

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.

Update on RRC Operations During COVID-19

The Railroad Commission continues its oversight of the state's oil and gas, pipeline, alternative fuels, and surface mining resources to ensure the protection of public health and safety and the environment. Here's an update regarding RRC operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Oil & Gas Operations

- On April 3rd the Oil and Gas Division issued an updated **notice to operators** extending the deadlines for certain expirations and filing requirements effective immediately through September 30th, 2020.
- The Oil & Gas Division issued a **notice to operators** extending the reporting deadline under Statewide Rule 32 (gas releases and flaring). Notification may be provided within the first 24 hours, but no later than seven calendar days after the release.
- Field inspections, drilling permits, and completion and production reports are being processed within required time-frames.
- 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

- On March 20th the US Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) issued **guidance to pipeline operators** for operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. RRC issued a **notice to operators** announcing that the agency intends to follow PHMSA's guidance, and will exercise discretion in the enforcement of other parts of pipeline safety regulations.
- Operators who cannot comply with state or federal pipeline regulations due to challenges related to COVID-19 should promptly notify RRC's Pipeline Safety Department by e-mail at **Safety@rrc.texas.gov**.

Call 811 Before You Dig

April is National Safe Digging Month. The Railroad Commission encourages all Texans to call 811 before any digging or excavating project. Texas' 811 call center remains fully functional and ready to process locate requests. Requests can also be submitted online at www.Texas811.org. Calling 811 before digging is the law, and the best way to avoid unnecessary gas, water, and Internet outages.



RRC Encourages Gas Companies to Halt Customer Disconnects

The Railroad Commission encourages gas utility companies to temporarily suspend customer disconnects as residential and commercial customers may be faced with financial constraints during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many gas utilities have already announced the temporary suspension of customer disconnects. Further, the Commission recommends that gas utilities offer customers option to make payments or set up alternative payment plans for affected customers.



Alternative Fuels & Gas Utilities

- The Office of the Governor has **waived the regulatory requirement** for RRC certification of propane (LPG) transport drivers. This waiver allows transport drivers to operate a vehicle registered to a licensed company without taking RRC's driver certification examination.
- RRC's Alternative Fuels Safety Department is now offering continuing education safety training webinars for propane (LPG) certificate holders. These webinars are available on the RRC website at <https://rrc.texas.gov/all-events>.