

Our mission is to serve Texas by our stewardship of natural resources and the environment, our concern for personal and community safety, and our support of enhanced development and economic vitality for the benefit of Texans.

Well Plugging Program Receives More National Recognition

The Railroad Commission's award-winning well plugging program received yet another accolade – receiving the esteemed Chair's Environmental Partnership Award from the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC). The award was for completing a complex project that ensured boater safety at the Big Thicket National Preserve earlier this year.

The National Park Service (NPS) contacted the Commission to remove surface casings on four wells that had been plugged in the Neches River in East Texas by operators 40 years prior. The tall, underwater surface casings had become exposed over time and posed a risk to boaters in the area. The RRC organized contractors and divers to remove river debris and cut the steel casings at the riverbed to get them removed safely. [Click this link to see a video detailing the work that went into the project.](#)

The Commission's plugging program works to protect the environment and communities around the state, as evidenced by the fact that the agency has exceeded well plugging targets set by the Legislature for seven straight years.

This was the second time the IOGCC has recognized the RRC for its exceptional work at a national park. The Commission received an award in 2021 for well plugging work at Padre Island National Seashore.



RRC Reclamation Program Celebrates 20 years of Protecting Texas

The Railroad Commission has multiple avenues to carry out its critical mission of protecting the environment and communities across Texas while regulating the oil and gas industry. It was 20-years ago that one such program was launched. The Commission's Brownfields Program started in 2003 to incentivize the remediation of properties in the state of Texas that are contaminated through oil and gas activities and free to qualified entities such as local governments, nonprofits, and community supported projects.

A site known as a Brownfield site is an area where the reuse of that land may be affected by the presence of substances or contaminants. The

RRC's Brownfield program includes environmental assessments and limited cleanups, while also protecting the environment, creating jobs, and restoring communities by increasing property values.

Recently, the RRC hired a Community Outreach Specialist for the Brownfields Response Program. This is a new position to the agency with the primary role being community-based outreach efforts with a focus on rural and disadvantaged communities along the Texas-Mexico border. With the creation of this position, the RRC aims to investigate potential contamination associated with historic oil and gas activities in order to help combat environmental concerns in the region.