



Railroad Commission of Texas Proposed Rulemaking Summary

16 Texas Administrative Code Proposed New Chapter 6, Geothermal Resources, Subchapter A, Shallow Closed-Loop Geothermal Systems

This page is a plain language summary of a Railroad Commission of Texas rulemaking prepared pursuant to Texas Government Code §2001.023. This page is only a summary. To review the full rule proposal and/or submit comments online, visit the Railroad Commission of Texas website at <https://www.rrc.texas.gov/general-counsel/rules/proposed-rules/> under “Chapter 6”.

Public Comment Deadline — 5 p.m. CST on Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Action (new, amend, and/or repeal) — New

Summary

The Railroad Commission of Texas proposes new rules in new 16 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 6, Subchapter A, to implement the requirements of Senate Bill 786 (88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023). Senate Bill 786 amended Texas Water Code §27.037 to transfer regulatory authority of closed-loop geothermal injection wells to the Railroad Commission of Texas from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The bill provided the Railroad Commission of Texas with jurisdiction and permitting authority for these wells, while Texas Commission on Environmental Quality retains jurisdiction over ground-source air conditioning return flow wells, which are shallow open-loop geothermal injection wells. All other types of geothermal injection wells are now under the jurisdiction of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Questions

Send questions regarding Railroad Commission of Texas rules to the Office of General Counsel at gcwebmaster@rrc.texas.gov.

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