



Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association

Inaugural TIPRO-LOGA seminar explores the future of the Haynesville Shale

The Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO) with the Louisiana Oil and Gas Association (LOGA) last week brought together producers, regulators, policymakers and technical experts for insightful discussions on key issues impacting energy development across the Haynesville Shale formation. At the 2026 TIPRO-LOGA Haynesville Policy & Technical Seminar, hosted September 30-October 1 in Bossier City, presenters addressed the complex regulatory, political and operational questions facing Haynesville producers today.

TIPRO thanks all of our speakers who shared their time and expertise:

- Jim Wright, commissioner, Railroad Commission of Texas
- Dustin Davidson, secretary of the Louisiana Department of Energy and Conservation
- State Rep. Brett F. Geymann, chairman of the Louisiana House Natural Resources and Environment Committee
- State Rep. Jay Dean, Texas House Energy Resources Committee member
- Dr. Mark E. Zappi, executive director of the Energy Institute of Louisiana
- Stefan A. Hussenoeder, injection and seismicity senior expert, ExxonMobil
- Ross J. Markwort, senior regulatory affairs advisor, ExxonMobil
- Dustin Claiborne, head of production, BPX Energy
- Sean Burke, director of production, Expand Energy
- Dr. Alexandros Savvaidis, principal investigator of the Texas Seismological Network at the University of Texas at Austin Bureau of Economic Geology
- Robert Crain, executive vice president, Texas Pacific Water Resources
- State Rep. Jacob Landry, chief operating officer, Enviro Resources and Louisiana state representative

"The Haynesville remains an important pillar of American energy growth and is a top basin for natural gas production in the United States. Even with deeper and more complex geology, the basin's proximity to Gulf Coast industrial hubs and LNG export infrastructure ensures the Haynesville continues to play an indispensable role in supporting rising energy demand," said TIPRO President Ed Longanecker. "TIPRO was proud to partner with LOGA for this regional event to offer a crucial venue for fostering cross-border collaboration, advancing technical innovation and promoting sustainable, resilient resource development across the Haynesville play."

As "unusually strong" El Niño weather shift develops, RRC encourages producers to prepare

A new notice issued by the Railroad Commission of Texas at the beginning of October highlights anticipated El Niño conditions this coming winter, which could bring cooler, wetter weather across Texas. This predicted change in weather pattern is something state leaders are monitoring, especially as it could bring a higher likelihood of a more impactful weather event to certain regions of Texas. In consultation with the state climatologist, the commission shared the following statement in its notice to operators:

"The upcoming winter is likely to feature an unusually strong El Niño. El Niño events are most commonly associated with cool and wet conditions across Texas. Because this event may be outside the historical envelope, past El Niño events may not be a good guide to this event. It is, however, reassuring that seasonal climate prediction models simulate average weather conditions that are similar to other past strong El Niños. Historically, the cooler and wetter conditions during an El Niño have tended to increase seasonal snowfall totals in northern and western Texas. Lubbock had its highest snowfall total since 1950 during the strongest El Niño since 1950, and three of the next five largest snowfall totals occurred during moderate to strong El Niños. Eastern, central, and southern Texas do not exhibit a strong snowfall relationship to El Niño. Freezing rain throughout the state also exhibits little or no relationship to El Niño. Over the longer term, the warming trend in place over the past several decades is expected to continue, while precipitation will continue to be dominated by strong year-to-year variability due to El Niño and other factors." - John Nielsen-Gammon, Texas State Climatologist

Ahead of the strong-to-historic El Niño pattern, the commission encourages oil and gas and pipeline operators to prepare for potential extreme weather events that could unfold in the upcoming fall and winter seasons. The commission offers a guidance document on weatherization practices that can be reviewed [here](#).

Otherwise, in the event of extreme weather, the commission is reminding operators of its 24-hour, toll-free emergency line that can be reached at 844-773-0305 to report emergencies, including leaks or spills and damage to gas pipelines.

TIPRO members may view the commission's full notice [here](#).

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A message from TIPRO's President

TIPRO members,

As you are aware, Senate Bill 1150 changes how Texas treats wells that have been inactive for more than 15 years and were completed more than 25 years ago. Operators of those wells must plug them or qualify for an extension, and compliance plans must address the full inventory by September 1, 2042. More than 3,000 Texas operators are affected and the program seeks to plug more than 118,000 wells by that deadline. On October 6, the Texas Railroad Commission approved [proposed amendments to Rules 15 and 58](#) to implement the law.

While Texas operators technically pay for the plugging of all wells, either directly or indirectly, orphan wells are a growing liability for the state, and TIPRO supports the Railroad Commission's effort to reduce them. TIPRO's main role with respect to this new program is to represent the prudent operators who will carry the cost of compliance and to make sure the rules are workable, consistent with the statute and do not penalize operators who are managing their wells responsibly.



Ed Longanecker

TIPRO's staff and Inactive Well Task Force have led this work and our engaged members have helped to shape our positions. TIPRO submitted preliminary recommendations, followed by multiple rounds of informal comments, and we have met with commission staff frequently throughout this process. TIPRO requests were tied to the statute and included proposed rule language.

Numerous provisions in the draft rulemaking reflect TIPRO recommendations.

- **Non-operator identification:** Operators must use good faith and reasonable effort. An operator that has reviewed commission filings, county tax rolls and other reliable sources has met the standard even if it cannot locate every non-operator.
- **Financial hardship:** Applicants submit sworn financial statements certified by a CPA, the standard the statute uses.
- **Compliance plans:** A plan specifies how many wells will be plugged or restored each year, not which wells. Operators must plug or restore at least the number needed to reach compliance by 2042, and the proposal contains no size-based annual percentage requirements.
- **Denial reasons:** Denial for deviating from a prior year's compliance plan applies only when the operator deviated in bad faith.
- **Testing:** A hydraulic pressure test is valid for five years, with results reported annually as the statute requires.

Several outstanding items still need to be addressed and TIPRO will continue to advocate for them.

The commission will accept written comments on its proposed amendments until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 13, 2026. Comments can be submitted through the [commission's online comment form](#), by email to rulescoordinator@rrc.texas.gov, or by mail to the Rules Coordinator, Office of General Counsel, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711-2967. The commission posts all comments on its website. After the deadline, staff will review the comments and may revise the proposal. The Railroad commissioners will then vote on adoption.

TIPRO will file formal comments and share them with task force members first for review. If you operate inactive wells that meet the criteria, engage with TIPRO's Inactive Well Task Force, read the draft rulemaking and either file your own comments or endorse ours. If you have questions regarding your financial liability related to this program, we have all the data for every affected operator in Texas and can easily provide you with that information. Specific operating experience carries weight with the Railroad Commission and your voice can help guide the final rulemaking. Contact our office with any questions.

Finally, if you are not receiving [TIPRO's 'Week in Review'](#) communication, I encourage you to sign up to stay abreast of consequential policy and legal developments, TIPRO's work on behalf of our members, events and relevant news. Thank you for your continued involvement and support.

Ed Longanecker
President, TIPRO

Early voting for Texas' midterm elections begins on October 19th

Early voting for the November general election will begin soon, running from Monday October 19th through Friday, October 30. Election Day is on Tuesday, November 3. The 2026 Texas general election includes many important statewide races, which will significantly influence the state's direction on policies that matter to all Texans. Some of offices appearing on the 2026 ballot include:

- U.S. Senator for Texas
- Governor
- Lieutenant Governor
- Texas Railroad Commissioner
- Texas Commissioner of the General Land Office
- Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts
- Texas Attorney General

In the upcoming midterm elections, Texans will also vote to elect representatives for congressional and state legislative offices.

Please remember that a photo ID is required when voting in person. Information about acceptable forms of identification can be found [here](#). Go to [VoteTexas.gov](#) for additional election information and to locate your nearest polling place.

TIPRO CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
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 .	JANUARY 19, 2027 HOUSTON — TIPRO/HPF/IPAA “Leaders in Industry” Luncheon. For information, email info@houstonproducersforum.org .

Sign up for the next 'Leaders in Industry' luncheon, featuring keynote speaker Paul Goodfellow

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 next joint monthly 'Leaders in Industry' luncheon at the Houston Petroleum Club. During the event, our featured presenter Paul Goodfellow, president and CEO of Talos Energy Inc., will share his insights on the evolving dynamics of modern energy leadership.

Goodfellow has over 34 years of extensive domestic and international experience in the oil and gas industry. He was appointed chief executive officer and president of Talos Energy Inc. in March 2025. Prior to joining Talos, he built a distinguished career spanning three decades at Shell plc.

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.

Be sure to reserve your seat for the upcoming October luncheon to hear insights firsthand from an industry leader and connect with fellow oil and gas professionals: <https://tinyurl.com/zyw94t>.



Paul Goodfellow

Steven Schar named as TCEQ's new interim executive director

Steven Schar will serve as interim executive director of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), effective as of Friday, October 2, the commission announced last week. The executive director, who is hired by the commissioners, is responsible for managing the agency's day-to-day operation. Major responsibilities of the executive director include directing the operations of TCEQ's 17 statewide offices, implementing commission policies, making recommendations to the commissioners about contested permitting and enforcement matters, and approving uncontested permit applications and registrations.



Steven Schar

Schar moves into the executive director role following the departure of Kelly Keel, the previous executive director of the TCEQ, who [left](#) at the start of the month to become president and chief executive officer of the Texas Association of Business (TAB), the state's leading business advocacy organization.

Schar has been with the TCEQ for several years, and most recently served as the agency's deputy executive director since December 2023, following roles as interim deputy executive director and before that chief of staff. Before joining TCEQ, he was a policy advisor for Governor Greg Abbott and spent 12 years in the Texas House of Representatives, clerking various committees and serving as a senior advisor and committee director for former House Speaker Dennis Bonnen. Schar holds a bachelor's degree in government from the University of Texas.

With Schar's promotion to TCEQ interim executive director, the TCEQ's deputy executive director position is currently vacant.

Railroad Commission announces new government relations director

The Railroad Commission of Texas recently announced the selection of Worth Farabee as the agency's new government relations director. Joining the state's primary oil and gas regulatory body just months ahead of the 90th Regular Legislative Session, Farabee will be the commission's primary liaison to state leadership and members of the Texas Legislature on policy matters affecting the agency, as well as constituent affairs. As the director of government relations, he will oversee legislative and policy matters impacting the commission's statutory oversight of energy resources and environmental protection across Texas.

Farabee brings nearly two decades of legislative experience, having most recently served as assistant vice chancellor for state governmental relations for the Texas Tech University System. His earlier career background includes working through eight Texas legislative sessions at the Texas capitol, with previous staff service under former Representatives Lynn Stucky, Jim Keffer, John Davis, and former House Speaker Joe Straus.

"Worth brings extensive experience and a deep understanding of the legislative process that will greatly benefit the commission," said Wei Wang, the Railroad Commission's executive director. "We are excited to welcome him to the Railroad Commission and look forward to the leadership and expertise he will bring as we continue to strengthen our team."

As TIPRO previously [reported](#) to members in *The TIPRO Target*, the Railroad Commission also has welcomed other new leaders to oversee agency operations, including [David Lindley](#) as the new director of the commission's oil and gas division. Lindley most recently was the assistant director of field operations within the oil and gas division and holds a deep understanding of the Railroad Commission's operations and programs.



Worth Farabee

State oil and gas production taxes deliver nearly \$800 million to government coffers in September

State revenue brought in from oil production taxes totaled \$507 million in September, 14 percent higher than amounts collected a year ago in September 2025, the Texas comptroller's office reports. Natural gas production taxes, meanwhile, last month generated \$290 million, up 30 percent from last September, according to the comptroller. Tax dollars paid by the oil and natural gas industry remain a vital funding source used to help pay for Texas roads, public schools, emergency responders, and other essential public services.

Texas oil and gas regulator urges greater cybersecurity preparations for energy producers

Texas oil and natural gas companies are being advised to take necessary action to strengthen their cybersecurity defenses amid recent cyberattacks involving Texas-bound energy tankers and federal warnings that foreign adversaries and other malicious cyber actors are targeting internet-facing operational technology and industrial control systems. Railroad Commissioner Wayne Christian sounded the alarm on the issue recently, putting out a call to Texas operators to do what possible to enhance their cyber resilience and protect their systems before it is too late.

"Texas is the energy capital of the world, and that makes our energy infrastructure a prime target for foreign adversaries," Commissioner Christian said. "When the cost of hesitation exceeds the cost of preparation, common sense says we act now to protect vital energy infrastructure from cyber threats. We must invest, test, monitor and strengthen our defenses now, before adversaries like China or Iran exploit a weakness and disrupt America's energy security."

Commissioner Christian in his recent warning cited cyberattacks in August involving Texas-bound energy tankers. During the reported incident, the Coast Guard and FBI boarded two foreign-flagged energy vessels bound for the United States after indications that foreign cyber actors had compromised their networks. One, the 1,093-foot VL Prosperity, was a Liberian-flagged crude oil tanker bound for Galveston and capable of carrying roughly 2.3 million barrels of oil. Federal officials have not publicly attributed the attacks to a specific country or group.

The commissioner also noted federal warnings that China-linked and Iran-affiliated cyber actors may be targeting U.S. critical infrastructure, including internet-connected operational technology and industrial control systems, highlighting the growing cybersecurity risks facing America's energy infrastructure. "We are entering a new era of cybersecurity, and we must prepare now," Commissioner Christian concluded. "America's enemies are seeking ways to weaponize AI against our critical infrastructure. We must be equally aggressive in using AI as a tool to defend it. The threats to American energy security will keep evolving, and so will we."

Earlier this year, the Railroad Commission issued a notice also warning that successful cyber attacks could result in operational disruptions and financial losses. TIPRO members can review that notice [here](#).

October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month. On October 2, President Donald Trump issued a presidential message reaffirming his administration's dedication to bolstering the nation's cybersecurity, its commitment to identifying cybersecurity vulnerabilities and staying ahead of adversaries, promise to defending the American people from emerging threats, and safeguarding the critical infrastructure vital to America's national security and global competitiveness. See the president's full statement for Cybersecurity Awareness Month [here](#).

Railroad Commission highlights new record in plugging orphaned wells across Texas

A recent update from state regulators showed progress in addressing the orphaned well count in Texas. During Fiscal Year 2026, the Railroad Commission of Texas reports it plugged more than 2,000 orphaned wells statewide, exceeding the performance measure set by the Texas Legislature by 300 wells or 18.9 percent. The commission has been ramping up its efforts to handle more of the oil and gas wells deemed as orphan wells, including applying funding appropriated last year by the state legislature to clean up and plug abandoned oil and gas wells.

"Protecting Texas land and groundwater requires decisive action. Our Fiscal Year 2026 accomplishments demonstrate the Railroad Commission's firm dedication to environmental and public safety," stated Railroad Commission Executive Director Wei Wang. "We are grateful to the Texas Legislature for its continued funding, which enables us to address high-priority orphan wells effectively. Through the responsible allocation of these resources, the Railroad Commission continues to advance efforts to eliminate hazards permanently and safeguard Texas's environment for future generations."

In 2025, the Texas Railroad Commission received \$100 million for oil and gas well plugging to be used by the agency's renowned State Managed Plugging Program (SMP) to address critical plugging projects. This represented the largest one-time infusion of funds from the Texas Legislature to support the SMP. At a recent legislative hearing in Austin, Railroad Commission Chairman Christi Craddick indicated the commission would again request an additional \$100 million from the state legislature during its 2027 Legislative Session to help continue to support the SMP and cover costs of orphan well plugging activities by the state.

To learn more about the Railroad Commission's activities related to plugging orphan wells, [click here](#).

Railroad Commission holding its next public listening session on October 13th

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 are held 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 the upcoming 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/.

Legendary Texas oil and gas executive Scott Sheffield releasing a new book

A new memoir written by Scott Sheffield, founder and former CEO of Pioneer Natural Resources, offers a firsthand account of the shale revolution from one of the executives who led it. Sheffield, who has more than 50 years' experience working in E&P, tells readers in his book the story of one of the most consequential careers in modern American energy. Sheffield's book, titled *"From Tehran to the Permian: Leading the Shale Revolution and My Fight for Energy Independence,"* will be released later this month. TIPRO members interested in the book can pre-order it [here](#).

TIPRO members will have the opportunity to hear directly from Sheffield about his new book next month at the November 17th joint "Leaders in Industry" luncheon in Houston, hosted by TIPRO, the Houston Producers Forum and Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA). To secure your seat early for the luncheon, [click here](#).

TCEQ hosting information sessions on its grant program for marginal conventional well plugging

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in the upcoming weeks will host a series of informational presentations covering everything that stakeholders need to know about participating in its Texas Voluntary Marginal Conventional Well Plugging Program (TxMCW), which is currently accepting applications. These upcoming presentations, noted below, are free to attend and open to the public:

- Friday, October 9, 2026

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. CT

Midland College

Carrasco Room

3600 N Garfield St

Midland, TX 79705

- Tuesday, October 13, 2026

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. CT

Southern Methodist University

Prothro Great Hall

5901 Bishop Blvd

Dallas, TX 75205

- Tuesday, October 20, 2026

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. CT

Southern Methodist University

Prothro Great Hall

5901 Bishop Blvd

Dallas, TX 75205



Last month, the TCEQ also hosted a virtual webinar covering the TxMCW program. TIPRO members can watch the recording from this webinar online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUKWciQq1OY> and see the provided slidedeck from the presentation [here](#).

Otherwise, TIPRO members may learn more about TxMCW well eligibility guidelines, submission requirements and application instructions on the [TxMCW webpage](#). Applications for the TxMCW program will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. CST on November 9, 2026. Wells will be selected for the TxMCW program on a competitive basis.

Texas Jobs Council meets with Governor Greg Abbott in Austin

Texas Governor Greg Abbott was joined on October 1st by members of his Texas Jobs Council for a meeting at the Governor's Mansion in Austin to continue discussions over strategies strengthening Texas' workforce. The Texas Jobs Council was first [established](#) by Governor Abbott this past March as an advisory board to develop legislative recommendations and other actionable items that can be



implemented through executive or agency authority that will boost the state's workforce and help more Texans access in-demand, high-paying jobs. The Texas Jobs Council has met for several months since its formation this spring and during the group's meeting last week, members briefed the governor on input that they've gathered from Texans across the state regarding ways to expand Texas' workforce development system.

"Texas ranks number one in the United States for the most new jobs and number one for the most economic opportunity," commented Governor Abbott. "We have to maintain that status by ensuring Texas can provide the skilled employees that our employers need. That is exactly what we're trying to achieve with this Jobs Council, as business and labor come together around a shared mission to meet the high demand for skilled workers."

During remarks at the last Jobs Council meeting, Governor Abbott highlighted Texas as the hottest state in America for business and labor opportunities and its standing as the number one state for new jobs, business expansion, and business climate. He touted the demand for high-skilled labor like electricians, pipe fitters, welders, plumbers, and truckers. The governor also noted the council's early recommendations to open clearer pathways into high-demand jobs, give Texas students earlier exposure to career training, and strengthen workforce readiness. These and other recommendations will be part of the Council's final report, expected to be released in November 2026, ahead of the state's 90th Texas Legislative Session.

Deadline extended for early bird rates to attend the 2027 NAPE Summit!

Industry professionals now have until Friday, October 9, to lock in the lowest registration rates for the 2027 NAPE Summit in Houston. Next year's NAPE Summit, which will take place February 3-5, offers an abundance of energy deals, insights and networking opportunities. NAPE brings together all industry disciplines, draws in decision-makers and hosts companies of all sizes, from small independents to majors. NAPE also features presentations from C-suite presenters and respected energy leaders, who will take the stage at the event to discuss the most pressing topics facing the energy industry.

Register now before NAPE's preferred rates end! Members of TIPRO can learn more and sign up for NAPE by [clicking here](#).

EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin previews forthcoming OOOOb/c regulations for oil and gas

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lee Zeldin announced on Wednesday that the agency is days away from unveiling its next major proposal rolling back Biden-era oil and natural gas regulations. The upcoming EPA action forms the second part of a comprehensive reconsideration of the 2024 Biden Administration methane rules, known as OOOOb/c, which energy operators have widely criticized as unworkable. The EPA estimates this soon-to-be-unveiled proposal will save \$45 billion while delivering significant regulatory relief to domestic energy producers of all sizes.

"The Trump EPA is days not weeks away from announcing our proposal for the second part of the oil and gas reconsideration. This proposal takes on many of the problems American producers and operators have raised with us. That includes the burden on marginal wells and oil and gas operators in general, the Super Emitter Program, associated gas, and control device requirements," said Administrator Zeldin. "Americans must be able to afford to heat their homes in the winter and fill up their car and drive to work. They can't do that when the people producing the energy are weighed down by unnecessary burdens. The Trump EPA is committed to fixing this so the U.S. can reach its full energy potential."

Specifically, the EPA's upcoming oil and gas regulatory proposal is expected to cover the following:

- **Certain Well Sites:** EPA will propose to change the approach to marginal wells by co-proposing two options that would create separate categories of well sites, each with its own standards that make sense for the circumstances of the particular type of well.
- **Super Emitter Program:** After hearing about serious legal concerns with the program, EPA will propose to rescind it. The agency does not think it is necessary to meet Clean Air Act requirements and is not effective.
- **Covers and Closed Vent Systems:** EPA will propose to split this standard into two parts, design requirements and operational requirements.
- **Associated Gas:** To make compliance possible all over the country and ensure a reasonable approach, EPA will propose to revisit the overall approach to regulating associated gas from oil wells.
- **Control Devices:** EPA will propose technical changes to give flexibility for flame monitoring data deviations, control device alerts, and visible emissions test conditions where appropriate.

Once the proposal is officially published in the Federal Register, the EPA will open a public comment period, though specific dates have not yet been finalized.

The proposal outlined by EPA Administrator Zeldin marks another key milestone in the Trump Administration's broader push to dismantle restrictive energy mandates and implement policies that meet the nation's full energy potential. The 2024 OOOOb/c rules imposed crippling compliance costs, particularly on smaller operators managing lower-margin wells. By addressing problems tied to the Biden-era rule and establishing commonsense industry regulations, the EPA will provide greater regulatory certainty for energy producers, while still managing and reducing air emissions.

TIPRO members can review a full timeline of the EPA's reconsideration of the 2024 OOOOb/c rules [here](#).



Commonwealth LNG Advancing the Next Phase of LNG Growth

Commonwealth LNG, part of the Caturus integrated natural gas platform, will connect abundant American natural gas from Texas with customers around the world, supporting energy security, economic growth and reliable energy supply.

With planned expansion of up to 7.75 Mtpa to nearly double the project's capacity to 17.25 Mtpa, Commonwealth LNG is targeting first production in the early 2030s, advancing the next chapter of U.S. energy leadership.



www.caturus.com

Congress locks in on permitting reform, with new momentum to pass bipartisan permitting package

Republican and Democratic Senate leaders joined together last week to publicly release new bipartisan legislation that aims to improve and accelerate the federal environmental review and permitting processes for critical energy and mineral projects across the United States. The new *Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act* is supported by the chairmen and ranking members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (ENR) and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW). It also has been publicly endorsed by oil and gas trade groups, who are urging the Senate to bring the legislation to the floor when lawmakers return in November and pass meaningful permitting reform that cuts project delays, strengthens investment certainty and provides stronger protections against litigation-driven delays.

"For far too long, our broken and outdated federal environmental review and permitting processes have stood in the way of energy reliability, secure jobs, modern infrastructure, and economic growth," said EPW Chairman Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV). "The bipartisan reforms we secured in this deal will transform our nation's ability to power our economy and fuel future growth, while continuing to protect the land, water, and wildlife we all cherish. I look forward to working with our colleagues in the Senate and the House, and President Trump to get this essential legislation signed into law so we can build the infrastructure America needs to grow and thrive."

"America is entering a new era of energy demand. We have an enormous opportunity to build big things again to meet that moment – to build more generation, expand our grid, create more jobs, lower energy costs, and make sure we have the energy we need to compete. It should not take decades to build the infrastructure our country needs," ENR Ranking Member Martin Heinrich (D-NM) also said in a statement. "Our *Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act* will help us get to 'yes' or 'no' on energy projects faster, while protecting important environmental safeguards and protecting the ability of Tribes to formally consult during these processes. It will mean more energy on the grid, more good-paying jobs, and lower electricity costs for families and businesses. And as data centers drive demand for more power, it will ensure they pay their fair share of the grid upgrades they require – not leave that bill to American families. Our bill puts teeth behind that principle."

Some of the key objectives of the *Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act of 2026* include:

- Setting clear deadlines for environmental reviews — including a two-year deadline for Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) reviews and a one-year deadline for Environmental Assessment reviews, with consequences for agencies that miss those deadlines.
- Defining clear limitations on when and how a project may be legally challenged:
 - A 150-day deadline is set for legal challenges under the Clean Water Act (CWA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), NEPA, and NHPA.
- The bill also generally limits who can bring a legal challenge to people or groups that participated in the relevant comment period or Tribal consultation process.
- There will also be limits on when a court can temporarily stop a project from moving forward, while preserving the existing ability to seek that relief under the Administrative Procedures Act.
- Allowing states to handle endangered species consultations if they have demonstrated staffing, expertise, and resource capacity to do so.
- Clarifying the limits on state water-quality reviews (under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act) by limiting state certifications to water pollution directly caused by a specific source for gas pipelines and transmission lines and prohibiting use of the process to address unrelated issues.
- Preventing the federal government from changing the rules after the fact for certain wetlands and waterways by stopping the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from preemptively or retroactively removing areas of land from the federal water-quality certification process.
- Establishing greater certainty for projects permitted and financed across administrations by prohibiting any administration from delaying or blocking permitting of a class of energy projects

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

Texas congressmen introduce new bill directing federal government to reinvest oil and gas revenues back into communities supporting energy development

Texas Congressmen Vicente Gonzalez (D-TX-34) and Dan Crenshaw (R-TX-02) recently introduced bipartisan legislation, the *Empower Energy Exporting Communities Act*, establishing an Oil and Gas Community Trust Fund designed to reinvest existing federal revenues collected from energy companies directly back into local communities that host major oil, natural gas and LNG export infrastructure, particularly across South Texas and the Gulf Coast.

Under the proposed legislation, federal funding would be distributed to energy-exporting regions to support critical public infrastructure and essential community services, including roads, bridges, clean drinking water systems, emergency response capabilities, and public education. Payments would also be allowed to go to eligible communities, including counties, parishes, municipalities, or Tribal communities located within 50 miles of a major port of export. Furthermore, individual community allocations from the trust fund would be capped proportional to each region's relative share of national energy exports.

The proposed bill ensures that investments for the Oil and Gas Community Trust Fund are provided entirely through existing industry revenue streams without creating new taxes.

"South Texas serves as a crucial gateway for the distribution of oil and gas exports to international markets," remarked Congressman Gonzalez. "It is only right that our region directly benefits from the operations it supports. The establishment of a trust fund would not burden taxpaying Americans but instead reinvest already existing revenue from oil and gas companies to advance South Texas's infrastructure of opportunity from our roads, bridges, and clean drinking water to public education and much more."

"This bill ensures that a portion of the federal revenue already generated by the oil and gas industry is reinvested in the roads, ports, water systems, and other critical infrastructure these communities rely on, all without raising taxes," added Congressman Crenshaw. "I'm proud to join Congressman Gonzalez in supporting the Texas communities that help make America an energy superpower."

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



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For more information, visit
wmsolutions.com/solutions/oil-gas



Texas Independent Producers & Royalty Owners Association

With nearly 3,000 members, TIPRO is the nation's largest statewide association representing both independent producers and royalty owners. Our members include small family-owned companies, the largest publicly traded independents and large and small mineral estates and trusts.

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