,126 traffic crashes resulted in 284 fatalities and 923 serious injuries.
- Eagle Ford Shale: 13,889 traffic crashes resulted in 142 fatalities and 460 serious injuries.
- Haynesville/Bossier Shale: 17,256 traffic crashes resulted in 222 fatalities and 797 serious injuries.
- Barnett Shale: 20,358 traffic crashes resulted in 201 fatalities and 1,015 serious injuries.
- Anadarko Basin: 629 traffic crashes resulted in 11 fatalities and 40 serious injuries.

To promote safe driving across the state's main energy regions, TxDOT is using its "Be Safe. Drive Smart." campaign with billboards, radio ads and other public advertisements to prompt drivers to slow down and stay alert in these areas to keep everyone safe. Throughout October, TxDOT also says it will bring an interactive traffic safety exhibit to high school football games in the Permian Basin, Eagle Ford Shale and Haynesville-Bossier Shale to remind motorists to slow down and stay focused when driving in energy regions.

TxDOT also shares these important reminders for driving safely in Texas' energy-producing areas:

- Drive a safe speed. Follow posted speed limits and adjust your driving to match road conditions. In some situations, the only safe speed may be below the posted speed limit.
- Stay alert and focus 100 percent on driving. Put your phone away: no talking or texting when behind the wheel.
- Give large trucks plenty of space. Be patient and pass trucks only when it is safe and legal to do so.
- Maintain a safe following distance. Tailgating is a common factor contributing to traffic crashes.
- Avoid trucks' blind spots. If you can't see the truck driver in the truck's side mirror, the driver can't see you or your vehicle.
- Always get a sober ride. Any amount of alcohol or other drugs is enough to impair your judgment.
- Obey all stop signs and traffic signals. They're not suggestions.
- Always buckle up. That includes drivers and passengers, day and night, every ride.

Permian Basin Petroleum Museum receives historic pumpjack from Diamondback Energy

TIPRO Explorer member Diamondback Energy this month donated a historic 1956 Lufkin C640DB-144-30 pumping unit to the Permian Basin Petroleum Museum in Midland. The 70-year-old piece of equipment, the first model of its kind produced by Lufkin Foundry and Machine Co., was originally shipped in February 1956 to TXL Corporation in Midland. Only 39 units were built between 1956 and 1958, and they were sold across Texas, New Mexico, and Venezuela. The unit operated on TXL's Midland C#1 well before Diamondback Energy acquired and retired the unit. Today, the pumpjack stands as a permanent fixture in front of the Permian Basin Petroleum Museum as a reminder of the people and innovation that shaped the Permian Basin.

The Petroleum Museum held a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony to commemorate the installation of this vintage equipment on October 12, 2026, with special remarks from Diamondback Energy executives and Petroleum Museum leadership.



Apache Corporation supports Texas communities through annual Tree Grant Program

Apache Corporation, a subsidiary of APA Corporation and member of TIPRO, through the company's annual Tree Grant Program has donated over 11,000 trees to 23 nonprofits, extending the company's environmental work and legacy. Recipients of this year's Tree Grant program represent a diverse mix of projects across Texas and Louisiana, said the company, including large-scale reforestation, wetland and habitat restoration, urban forestry, public green-space improvements and community tree planting.

Three of Apache's tree grant recipients for the 2026–2027 cycle are located in the Permian Basin and include Keep Midland Beautiful, the City of Odessa Parks and Recreation Department and the Permian Basin Habitat for Humanity. "At Permian Basin Habitat for Humanity, our mission is to change lives through affordable homeownership, and the Apache Tree Grant allows us to extend that impact beyond housing," commented Kelby Davis, development director for Permian Basin Habitat for Humanity, which will be collecting the donated trees from Apache to add to the housing communities that are being built in the region.

In the Houston area, Apache is donating trees from this year's program to the City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department, Harris County precincts, Trees For Houston, Houston Wilderness, Buffalo Bayou Partnership, Galveston Island Tree Conservancy, Hermann Park Conservancy and Trees for Kingwood.

Apache says it has also selected Native Plant Society of Texas – Kerrville Chapter to receive native trees to support conservation and community stewardship in a region that continues to recover following devastating Hill Country flooding in July 2025.

Other recipients from this year's Apache Tree Grant Program are based in Louisiana and will expand access to trees across partner communities, restoring local ecosystems and enhancing public spaces.

Since the company launched its Tree Grant Program in 2005, Apache has donated more than 5 million trees to community partners. "Trees have a lasting impact on the places where people live, work and gather, and the Apache Corporation Tree Grant Program gives us a meaningful way to invest in those communities," reflected APA CEO John J. Christmann IV.

"For more than two decades, we've worked alongside local organizations to restore habitats, strengthen public spaces and help build healthier, more resilient landscapes. We're proud to continue that tradition and support the people and organizations doing this important work," Christmann added.

EPA emphasizes agency's reforms that have saved billions in taxpayer dollars

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is giving Americans a new look at how the Trump Administration has worked aggressively since January 20, 2025, to cut costs without slowing progress towards its core mission. A new webpage launched by the EPA this month spotlights major structural reforms implemented by the Trump EPA and offers the public an update on administrative cost reductions along with operational milestones aimed at delivering core statutory duties more efficiently.

"For too long, EPA's budget grew while the agency fell behind on its core statutory work. Since President Trump was sworn back into office, we have flipped that," said EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin. "We're delivering clean air, land, and water faster than ever and returning billions to the taxpayers who fund this agency. That's what accountability looks like."

Some of the direct cost savings highlighted by the agency include:

- **Grants & contracts:** \$30 billion in canceled grants; \$825M/year in reduced contracting obligations; \$257M in contract cancellations returned to the Treasury; \$87M in contract descope.
- **People & organization:** \$750M/year from staffing efficiencies and agency reorganization.
- **Real estate:** \$30M/year from consolidation — including ~\$18M in rent savings from consolidating staff from the Ronald Reagan Building in DC, and ~\$5.5M plus ~\$560K from vacating the Chapel Hill, NC facilities.
- **Technology (OCIO):** right-sized Esri GIS licensing (\$261K/year); ended a duplicative O365 training contract (\$385K/year); deactivated unused mobile lines (\$360K/year); terminated a redundant SharePoint eDiscovery license (\$90K).
- **Everyday savings:** \$26M less travel in 2025 vs. 2024; \$3M/year in canceled software licenses; \$500K/year in canceled media subscriptions; \$600K/year from closing a rarely visited EPA museum; \$100K by moving OAR facilitation and training in-house; \$134K (7%) on a chemical-sensing system for the ASPECT emergency-response program; \$30K/year by ending a decorative plant-wall maintenance contract.

Alongside these fiscal measures, the agency has restructured its operations to place scientific expertise at its core. According to the EPA, this structural overhaul in part includes:

- Created the first-of-its-kind Office of State Air Partnerships and Office of Clean Air Programs for consistent, transparent air permitting nationwide.
- Realigned the Office of Water around the underlying science, plus cybersecurity, emergency response, and water reuse and conservation.
- Ended the previous administration's Environmental Justice and DEI offices, refocusing on EPA's core mission.
- Stood up the Office of Finance and Administration — a one-stop shop for financial and administrative operations, improving coordination and oversight.

To view the EPA's webpage, [click here](#). The EPA also has posted a video highlighting the agency's reform, reorganization, and savings, which can also be watched [here](#).

FERC unveils NEPA proposal that accelerates natural gas project reviews

On October 15, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) unveiled a landmark proposal overhauling its review of air quality effects for proposed natural gas projects under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The draft policy cuts unnecessary delays and duplicative analysis, said FERC, while delivering greater regulatory certainty and a more streamlined path forward for project applicants.

More specifically, under its proposal, FERC would no longer request air dispersion modeling from applicants for Natural Gas Act (NGA) projects or rely on this modeling in assessing operational air quality effects under NEPA. Instead, FERC proposes to use other information submitted by applicants, and identified by commission staff, to analyze the air quality effects of proposed projects. The commission will continue to thoroughly address air quality effects in its NEPA documents to disclose any adverse environmental effects, but in a more streamlined way.

TIPRO members can see more [here](#).

As the world demands more energy, U.S. regulators work on LNG blanket authorization program

In a new notice of proposed rulemaking (NPR), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) said it's moving forward with plans to speed up liquefied natural gas (LNG) infrastructure development through a landmark blanket authorization program. FERC's rule proposal would establish a three-tiered authorization framework under which certain activities could proceed automatically, with periodic reporting, while others would require advance notice to the commission. The proposed categories are as follows:

- **Automatic authorization:** Activities that would not increase an LNG plant's authorized capacity, expand the authorized vertical or horizontal extents within the plant's footprint, or cause flows, levels, volumes, pressures, temperatures, compositions, or loads to exceed applicable design limits.
- **60-day prior notice:** Activities that may increase the plant's authorized capacity but remain within the plant's footprint and do not cause operating conditions to exceed the design limits of the affected or remaining facilities.
- **90-day prior notice:** Construction of new LNG facilities—such as liquefaction trains, LNG tanks, and marine berths—and related auxiliary systems, including those located outside the plant's footprint, subject to limitations on facility type, location, and size.

"American energy dominance requires us to build and maintain the energy infrastructure our country needs without unnecessary delay. I am immensely proud of FERC's historic proposal. It shows what can be possible when we combine regulatory excellence, robust safeguards, and a firm commitment to the nation's energy future. Consumers benefit when more energy infrastructure is online, dependable, and affordable, and FERC is helping make that future a reality," FERC Chairman Laura Swett said.

Find more information on FERC's LNG NPR [here](#).

President Trump signs bill extending permitting fund in support of American energy

President Donald Trump this week signed [H.R. 7831, the License to Drill Act](#), into law, extending the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) authority to collect oil and gas drilling permit processing fees through fiscal year 2037. The legislation directs those fees to the BLM Permit Processing Improvement Fund, helping provide the necessary resources to cut permitting backlogs and keep domestic energy development moving.

"American energy producers already pay the fees that fund the processing of their drilling permits. The *License to Drill Act* keeps that industry-funded system in place, giving the BLM the resources to process applications without unnecessary delays," said U.S. Senator Mike Lee (R-UT), chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and one of the bill's sponsors. "There's much more work to do to fix our broken permitting system, but this is another important step toward unleashing American energy. I thank President Trump for signing this legislation into law, and I look forward to building on this progress."

"We know the effects of overreliance on foreign nations for our energy; it is a risk that we must mitigate. We also know that permitting delays cost jobs and drive up energy prices for everyday Americans," Congressman Mike Kennedy, another bill sponsor, commented. "America needs an all-of-the-above energy strategy, and that starts with a government that can keep up with demand. The *License to Drill Act* will streamline permitting so our critical energy projects stop waiting on Washington and start delivering the domestic production this country needs to remain independent and secure."

TIPRO members can see the bill text [here](#).

U.S. senator seeks answers on SPR drawdowns that've pushed reserves to 44-year lows

U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.), ranking member of the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, wants Energy Secretary Chris Wright to disclose information about the Trump Administration's management of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR), which this year has been depleted to under 300 million barrels of emergency inventory. The senator sent a letter to Secretary Wright on Friday, October 9th asking for detailed information on the SPR, including analysis about the operational safety and structural integrity of SPR sites.

"I am deeply concerned by reports that recent drawdowns of the SPR could damage the salt caverns that hold millions of barrels of America's emergency crude," Senator Heinrich said in his letter to the energy secretary. "As our energy demand increases, we need to ensure the SPR is properly maintained, fully operational, and can be counted on when supply is constrained," Heinrich concluded.

Read the full text of the letter to Secretary Wright [here](#).

Senator Heinrich also has announced his intention to introduce legislation in the near future that mandates long-term planning for the SPR and limits non-emergency SPR sales to avoid further operational inefficiencies, including straining aging infrastructure during ongoing capital projects.

Vice president lands in Tyler to announce Texas oil refinery expansion

U.S. Vice President JD Vance was in East Texas last Tuesday to announce the Trump Administration is invoking the Defense Production Act to expand the Delek US Holdings Inc. refinery in Tyler. The vice president said the expansion would bring hundreds of well-paying jobs to Tyler and more opportunity for Texans. The move increasing refining capacity at Delek's Tyler facility also will lower fuel prices, said Vice President Vance.

"Affordable, reliable energy is the foundation of economic prosperity. It has been a breath of fresh air to have an administration that clears the runway for oil production instead of putting up roadblocks to sabotage it. Texas has helped power this country for generations, and we stand ready to step up to the plate once again," said Texas Railroad Commissioner Wayne Christian in a statement. "American energy security depends on robust domestic oil production and refining. President Trump and Vice President Vance understand that better than anybody. That's why I applaud their decision to expand refining capacity right here in our backyard. The additional fuel produced at this facility will further bolster the local economy, support our military, and improve domestic fuel affordability."

Nominations closing soon to join BLM advisory councils

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is searching to add new advisors and experts to fill current and upcoming vacancies on 20 of its statewide and regional Resource Advisory Councils and two statutory councils. Specifically, the BLM says that it is looking for individuals from a wide range of backgrounds and interests to join its advisory committees, including:

- Energy and mineral development representatives
- Ranchers and holders of federal grazing permits
- State and local elected officials
- Academics and members of the public-at-large

"Resource Advisory Councils are a cornerstone of our mission to manage public lands for current and future generations," said BLM Director Steve Pearce. "These councils bring local voices and expertise to the table, ensuring decisions consider the needs of the American public. If you've been seeking an opportunity to have a voice in how America's public lands are managed, this is your chance."

BLM's Resource Advisory Councils are required by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and operate under the Federal Advisory Committee Act to ensure balanced representation. Resource Advisory Council members meet virtually at least once per year, providing advice on initiatives, regulations, and policies that impact millions of acres of public lands.

The nomination period to apply as a BLM advisor is open until Monday, October 26, 2026. Anyone can nominate themselves or someone else. For more information and to apply, visit www.blm.gov/get-involved/resource-advisory-council.

Save
THE
Date



TIPRO's 81st Annual Convention



February 22–24, 2027

The Otis Hotel, Austin, Texas

TIPRO's annual meeting puts a dedicated focus on the policy, regulatory and industry priorities that matter most to Texas independent producers and royalty owners. Make plans to attend the TIPRO Convention in February!



Watch for additional details on TIPRO's 81st Annual Convention to be announced in the coming weeks!

**SPECIAL THANKS TO
TIPRO'S 81ST ANNUAL CONVENTION
PLATINUM SPONSOR**



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WHERE TEXAS INDEPENDENTS MAKE DEALS

2027 NAPE SUMMIT | FEB. 3-5 | HOUSTON, TX



of exhibitors sold prospects, found new clients or created sales leads

8,200+ 3,400+

expected attendees

companies represented

450+

companies exhibit

60

speakers



of all attendees are at the decision-maker level of management

PRIORITY RATES END DEC. 11

NAPE

IPAA



AAPG



AAPL



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