

# Who Regulates Oil and Gas Activities in Texas?

The Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) has primary regulatory jurisdiction over the oil and gas (O&G) industry. 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 O&G 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)

## ***Complaints***

In general, complaints for O&G exploration, production, and transportation should be directed to the appropriate RRC district office.

If you have concerns about any of the following contact the indicated governmental entity.

- Odor – Nuisance odors are investigated by the TCEQ.
- Noise – Noise complaints should be reported to the local law enforcement agency.
- Dust – Dust from public roads should be addressed by the local government.
- Traffic – Traffic complaints should be reported to the local law enforcement agency.
- Drinking Water
  - Private Wells – Suspected contamination should be reported to the RRC.
  - Public Water Supply – Concerns related to public drinking water supply should be reported to TCEQ.

To submit a complaint to the RRC, contact the appropriate district office. A list of regional office contact information can be found at: <http://www.rrc.texas.gov/about-us/organization-activities/rrc-locations/#OilGasLocations>

You can submit a complaint to TCEQ by calling our Complaint Hotline 888-777-3186 or on-line at <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/compliance/complaints/index.html>.

## ***Spills – Regulation and Response***

Classification of a spill determines which agency has jurisdiction over the spill.

The RRC has authority for responding to:

- Spills associated with the exploration, development, and production of O&G

To report a release from an O&G facility, use RRC's 24 hr emergency line 512-463-6788

For more information on release reporting visit the RRC's webpage at:

<http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/pipeline-safety/enforcement/accidentincident-reporting/>

The TCEQ is the state's lead agency in responding to releases of:

- Hazardous Substances
- Refined Petroleum Products
- Abandoned containers of unknown substances that are not leaking

To report a release to the TCEQ, call 1-800-832-8224 or the TCEQ regional office

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/about/directory/region/reglist.html> For more information about TCEQ's Emergency Response Program visit the webpage at:

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/response>

## ***Air – Regulations and Permitting***

- During drilling or exploration activities
  - Drilling Permits, RRC – 512-463-6751
- After Drilling and at Facilities such as Tank Batteries and Compressor Stations, TCEQ Air Permits Division, 512-239-1250

## ***Waste – Regulation and Permitting***

In general, wastes from O&G related activities are regulated by the RRC; however, there are some exceptions. The following provides general guidance on jurisdiction of the two agencies for O&G wastes.

### **The RRC has jurisdiction over:**

- Hazardous and non-hazardous wastes associated with the exploration, development, or production of O&G
- Injection wells to dispose of O&G wastes
- Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material waste from O&G activities (Oil and Gas NORM)
- 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
- Wastes such as 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:**

- Waste 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 O&G industry
- Wastes from O&G activities that are processed, treated, or disposed of at a solid waste management facility authorized by the TCEQ
- Residential-like waste generated from the living quarters located on the lease.

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

## ***Water – Regulations and Permitting***

- Wastewater and Storm Water (oil and gas exploration and production) – RRC Environmental Permitting, 512-463-3840, the local RRC District Office and/or EPA Region 6, 800-887-6063
- Public Water Systems – TCEQ Public Drinking Water, 512-239-4691
- Water Rights – TCEQ Water Rights Section, 512-239-4691
- Dam Safety – TCEQ Dam Safety Program, 512-239-0400
- TCEQ Sludge Transporter Registration Program, 512-239-6413
- TCEQ On Site Sewage Facility Program, 512-239-3799

## ***Who Regulates On-Site Sewage Facilities (OSSF)?***

### **The TCEQ has jurisdiction over:**

- Domestic sewage (including waterborne human waste and waste from activities such as washing, bathing and food preparation) generated at living quarters located on oil and gas leases but not in proximity of a particular well site.

### **The RRC has jurisdiction over:**

- Domestic sewage generated at sanitary facilities located in the immediate proximity of an oil and gas exploration or production well site.

## ***Who Regulates Transportation of Domestic Sewage?***

- Domestic sewage, under RRC and TCEQ jurisdiction, collected in a closed system and transported off site for disposal is required to be transported by a TCEQ registered sludge transporter to a facility authorized to accept domestic sewage.

## ***Who Do I Contact for More Information?***

TCEQ's Small Business and Local Government Assistance Program at 800-447-2827 or

[www.TexasOilandGasHelp.org](http://www.TexasOilandGasHelp.org)