



# RRC ENERGY MINUTE

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For the 87th Legislature & the Texas Congressional Delegation

*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.*

## RRC Implements Major Rule for Energy Emergencies

Railroad Commission of Texas commissioners took several important votes in November open meetings to help protect Texans during weather emergencies.

On Nov. 30, commissioners adopted a final rule on critical designation of natural gas infrastructure. Rule 3.65 is a major step to help fortify the state's energy supply chain. The rule is part of the agency's ongoing work implementing Senate Bill 3 and House Bill 3648 passed by the Legislature in response to Winter Storm Uri.

Rule 3.65 defines facilities that will be designated critical gas suppliers and critical customers, and information operators need to file, to ensure the supply of natural gas during weather emergencies.

RRC staff reviewed comments to proposed rules from the public and energy industry and electricity industry stakeholders before final rules were adopted.

[Read more about the rule and comments from our commissioners.](#)

<https://www.rrc.texas.gov/news/113021-critical-infrastructure/>



## New Water Source Could Be Game Changer in Dry Part of Texas

Geologists with RRC's Groundwater Advisory Unit (GAU) have mapped a deep aquifer in Texas that could yield large volumes of freshwater in and around Eagle Pass, a semiarid region of the U.S.-Mexico border.

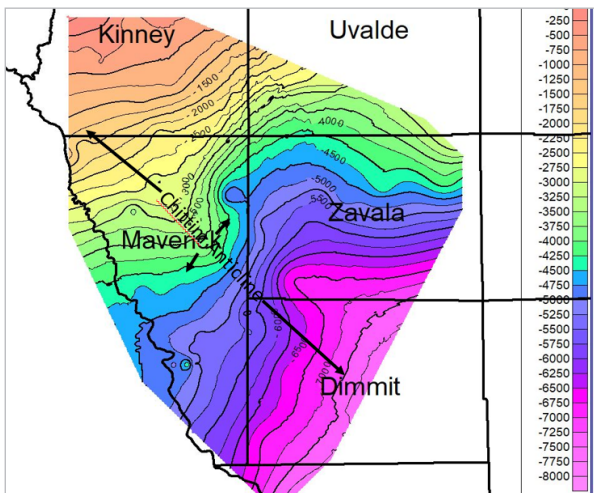
The Maverick Basin Aquifer has been located in a formation more than a mile under the surface in some places. So far, the aquifer is known to be at least 3,000 square miles in area and averages about 1,000 feet thick in most places.

The water was identified because of oil and gas exploration. A driller of a would-be oil well is working with the RRC to obtain permission to convert it to a drinking water well, which is what prompted GAU research.

Data from testing the aquifer showed future water wells could be capable of sustainably producing thousands of gallons of freshwater per day from an individual well. The GAU shared this new water find with the Texas Water Development Board, which will do research of its own.

[Read this News Story](#)

<https://www.rrc.texas.gov/news/112221-deep-aquifer/>



Maverick Basin Aquifer

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