

## Who Has Jurisdiction Over the Clean-up of Wastes from Oil and Gas Activities in Texas ?

The Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) has primary regulatory jurisdiction over the oil and gas industry in the state. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is the environmental agency for the state. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the RRC and TCEQ provides additional explanation of the agencies' jurisdictions over various oil and gas activities. The MOU can be found in Title 16 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §3.30 ([http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p\\_dir=&p\\_rloc=&p\\_tloc=&p\\_ploc=&pg=1&p\\_tac=&ti=16&pt=1&ch=3&rl=30](http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=16&pt=1&ch=3&rl=30), Title 16, Part 1, Chapter 3, §3.30).

In general, wastes from oil- and gas-related activities are regulated by the RRC:

- Hazardous and non-hazardous wastes associated with the exploration, development, or production of oil and gas;
- Injection wells to dispose of oil and gas wastes;
- Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) waste from oil and gas activities;
- Wastes from transportation by pipeline and storage of crude oil (including tank bottoms) before it enters a refinery;
- Wastes from the transportation of natural gas by pipeline prior to use in the manufacturing process or residential/industrial use;
- Non-hazardous wastes from natural gas processing plants; and,
- Wastes from vacuum truck rinsate and tank rinsate generated at facilities operated by oil and gas waste haulers permitted by the RRC.

For more information on RRC-regulated waste, call 877-228-5740.

The TCEQ has jurisdiction over:

- Wastes associated with transportation of crude oil and natural gas by railcar, truck, barge, or oil tanker and refined petroleum products by pipeline;
- Wastes generated at oil field service facilities that provide equipment, materials, or services to the oil and gas industry; and,
- Wastes from oil and gas activities that are processed, treated, or disposed of at a solid waste management facility authorized by the TCEQ.

For more information on TCEQ-regulated waste, call 512-239-6412.

References:

- Information regarding the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Underground Injection Control Permits and Registrations can be found at [https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/waste\\_permits/uic\\_permits/uic.html](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/waste_permits/uic_permits/uic.html).
- TCEQ's Oil & Gas Facilities: Compliance Resources webpage (<http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assistance/industry/oilgas.html>) covers regulations on air, water, and waste related to the oil and gas industry in Texas. This webpage also includes links to other resources such as TCEQ publication RG-482, *Common Environmental Requirements for Regulated Oil and Gas Operations*, which discusses TCEQ regulations for upstream oil and gas sites, as well as the appropriate regulatory contacts for various oil and gas activities in Texas.

- For RRC Injection and Disposal Wells Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), go to <http://www.rrc.texas.gov/about-us/resource-center/faqs/oil-gas-faqs/faq-injection-and-disposal-wells/>.
- The RRC's Injection/Disposal Well Permitting, Testing, and Monitoring Manual can be found at <http://www.rrc.texas.gov/oil-gas/publications-and-notices/manuals/injectiondisposal-well-manual/chapter-iii/>.
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Protecting Underground Sources of Drinking Water from Underground Injection (UIC) website is <https://www.epa.gov/uic>.
- Drawings of the different UIC well types can be found on each of their individual webpages (Class I – VI) at [https://www.epa.gov/uic/general-information-about-injection-wells#how\\_protect](https://www.epa.gov/uic/general-information-about-injection-wells#how_protect).
- The U.S. EPA Safe Drinking Water Act website is <http://www.epa.gov/lawsregs/laws/sdwa.html>.
- The Ground Water Protection Council website providing information and links relating to wells, underground injection practices, and groundwater protection is <http://www.gwpc.org>.
- The Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Oil, Gas, and Mining webpage (<http://tgpc.state.tx.us/oil-gas-mining/>) has additional information and links on this subject.

For additional Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) related to groundwater quantity, groundwater quality, septic systems, water wells, administrative entities, and publications, visit the TGPC's FAQ webpage at <http://tgpc.state.tx.us/frequently-asked-questions-faqs/>.