



RRC Pipeline Safety Updates

Stephanie Weidman

November 2022





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Pipeline Safety Director

Oversight and Safety Division

Pipeline Safety

November 2022

Agenda



- RRC Pipeline Safety Overview
- State and Federal Rule Making Updates
- Pipeline Safety News and Reminders



Pipeline Safety Overview

Pipeline Safety Responsibilities



- New! Underground Natural Gas Storage
- Safety inspection of regulated pipeline systems
- Investigation of pipeline incidents/accidents
- Respond to public complaints and inquires
- Pipeline permitting and mapping
- Pipeline damage prevention compliance



- 480,000 total pipeline miles in Texas
- 430,000 miles of pipeline under RRC oversight
- 265,000 miles regulated under RRC and PHMSA rules
 - New gathering estimates are anywhere between 60k-100k additional miles



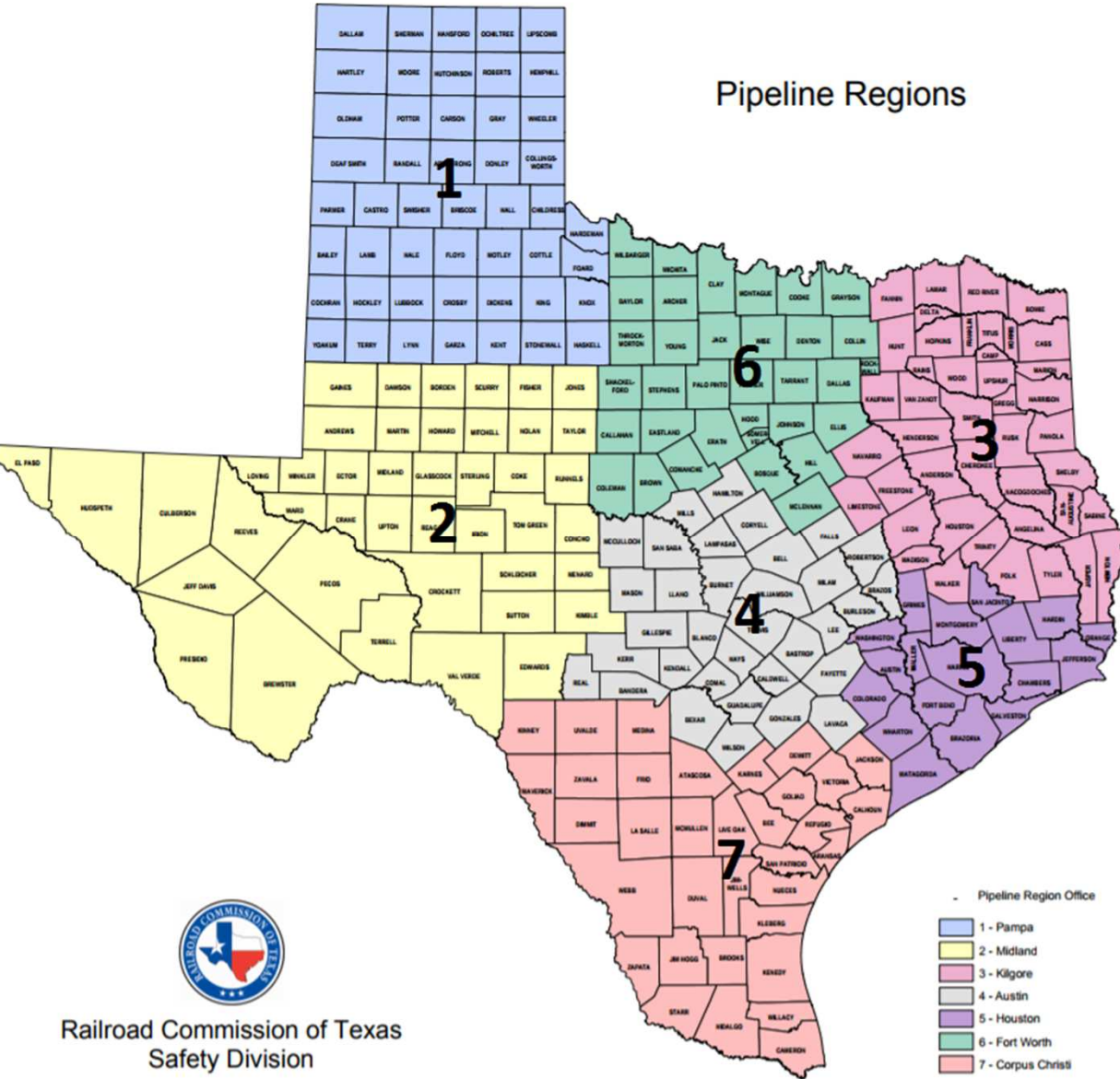
- Intrastate Gas
 - Transmission: 34,000 mi
 - Distribution: 168,000 mi
 - Gathering: 6,100 mi
 - Operators: 500
- Hazardous Liquids
 - Hazardous Liquid: 58,000 mi
 - Breakout Tanks: 1,400
 - Operators: 255

Pipeline Safety Regional Offices



Pipeline Regions

- 1 - Lubbock
- 2 - Midland
- 3 - Kilgore
- 4 - Austin
- 5 - Houston
- 6 - Fort Worth
- 7 - Corpus Christi



Railroad Commission of Texas
Safety Division

Regional Manager Contact Information



- Larry Snelson-Midland and Lubbock
 - Larry.Snelson@rrc.texas.gov
- Daniel Francis- Kilgore
 - Daniel.Francis@rrc.texas.gov
- Ron Perez- Austin and Corpus
 - Ron.Perez@rrc.texas.gov
- Sam Copeland- Houston
 - Samuel.Copeland@rrc.texas.gov
- Brad Cox- Fort Worth
 - Brad.Cox@rrc.texas.gov

Inspection Staff Overview



- May 2022 received 10 new FTEs: Total 84 FTEs
 - Regions 1&2—Larry Snelson
 - 16 Inspectors (4 vacancies)
 - Region 3—Daniel Francis
 - 13 Inspectors
 - Regions 4&7—Ron Perez
 - 12 Inspectors (3 vacancies)
 - Region 5—Sam Copeland
 - 20 inspectors
 - Region 6—Brad Cox *
 - 12 Inspectors (3 vacancies)

New! Operations and Analytics Group



- **Manager: Joey Bass**
 - Training Coordinator
 - Michael Parker
 - Accident Investigation Lead
 - Jonathan Saucedo
 - Underground Natural Gas Storage
 - Mark Lay
 - Special Projects
 - Nicholas Owojori
 - Pete Longoria

Pipeline Safety Evaluations



- New! Section 114 Inspection
- New! Underground Natural Gas Storage Inspection
- Standard Comprehensive Inspection
 - Risk based inspection model
 - Prioritizes inspections based on risk factors
- Specialized Program Inspection
 - Operator Qualification, OM&E, Control Room, Drug and Alcohol, Public Awareness/Damage Prevention, Integrity and **New Construction**



State and Federal Rule Making Updates



- Pay Attention!
- CY2023 to propose changes to Chapter 8
 - Update § 8.1 for all federal updates
 - Edit § 8.110 to align with new gathering line rule
 - Clarify other areas (ex. § 8.115)
- Timeline: After Session

Stay Informed: RRC Rules Website



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Current Rules

Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Title 16.

Economic Regulation Part 1. Railroad Commission Of Texas

The official rules of the Railroad Commission of Texas are found in the Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Title 16, Part 1, Chapters 1 through 20. The TAC is maintained by the Office of the Secretary of State and is available online by clicking on the links below. The Railroad Commission of Texas rules are located on [the Office of the Secretary of State website](http://www.sos.state.tx.us) at: [http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=3&ti=16&pt=1](http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=3&ti=16&pt=1).

Send questions regarding the Railroad Commission of Texas' rules to the Office of General Counsel at gcwebmaster@rrc.texas.gov.

NOTE: Printable versions of certain chapters are now available in PDF format. Click on the PDF link to see that chapter. Note that the PDF versions include the official text of each chapter in effect on the date the PDF was produced, which is indicated at the bottom of each page. PDF versions of additional chapters will be added in the future. *The PDF versions are provided for informational purposes only. The official versions of RRC rules are found under each link following the chapter numbers.*

Below is the list of Railroad Commission of Texas chapters currently in effect. Click on the chapter title to go to the list of subchapter and/or rules in that chapter:

Chapter 1: [Practice and Procedure](#) (PDF version 8/21/2017)

RULES

[Current Rules](#)

[Proposed Rules](#)

[Draft Rules For Informal Comment](#)

[Comment Form For Proposed Rulemakings](#)

[Emergency Rules](#)

RULES EMAIL SERVICE

Join The RRC Rules Email Service

Join the RRC Rules Email Service to receive email notifications of the Railroad Commission of Texas' rule-making actions. The list is free; just provide an email address.

For questions or comments, please contact us at gcwebmaster@rrc.texas.gov.

<http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/general-counsel/rules/current-rules/>

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ALTERNATIVE FUELS SAFETY

Email notifications regarding regulations, licensing, certification and training for the transportation, storage, distribution and use of alternative fuels.

BROWNFIELDS BULLETIN

Quarterly emails regarding Brownfields Response Program news, upcoming events, and success stories.

NEWS RELEASES

Email notifications of Railroad Commission of Texas news and press releases.

OIL & GAS NEWS

Email notifications regarding Oil & Gas Division news, notices to operators and upcoming events hosted by the Oil & Gas Division.

PIPELINE SAFETY NEWS

Email notifications regarding the regulation of Texas' pipeline infrastructure, the Pipeline Damage Prevention Program for Texas and upcoming events hosted by the Pipeline Safety Department.

<http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/resource-center/subscription-services/>

Federal Helpful Links



Rulemakings (tabular with links to detail)

<https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/regulations-fr/rulemaking>

Advisory Bulletins (tabular with links to detail)

<http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline/regs/advisory-bulletin>

Interpretations (Search by date or regulation)

<https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/regulations/title49/b/2/1>

Special Permits and State Waivers

<http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline/regs/special-permits>



Pipeline Safety News and Reminders

New Inspection System



- We have a new PES!
- The Pipeline, Permitting, Inspection and Evaluation System (PIPES) went live June 2021.
- Operators can now upload Plan of Corrections through the public portal
- Link to Portal: <https://rrctx.force.com/s/>

PIPES Training Video/Webinar



- RRC held a webinar October 20, 2021
- Topics Included
 - RRC Access Management Process (RAMP)
 - PIPES Online Portal
 - Inspections, Incidents, Complaints
 - PS-48—New Construction Report
 - SRC reports and IM Notifications
 - Plan of Correction (POC)
- <https://www.rrc.texas.gov/pipeline-safety/training/workshops-and-conferences/rrc-pipes-webinar/>

Updated Transmission Forms



- Mid 2021-Updated forms to include new integrity questions
 - HCAs and MCAs
 - Integrity assessments
 - Review of risk assessment and threats
 - Integrity related repairs
 - Review of Parts F & G from PHMSA Annual Report

Gathering Line Rule and T-4 permit Fees



- Type C and Type R to remain in Group B (\$10/mile)
- Possible edits to rule in CY 23
- Amending “A Guide to Shapefile Submissions” PDF.

10. TX_REG “Texas Regulatory Pipeline Status”

(Data Type: Text, Character Limit: 1)

Identifies if a pipeline segment is part of the standard RRC inspection schedule as defined in the table below.

Code	Code Meaning	Code Description
Y	Inspected	Facilities are subject to 49 CFR Part 191 – 195 and subject to 16 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §8.1, excluding facilities defined as Type C and Type R gathering lines under 49 CFR Part §192.8 (c).
N	Not-Inspected	Facilities defined as Type C and Type R gathering lines under 49 CFR Part §192.8 (c) and facilities covered under 16 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §8.110.

Updated 12/1/2022



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