



**Texas  
Independent  
Producers and  
Royalty Owners  
Association**

## RRC SUNSET LEGISLATION ADVANCES THROUGH THE HOUSE, SENATE

Legislation pertaining to continuation of the Texas Railroad Commission (RRC), the state agency responsible for oversight of the oil and gas industry, continues to advance through the Texas House and Senate. On Thursday, May 2, Senate Bill 212, authored by Senator Robert Nichols, was passed by the Senate with a vote of 31-0. The legislation previously was voted out favorably by the Senate

Natural Resources Committee on April 23, without a committee substitute. Although all amendments to the bill were pulled down during the committee hearing, for an amendment to be eligible for discussion on the Senate floor, according to the guidelines, it must be brought up in the committee hearing. As such, Senator Kel Seliger offered the language on the cap on the oil and gas regulation and cleanup fund for consideration, an issue which TIPRO has fought hard to maintain this session. TIPRO testified to the Senate Natural Resources Committee in support of the movement of the bill. On the floor of the Senate, Senator Tommy Williams provided two amendments to the bill, including the cap, as well as the continuation of the Alternative Fuels Research and Education Division (AFRED), both of which were acceptable to the Senate author. The legislation, as voted out of the Senate, also calls for the name of the RRC to be changed to the Texas Energy Resources Commission (TERC) and provides campaign reforms for the agency's commissioners.

"I am pleased the Senate passed the RRC Sunset bill," said Senator Nichols. "The Sunset Commission studied the RRC over the last two sessions which included lengthy public testimony. The Sunset Commission recommendations outlined in this bill change the agency's name to TERC to better illustrate its regulatory role, authorize the RRC to be involved in interstate pipeline safety and include several ethic reforms."

Meanwhile, the House companion, House Bill 2166 by Representative Dennis Bonnen, also continues to press forward. Members of the House Energy Resources Committee voted favorably to pass the bill on May 2, with seven representatives in support of the legislation and four opposed. The version approved was the committee substitute (CSHB 2166), which TIPRO supported. CSHB 2166 will move to the House floor in coming weeks. Many anticipate a lively discussion on the bill with the potential for the addition of a several amendments.



## HYDRAULIC FRACTURING BOOSTS THE STATE'S BUDGET

Texas has seen a surplus of money pour into government coffers in recent years, thanks to the increasing development of shale formations throughout the state. Technological advancements such as hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling have allowed producers to ramp up E&P operations, particularly in regions like the Permian Basin and Eagle Ford Shale, which in turn has led to additional monies being paid to government treasuries.

Overall, estimates indicate that during fiscal year 2012, the oil and gas industry paid about \$12 billion in taxes in Texas, up from \$9.25 billion in 2011 and \$7.4 billion in 2010. Moreover, according to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, last year tax income from oil production and regulation was 43 percent higher than originally estimated, while the natural gas production tax helped to bring in 38 percent more revenue for the state than expected.

Funds collected from oil and gas taxes help to pay for crucial state programs, including schools, Medicaid, children's health insurance programs, children's protective services, roads, and police and fire departments.

With oil and gas production levels expected to continue to rise in Texas over the coming years, Texas will be able to keep enjoying the economic benefits that occur as a result.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

TIPRO Members -

As the U.S. Environmental Agency (EPA) proceeds forward with its study of the relationship between hydraulic fracturing and drinking water resources, this week I was happy to see regulators uncover the real truth on this significant issue. In the small town of Franklin Forks, Pennsylvania, officials at the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) determined that methane discovered in water wells was not caused by nearby drilling for natural gas, but instead is naturally occurring.

The DEP's study first began in December 2011 and included evaluation of natural gas wells and isotopic testing, as well as analysis of historical water data, to determine the origin of the methane. Regulators collected samples from three private water wells in the area and found they have a similar chemical composition as a natural spring in the nearby Salt Springs State Park, where methane was detected long before any fracking began in the area. The samples all exhibited comparable levels of barium, iron, total dissolved solids (TDS), chlorides, manganese and aluminum. With sufficient evidence in hand, the regulators were then able to conclude that the methane in the three water wells is a pre-existing condition in the groundwater of Franklin Forks, and is not associated or attributable to gas well drilling activity or hydraulic fracturing in the region.

The town, which sits atop the Marcellus shale formation, has been at the center of a media blitz in recent months, after celebrities Yoko Ono, Sean Lennon, Josh Fox and Susan Sarandon visited in January during their campaign against hydraulic fracturing. Environmentalists, along with a handful of local residents, joined the stars in a press conference in Franklin Forks to allege that fracking had caused the town's water to be unusable and undrinkable. As we all know, however, this is far from the truth. Yet again science has successfully dispelled some of the falsehoods being promoted by environmentalists who are looking to attack hydraulic fracturing.

Of course Texas experienced a similar situation back in 2010 when the EPA issued an Imminent and Substantial Endangerment Order against Range Resources, accusing the company of contributing to the contamination of drinking water in Parker County. After extensive investigation, the Texas Railroad Commission (RRC) found that the company in fact was not responsible for contaminating any Parker County domestic water wells. Geochemical gas fingerprinting was used in the case to demonstrate the natural gas in the water wells came from the shallower Strawn gas field, which begins about 200 to 400 feet below the surface. Further analysis allowed the RRC to conclude that the natural gas tested did not match the gas produced by Range Resources from the much deeper Barnett Shale field, which is more than 5,000 feet below the surface in that area. The company also was able to provide sufficient evidence to prove their gas wells were mechanically sound, without any leaks. After two years passed, the EPA finally came to the same conclusion as the RRC, and decided to withdraw their emergency order against Range Resources in 2012.

These are just two cases that exemplify the fact we must continue to advocate for only the highest scientific standards to be used when examining hydraulic fracturing operations. Hydraulic fracturing has been used in our country for more than 65 years, with more than 1.2 million wells completed via the process since 1947. It is a safe process that has helped unlock vast reservoirs of oil and natural gas previously inaccessible by producers. The economic benefits are unparalleled, leading to the creation of thousands of American jobs and providing much-needed tax revenue to local, state and federal government coffers. It is only through the increased use of hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling that domestic production of oil and gas has spiked in the last five years, providing renewed hope for energy security for our nation. Imports of foreign crude have declined by as much as 15 percent since 2005, due to rising domestic production from unconventional formations. Hydraulic fracturing also has helped reduce air pollution in communities across the country, as more individuals and businesses switch to natural gas.

Our industry remains committed as ever to the responsible development of oil and natural gas from shale formations throughout the U.S. There is strong regulatory oversight of all industry activity, every step of the process, to ensure the safety of the public and oil and gas workers. No doubt, the ongoing use of hydraulic fracturing in the years to come will help to provide a bright future for the state of Texas and the entire nation.

**Sincerely,**




**Ed Longanecker**

### Calendar of Events

<b>MAY 8, 2013</b> HOUSTON — IPAA/TIPRO Leaders in Industry Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. Houston Petroleum Club. For info, call: (832) 233-5502.	<b>JUNE 12, 2013</b> HOUSTON — IPAA/TIPRO Leaders in Industry Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. Houston Petroleum Club. For info, call: (832) 233-5502.	<b>JULY 10, 2013</b> HOUSTON — IPAA/TIPRO Leaders in Industry Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. Houston Petroleum Club. For info, call: (832) 233-5502.	<b>AUGUST 8-10, 2013</b> SAN ANTONIO — TIPRO's Summer Conference & Golf Tournament Westin La Cantera For info, call: (512) 477-4452
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## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: BILLS CONTINUE TO MOVE AT THE CAPITOL

During the final weeks of the regular 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Session, lawmakers are scrambling to make sure their bills pass in the Texas House of Representatives and the Texas Senate. Consequently, a number of pertinent developments have occurred in the last two weeks, which could affect oil and gas producers.

House Bill 788, which allows the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to assume authority of issuing permits on greenhouse gases in accordance with federal law, has been voted favorably out of the House and is now up for consideration by members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee. House Bill 788 also instructs the commission to develop measures to better streamline the permitting process.

Additionally, Senate Bill 1747, by Senator Carlos Uresti, was passed out of the Senate with a vote of 30-1. The bill provides funding for certain county transportation infrastructure projects and creates unique County Energy Transportation Reinvestment Zones, letting counties affected by oil and gas development to apply for repair and maintenance funds. Areas are able to qualify based on the number of well completions, the number of weight tolerance permits and the taxes collected from production in each county. This bill is one of the few pieces of legislation pertaining to road funding that has successfully been able to move ahead.

TIPRO also testified in support of the following bills, both of which were left pending in committee:

- House Bill 3658, by Representative Ron Reynolds, adds new programs to the list of those eligible for grants and funding by the TCEQ, under the Texas emissions reductions plan. This would help lessen the emissions of oxides of nitrogen or particulate matter from heavy-duty road vehicles, reduce emissions from oil and gas operations and give companies the incentive to replace, repower or retrofit heavy-duty vehicles to use cleaner alternative fuels, such as natural gas.
- Senate Bill 468, authored by Senator Kel Seliger, relates to endangered species habitat conservation. The bill allows the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to apply for or hold a federal permit issued in connection with a habitat conservation plan, a candidate conservation plan, or similar plan, authorized or required by federal law, and enter into an agreement with the U.S. Department of the Interior or other federal department in connection with a habitat conservation plan. Under the bill, no other state agency, other than an institution of higher education, is allowed to obtain a permit or enter into an agreement in connection with a habitat conservation plan unless authorized by TPWD.

Furthermore, this week TIPRO testified in opposition of House Bill 3596, by Representative Lon Burnam, which would require the TCEQ to adopt new rules to minimize the emissions of air contaminants from activities associated with oil and gas wells.

## WATER FUNDING BILL KILLED IN THE HOUSE

After hours of debate Monday, April 29, on the House floor, state representatives failed to pass House Bill 11, which would have supported Texas' future water needs. A parliamentary point-of-order was raised by Representative Sylvester Turner on the grounds that the general appropriations bill was not yet certified by the state comptroller, derailing efforts to move the bill through the chamber.

The legislation, filed by Representative Allan Ritter, calls for \$2 billion to be pulled from the Economic Stabilization Fund, commonly referred to as the Rainy Day Fund, to help pay for critical water projects across the state, such as reservoirs and pipelines that deliver water to residents and businesses. It has garnered support from a variety of stakeholders and state officials, including Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst, House Speaker Joe Straus and Governor Rick Perry.

"The people of Texas expect their elected officials to address the water needs of our state, and we will do just that," said Governor Perry. "This issue is too important to leave its fate uncertain, and I will work with lawmakers to ensure we address this need in a fiscally responsible manner."

As a result, on April 29, House Bill 11 was returned to the House Committee on Appropriations where it will be reconsidered by members. Time is running short however, as the legislature is scheduled to adjourn on May 27.

Should lawmakers not implement financial assistance for the State Water Plan this session, there could be substantial economic losses as the state continues to endure extreme drought conditions and a severe water shortage.

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## EPA EXTENDS DEADLINE TO SUBMIT DATA FOR FRACING STUDY

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced it will extend the deadline for the public to submit data and other relevant scientific literature pertinent to their investigation on the impact of hydraulic fracturing on drinking water resources. The public will now have until November 15, 2013, to provide information to the federal agency for their report.

The EPA began its study of the relationship between hydraulic fracturing and drinking water resources in March 2010, at the request of the U.S. Congress. The scope of the agency's research will include the full lifespan of water in hydraulic fracturing operations, answering five fundamental questions associated with the hydraulic fracturing lifecycle, which include:

- What are the potential impacts of large volume water withdrawals from ground and surface waters on drinking water resources?
- What are the possible impacts of surface spills on or near well pads of hydraulic fracturing fluids on drinking water resources?
- What are the possible impacts of the injection and fracturing process on drinking water resources?
- What are the possible impacts of surface spills on or near well pads of flowback and produced water on drinking water? and
- What are the possible impacts of inadequate treatment of hydraulic fracturing wastewaters on drinking water resources?

The EPA expects to release a final draft of their report for public comment and peer review in 2014.

## EPA LOWERS ESTIMATE OF METHANE LEAKED FROM NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION

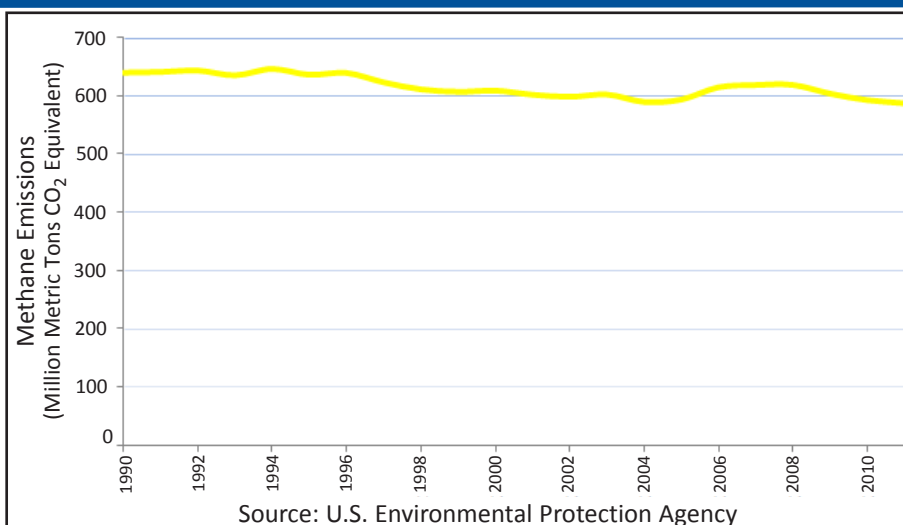
The *Associated Press* reports that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has lowered its estimate of methane leaked during natural gas production. In its *Greenhouse Gas Inventory* analysis, which tracks national trends in greenhouse gas emissions back to the year 1990, the federal agency now says that tighter pollution controls and technology advancements have resulted in an average annual decrease of 41.6 million metric tons of methane emissions from 1990 to 2010, totaling more than 850 million metric tons overall. This finding is equal to a 20 percent reduction from previous estimates.

Upgrading the equipment used to produce, store and transport oil and gas has helped the industry to reduce many of the leaks that contribute to methane emissions in recent years.

The finding showcases industry is able to effectively manage air emissions, particularly with new innovations and technological advancements.

Overall, the EPA calculates that in 2011 greenhouse gas emissions were 6.9 percent below 2005 levels, a promising sign of improvement for air quality.

The EPA has submitted the latest data on emissions to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to allow other nations to compare the relative contribution of different emission sources and greenhouse gases impacting climate change.



## VOTE NOW ON WHO SHOULD BE NAMED TEXAS' TOP PRODUCERS!

Electronic ballots have now been distributed for the 2013 Texas Top Producers survey. The program, created in partnership with the publishers of *Texas Monthly* and the Best Companies Group, with the support of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) and the American Association of Professional Landmen (AAPL), strives to recognize the greats of the Texas oil and gas industry.

Within the survey, petroleum professionals are invited to cast their vote for those whom they believe are worthy of the title of: Best CEO, Best Engineer, Best Geoscientist and Best Landman.

Top finalists for the 2013 Texas Top Producers awards were selected by the Texas Top Producers awards committee, chosen from all nominations received, using previously established criteria.

Survey results announcing the winners of the Texas Top Producers awards will be published in the October 2013 edition of *Texas Monthly* magazine. An awards banquet, hosted by TIPRO, will be held the same month to honor the award recipients.

TIPRO asks all members to take a moment and vote in the survey. If you did not receive a ballot, please email [texastopproducers@tipro.org](mailto:texastopproducers@tipro.org).

The final deadline to submit ballots will be May 31, 2013.



## OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT KEEPS TEXAS' UNEMPLOYMENT RATE LOW

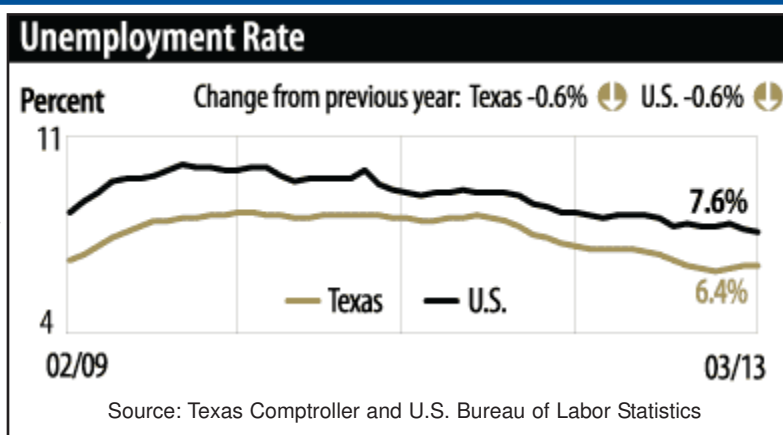
The unemployment rate in the Lone Star State remains steady at 6.4 percent, down from 7.0 percent one year ago, reports the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). Strong business activity throughout the state continues to allow Texas' unemployment rate to fall well below the national rate of 7.6 percent.

According to TWC, since last year, more than 329,500 jobs have been created in Texas, in all of the 11 major industries. Of that number, the private sector added more than 317,000 of the jobs.

"Across the country and around the world, the word is out that in Texas, we work hard to welcome businesses — large and small — with open arms," said Hope Andrade, TWC Commissioner Representing Employers.

"Texas has abundant opportunities, with more than 11 million jobs in the Lone Star State," added Ronny Congleton, TWC Commissioner Representing Labor.

Due to rising oil and gas activity in and around the Permian Basin, the Midland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) had the lowest unemployment rate in the state in March, hovering at 3.1 percent. The Odessa MSA ranked second in the state with a unemployment rate of 3.7 percent.



## TEXAS OIL & GAS PRODUCTION CONTINUES TO CLIMB UPWARD

Over the last 12 months, total reported production in Texas topped 565 million barrels of oil (MMbbl) and 7.3 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of natural gas, according to the Texas Railroad Commission (RRC). State production of oil and gas has grown significantly from just one year ago, when total Texas production was reported at 417 MMbbl and 7.2 tcf of natural gas.

As of April 19, 2013, the average rig count in the state was 835, representing nearly 50 percent of all active land rigs in the United States.

Karnes County, located in South Texas, was the top oil-producing county in the state with more than 3.4 MMbbl produced during the month of February. Tarrant County was the state's leading gas-producing county, with over 59 billion cubic feet (bcf) of natural gas produced in February.

## TRUCKING INDUSTRY TRANSITIONS TO NATURAL GAS

In recent weeks, several large companies have unveiled new plans to allow their fleets to take advantage of the abundant natural gas available in the United States today. United Parcel Service (UPS), for instance, will accelerate the growth of its alternative vehicle fleets by purchasing approximately 700 liquefied natural gas (LNG) vehicles by the end of 2014, up from 112 LNG tractor trailers that are currently in operation. UPS will also build four new refueling stations in Knoxville, Nashville and Memphis, Tennessee, as well as Dallas, Texas, to serve its heavy-weight rigs that are traveling into adjacent states.

"LNG is a good alternative to petroleum-based fuel for long-haul delivery fleets as it is abundant and produces reduced emissions at less cost," said Scott Davis, chairman and CEO of UPS. "At UPS, we are helping to knock down some of the biggest hurdles to broad market acceptance of LNG in commercial transportation by continuing to establish vehicle demand, fuel and maintenance infrastructures. We plan expansion through infrastructure partnerships and a broader fleet in states that are leading the way to make alternative fuel vehicles economically feasible."

Similarly, FedEx has also announced it will continue to make significant progress towards increasing the company's fuel efficiency by making use of alternative energy like natural gas.

"We are encouraged by the technological improvements, in addition to the commitment demonstrated by FedEx team members around the world, that have allowed us to reduce our impact on the environment and the communities we serve while maintaining excellent customer service," said Mitch Jackson, staff vice president of environmental affairs and sustainability at FedEx.

Moreover, AT&T is in the midst of transitioning 8,000 gasoline-powered service vehicles to natural gas vans. Already 7 percent of the company's fleet, or 5,200 natural gas vehicles, are on the road, helping provide substantial benefits for the organization. This initiative will help save millions of gallons of gasoline over the 10-year deployment period and could help reduce carbon emissions by as much as 211,000 metric tons — the greenhouse gas equivalent of removing 38,600 passenger vehicles from the road for one year — the company reports.

Natural gas remains a clean fuel source, emitting 25 percent less CO<sub>2</sub> on average than vehicles that run on traditional gasoline or diesel. It also is a cheap, helping companies save money.

## “NOT ALL TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENTS ARE IN DRILLING”

By **SHERRIE ENGLISH, PETROREPORTS, LLC.**

Hydraulic fracturing, 3-D and 4-D seismic imaging, CO2-sand fracturing, coiled tubing ... when most people in the oil and gas industry refer to technological advancements, they're talking about our ability to access our reserves more efficiently.

But what about technological efficiencies in the “business” of the oil and gas sector?

Today's industry has moved from a “back of the envelope” business model to a board room with MBA's and CFO's who make decisions based on overwhelming amounts of data analyzed in a myriad of ways. Engineering and accounting data is delivered via the web, documents are stored electronically, land men gather their information digitally rather than sitting in the courthouse surrounded by dusty ledgers.

However there are still challenges to the industry's technological advances in business applications. There is a bottleneck in the information. The ability to correlate and analyze across metrics is difficult. If you want to compare your data from your engineer to the well head information collected from the state, and cross reference to the information from your accounting, your team could spend days creating a report to let you know which wells/units/fields are turning a profit and when. And the moment they finish the report, the information is already stale.

A tremendous tool for deciding which plays, fields, and even which unit within a field might be generating the profit necessary to warrant ongoing investments by an independent producer, investors and royalty owners would be a report cross-referencing his land, engineering, and accounting data. If it could correlate accounting and engineering data to chart a combination of past production with the most up-to-date engineering data, and then compare that to the engineering prediction versus the actual production as time goes on, as well as forecast the monthly income and present value according to volume projections and current strip pricing, the decision making process could be much more accurate.

The problem is such an undertaking would involve such an enormous outlay in man-hours that most independent producers wouldn't even dream of putting their staff through the agony. Decisions made with incomplete, inaccurate, or out-of-date information can cost a non-operating working interest owner millions of dollars. Royalty aggregators spend time and money on shotgun approaches when properly analyzed data could narrow the focus for more profit with less cost. Inefficient use of personnel is a business cost which is often overlooked, but can hamper the bottom line.

There are solutions, but most are cost prohibitive to all but the largest of operators. Possible answers include creating an IT department and developing proprietary software. The positives are that the solution would be a custom fit for your business. The negatives are the time, money, and additional personnel headaches the effort would create. Consultants are available on a per-project ad hoc basis, but finding a consultant that truly understands the oil and gas industry can be challenging. The most common solution seems to be ignoring the issues all together and operating with the inadequacies.

Technological advancements in the oil and gas business have moved us into the world of analytical reports, interactions with outside investors and digital reporting systems that would have been unimaginable a generation ago. The challenge is utilizing the existing information to make the best decisions possible. A software system developed by PetroReports, LLC (a member of TIPRO) is now available to enable you to combine your existing information from land, accounting and engineering to create an interface to unlock and analyze the data you already own, allowing you more accurate analytical tools for your decision making.

If you are interested in creating reports such as the ones mentioned in this article, please contact PetroReports, LLC, at (512) 567-6671 or email [info@petroreports.com](mailto:info@petroreports.com).



## CHESAPEAKE ENERGY VOTED AS ONE OF NATION'S BEST EMPLOYERS FOR VETERANS

Chesapeake Energy Corporation, an explorer member of TIPRO, has been recognized as one of the country's best employers for military personnel by *Military Times*. According to the company, “military men and women with engineering or manufacturing skills are particularly suited for a number of opportunities with Chesapeake.” The company currently provides jobs to over 1,100 veterans.

In their survey, *Military Times* polled more than 1,000 major companies and top government contractors, distributing a detailed questionnaire about recruiting and hiring policies, social recognition for veterans and pay and benefits for reservists.

## CHECK OUT PICTURES FROM TIPRO'S RECENT NASDAQ STOCK MARKET OPENING EVENT



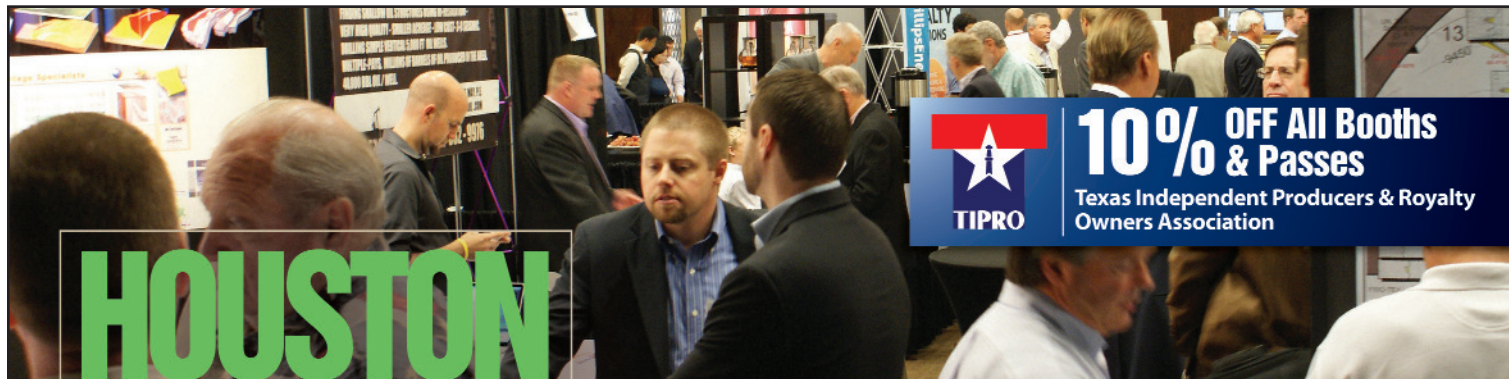
## NEW FRACING REGULATIONS BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT “IMMINENT”?

Even though she was just confirmed as the next Secretary of the Interior, Sally Jewell has hit the ground running, taking on several new initiatives after only a couple weeks on the job. One of her top priorities appears to be pushing forward the new federal regulations that will govern hydraulic fracturing and drilling on public lands. In a recent interview, Jewell hinted that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will release their draft of the proposed fracing rules within the next couple of weeks.

Earlier this year, the federal agency pulled back efforts to finalize pending rules on hydraulic fracturing, after many agreed the original provisions were duplicative of already-existing state regulations. The initial rule would have required companies to disclose chemicals used in the hydraulic fracturing process, as well as impose new well construction standards, testing requirements and mandates for managing and storing water that flows back after fracturing begins.

“The BLM will make improvements in order to maximize flexibility, facilitate coordination with state practices and ensure that operators on public lands implement best practices.” said Interior Department spokesman Blake Androff in January.

Sources reveal that the revised regulations by the BLM have since been sufficiently changed. Consequently, the public will have the opportunity to again provide comments and feedback whenever the latest proposal is unveiled.



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