



Railroad Commission of Texas Proposed Rulemaking Summary

16 Texas Administrative Code §3.8 and Various Other Rules in Chapter 3; Proposed New Rules in Chapter 4, Subchapter A; and Proposed Amendments to Various Rules in Chapter 4, Subchapter B

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 3 and Chapter 4.

Public Comment Deadline — 5 p.m. CST on Monday, September 30, 2024

Action (new, amend, and/or repeal) — New Rules and Amendments to Existing Rules

Summary

The Railroad Commission of Texas proposes new rules in Chapter 4, Subchapter A, to incorporate and update the requirements from 16 TAC §3.8 of this title, relating to Water Protection, to align with new rules and amendments being proposed at the same time in Chapter 4. The new subchapter also ensures that Railroad Commission of Texas rules adhere to statutory changes made in recent Texas legislative sessions.

The Railroad Commission of Texas also proposes amendments and new rules in Subchapter B of Chapter 4, relating to Commercial Recycling, to incorporate legislative requirements and make updates consistent with the new rules proposed in Subchapter A.

The Texas Legislature has directed the Railroad Commission of Texas to encourage fluid oil and gas waste recycling (House Bill 3516, 87th Legislature, 2021), and it has also created the Texas Produced Water Consortium (Senate Bill 601, 87th Legislature, 2021) to make recommendations to the Texas Legislature on issues related to this potential activity. The Railroad Commission of Texas' proposed rules address and support these developments. In addition to House Bill 3516, the Texas Legislature in House Bill 2201 (87th Legislature, 2021) directed the Railroad Commission of Texas to adopt rules governing permissible locations for pits used by commercial oil and gas disposal facilities and Senate Bill 1541 (85th Legislature, 2017) required the Railroad Commission of Texas to incorporate criteria for beneficial uses of recycled drill cuttings.

Please note that the Railroad Commission of Texas proposes that the new rules and amendments go into effect July 1, 2025, which is approximately six months after the anticipated

default effective date. Many provisions are proposed with a later effective date of six months to one year from July 1, 2025, to provide additional time for compliance.

Questions

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

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