



Railroad Commission of Texas

Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission

Public Outreach Committee

May 2023





RRC Showcases Speedy Work Plugging Orphaned Wells with Federal Funds

April 03, 2023

AUSTIN – The Railroad Commission of Texas highlighted the agency’s extensive work and expertise in plugging orphaned oil and gas wells during a visit from U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland in Houston last week.

When a well ceases production, the majority of operators fulfill their obligations and responsibly plug their wells to prevent leaks and protect the environment. Last year 88% of wells plugged were plugged by operators. The RRC steps in to plug wells when an operator goes out of business, and collects on the operator’s financial assurance and seeks reimbursement through legal proceedings.

Federally Funded Well Plugging

Orphaned Well Site Plugging, Remediation and Restoration

The Railroad Commission of Texas is receiving federal funds from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) to plug, remediate, and reclaim orphaned wells located on state-owned or privately owned land in Texas. Funding may also be used for other allowed activities including to remediate soil and restore native species habitat on land adjacent to orphaned wells, and to decommission or remove associated pipelines, facilities, and infrastructure.

Texas received \$25,000,000 in Initial Grant funds in August 2022, and anticipates receiving \$82,563,000 in the first allocation of [gov/complaints/](#) grant funds in 2023. In total, Texas could receive



Orphaned Well

Wells to be Plugged with IIJA Funds  | Data Visualization

Well Plugging Prioritization System 

Sistema de prioridades para taponamiento de pozos 

Statewide Rule 15 Related to Inactive Wells

RRC Notice of Intent to Apply for Formula Funds 

RRC Initial Grant Application 

RRC Comments in Response to DOI Draft Initial Grant Guidance 

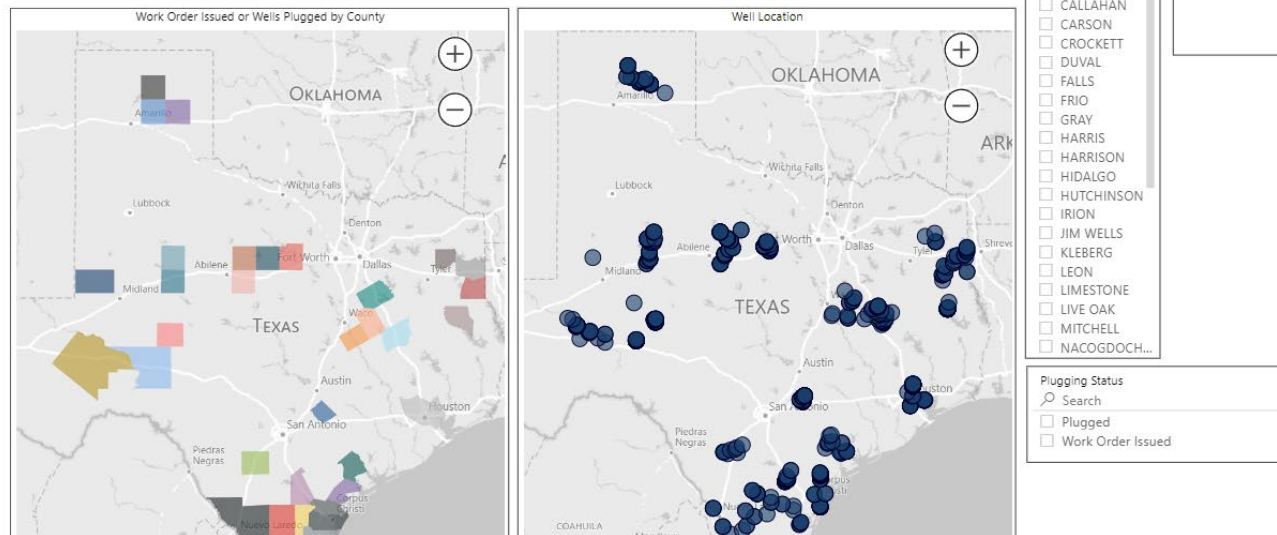
RRC Comments in Response to DOI Draft Formula Grant Guidance



Federally Funded (IIJA) Well Plugging

Federally Funded (IIJA) Well Plugging (Work Order Issued or Plugged) = 876

(Fiscal Year: Sep 1 to Aug 31)





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The RRC continues its extensive work plugging orphaned oil and gas wells utilizing federal funds. 520 wells plugged so far, including this orphaned well that was near a playground in Baytown.



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YouTube

