

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.

COVID - 19 Update

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic combined with the recent decision by OPEC to increase oil production has introduced significant volatility to Texas' energy market. Given these extraordinary events, here's an update on on-going activities by the Railroad Commission of Texas.



Oil & Gas Operations

- RRC's Oil and Gas Division issued a **Notice to Operators** informing that they may request a waiver of RRC's regulatory requirements. All waiver requests are being reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- Field inspectors are continuing inspections of oil and gas facilities across Texas. Operators are encouraged to call the district offices as needed, or can call RRC Field Operations' main number at **512.463.6830**.
- Drilling permits, and completion and production reports are being processed within required time-frames. Operators needing to contact the Drilling Permit Department are encouraged to e-mail drilling-permitsinfo@rrc.texas.gov.
- RRC's 24-hour, toll free emergency line for reporting leaks, spills, and other incidents remains fully operational. The line number is **844.773.0305**.



Pipeline Safety

- RRC's Pipeline Safety Division has received guidance from the US Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) regarding the processing of regulatory waiver requests. RRC's Pipeline Safety Division has issued a **Notice to Operators** informing how to apply for a waiver request.
- Pipeline safety inspectors are performing records reviews remotely through web-applications. Site inspections are being conducted in person with inspectors riding in separate vehicles.
- Operators are encouraged to call the Pipeline Safety mainline at **512.463.7058**, or via e-mail at safety@rrc.texas.gov, with any questions.



Surface Mining

- The Surface Mining and Reclamation Division (SMRD) issued a **Notice to Operators** informing them of their ability to request an extension to deadlines and required performance of operations. Requests will be reviewed by SMRD on a case-by-case basis.
- SMRD staff are continuing site inspections while practicing social distancing. Further, SMRD staff continue to process permit applications for mining and reclamation activities.
- SMRD docket items scheduled for the March 31st RRC Conference have been postponed.



Alternative Fuels & Gas Utilities

- The Alternative Fuels Services (AFS) Department has issued a **Notice to Operators** informing CNG, LPG, and LNG licensees that waiver requests may be submitted for companies operating with an expired license, which was due for renewal in February or March, or individuals who have passed an alternative fuels safety exam but have not received their certification card.
- AFS will continue to perform inspections while practicing social distancing, and continue to process license applications, installation completions reports, and certification exam results. The department has cancelled all in-person classes and exam events. Companies or operators with questions should contact the AFS Department director at April.Richardson@rrc.texas.gov.
- RRC's Gas Utilities Department has issued a **Notice to Operators** for requesting a waiver of RRC regulatory requirements.