



Chairman Christi Craddick  
Commissioner Ryan Sitton  
Commissioner Wayne Christian

November 2017





# Stephanie Weidman

## PHMSA Program Director

Oversight and Safety Division

Pipeline Safety

November 2017

# Agenda



- RRC Overview
- RRC Pipeline Safety Overview
- Rulemaking Updates

# Jurisdiction



- Oil and natural gas exploration & production industry
- Intrastate pipelines, natural gas and hazardous liquid pipeline industry
- Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)
- Natural gas utilities
- Coal and uranium surface mining operations



What does not fall under RRC jurisdiction?

- Roads & traffic
- Noise, odors and lighting
- Air quality
- Mineral interests/leases
- Railroads
- Pipeline siting
- Property damages

# Communications



- Increased transparency and public outreach
  - Post-Conference enforcement press release
  - Quarterly inspection and enforcement data
  - Monthly E-newsletter
  - Social media channels
  - 2016 Year In Review





[Home](#) / [About Us](#) / [Resource Center](#) /

## Frequently Asked Questions

### [Who Regulates Railroads in Texas?](#)

June 23, 2014

[Read More...](#)

### [Alternative Fuel FAQs](#)

May 13, 2014

[Read More...](#)

### [Gas Services FAQs](#)

May 13, 2014

[Read More...](#)

### [General FAQs](#)

August 05, 2014

[Read More...](#)

### [Mining & Exploration FAQs](#)

May 13, 2014

[Read More...](#)

### [Oil & Gas FAQs](#)

July 30, 2014

[Read More...](#)

### [Oil & Gas Exploration and Surface Ownership](#)

November 12, 2014

[Read More...](#)

# Subscription Services



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/about-us/resource-center/subscription-services/>. The page header includes navigation links: Contact Us, RRC A to Z, RRC Online Log In, Jobs, Resource Center, and a search bar. Below the header is the RRC logo and a secondary navigation menu: About Us, Oil & Gas, Alternative Fuels, Gas Services, Pipeline Safety, Mining & Exploration, Hearings, and Legal. The breadcrumb trail reads: Home / About Us / Resource Center / Subscription Services. The main heading is "Subscription Services". The text states: "The Railroad Commission of Texas offers several subscriptions services for your convenience. The lists are free; just provide an email address." A bulleted list follows:

- **AFRED Email Service** - Receive email notifications of the Alternative Fuels monthly newsletter.
- **Alternative Fuels Safety** - Receive email notifications regarding regulations, licensing, certification and training for the transportation, storage, distribution and use of alternative fuels.
- **Gas Services News** - Receive email notifications regarding natural gas utility rate regulation and other matters of utility regulatory interest.
- **News Release Email Service** - Receive email notifications of Railroad Commission of Texas news and press releases.
- **Oil & Gas News Email Service** - Receive email notifications regarding Oil & Gas Division news and notices to industry.
- **Oil & Gas Workshops and Conferences Email Service** - Receive email notifications of upcoming events hosted by the Oil & Gas Division.
- **Pipeline Damage Prevention** - Receive email notifications regarding the Pipeline Damage Prevention Program for Texas.
- **Pipeline Safety News** - Receive email notifications regarding the regulation of Texas' pipeline infrastructure and upcoming events hosted by the Pipeline Safety Department.
- **Rules Email Service** - Receive email notifications of the Railroad Commission of Texas' rulemaking actions.

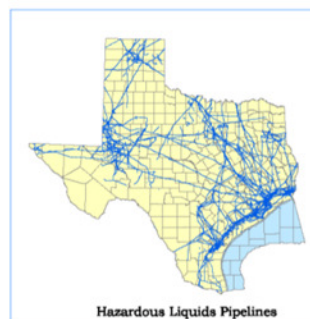
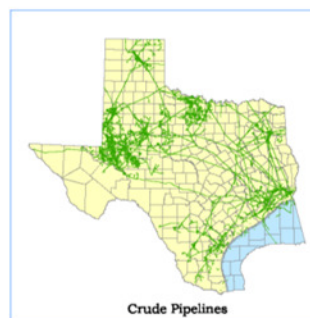
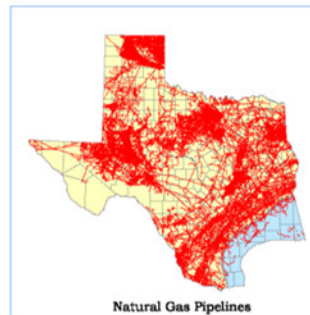
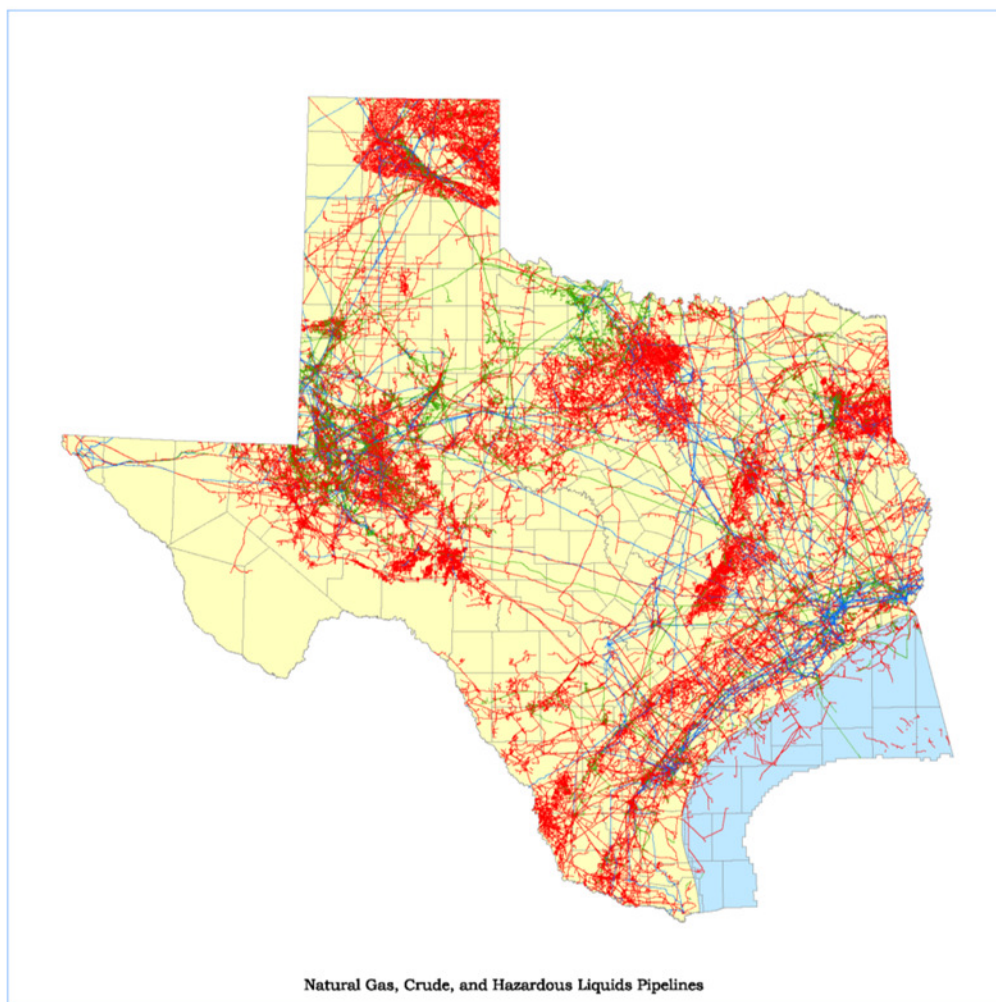
In addition, the Railroad Commission of Texas offers **Data Sets Available for Purchase** through a monthly subscription.

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

# Pipeline Safety Responsibilities



- Distribution, Transmission, and Hazardous Liquids
- Safety inspection of regulated pipeline systems
- Investigation of pipeline incidents/accidents
- Respond to public complaints and inquiries
- Pipeline permitting and mapping
- Pipeline damage prevention compliance





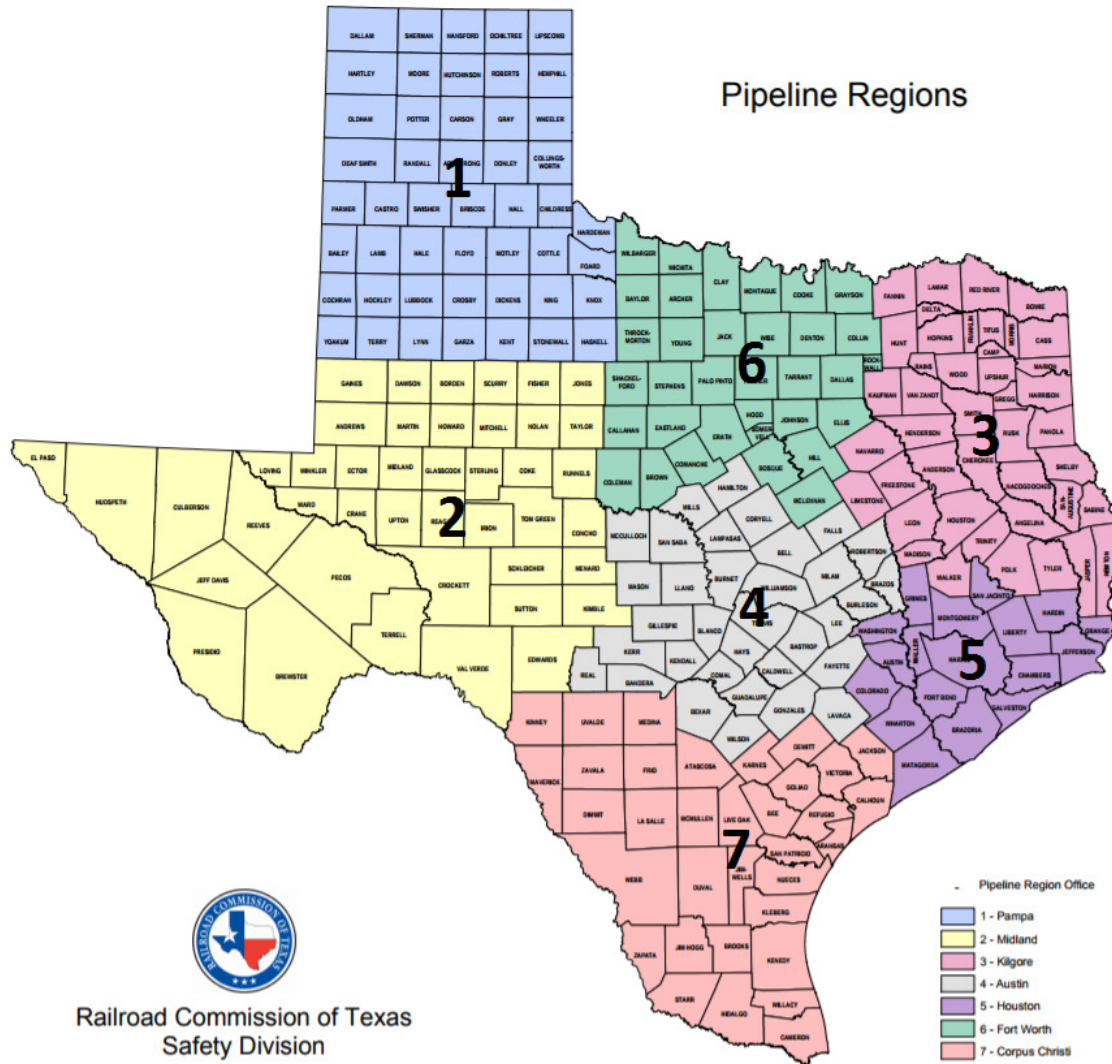
- 448,446 total pipeline miles in Texas
- 224,067 miles of pipeline under direct RRC safety oversight
  - RRC regulates intrastate pipeline in Texas
  - interstate pipeline regulated by Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)
  - Oil and Gas Division responds to spills

# Program Staffing Overview



- Number of Inspectors
  - 63 FTEs
  - Currently 46
  - 5 managers
    - Alan Mann- Midland and Pampa
    - Joey Bass- Kilgore
    - Steven Rios- Austin and Corpus
    - Samuel Copeland- Houston
    - Jim Collins- Fort Worth

# Pipeline Safety Regional Offices



Railroad Commission of Texas  
Safety Division

# Pipeline Safety Evaluations



- Standard Comprehensive-every 5 years
  - Pipeline Evaluation System
  - Risk based inspection model
  - Prioritizes inspections based on risk factors
- Program Evaluations-every 5 years
  - Integrity Management, Operator Qualification, OM&E, Control Room, Drug and Alcohol, Public Awareness/Damage Prevention

# Pipeline Safety—Permitting



- What is a T-4 permit?
  - An application to operate a pipeline in Texas
- What is needed?
  - Form P5 Organization Report (always)
  - Non-Utility Certificate (private line only)
- Why you file
  - To classify each pipeline(s) system(s) and or gathering system(s)
  - To renew original T4
  - To amend original T4

# Pipeline Safety—Permitting



- How do you file?
  - Online!
  - Pipeline Online Permitting System (POPS)
  - <http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/pipeline-safety/permitting/instructions-for-completing-the-form-t-4-online/>
- Coming Soon!
  - Permit Fee-Stay tuned!

# Permitting Contact Information



## Contact Information

### Permitting

Bruce Waterman-512-463-3046

Ryan Hejl-512-463-3863

Lizza Fortuno-512-463-6519

Email: [pipelinepermits@rrc.texas.gov](mailto:pipelinepermits@rrc.texas.gov)

### Mapping

Lori Mireles - 512-463-7032

Colby Broadway - 512-524-6019

Kristi Schulz - 512-463-7090

Email: [tpms@rrc.state.tx.us](mailto:tpms@rrc.state.tx.us)

# Incident/Accident Reporting



- Gas Reporting
  - TAC 8.210(a)(1)
  - Notify RRC by telephone any event that involves release of gas from its pipelines defined as an incident in 49 CFR Part 191.3
- Hazardous Liquid Reporting
  - TAC 8.301
  - If required to report under 49 CFR Part 195, required to report telephonically to RRC

# Incident/Accident Reporting



- Incident/Accident Reporting
  - Submit supplemental/final reports in a timely manner
  - For liquids: Provide estimated volume of spill
  - Rule change requiring update within 48 hours

# General Information



- New! RRC correspondence sent via email
  - Contact must be officer of company OR
  - General inspection notice email group
  - Send contact info (name, email, phone, title) to [safety@rrc.texas.gov](mailto:safety@rrc.texas.gov)
- Responding to alleged violations
  - Provide documentation verifying corrective action taken.

# General Information



- Pipeline Permitting Fee
  - Stay Tuned!
- HB 2982
  - While no rule(s) are in place currently, we continue to assess the need

# Safety Audit Privilege Act



- Audit Privilege Act Guide
- Provides immunity from administrative/civil penalties relating to certain disclosed violations
- <http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/legal/guidelines/audit-privilege-act-guide/>

# Safety Audit Privilege Act



Two main steps

## 1. Notice of audit letter

- [audit.notice@rrc.texas.gov](mailto:audit.notice@rrc.texas.gov)
- 6 months to perform audit

## 2. Disclosure of violations letter

- Example letters included in the guide
- RRC will follow-up if additional information needed

# Rule Making



- Safety of On-Shore Hazardous Liquid Pipelines
  - **HLPAC completed**
  - **Plan to publish.....???????**
- Safety of Gas Transmission and Gathering Lines
  - **Reviewing with GPAC**
  - **Next GPAC meeting: Postponed TBD**
- Rupture Detection and Valve Rule
  - **Development stage**



- Operator Qualification, Cost Recovery and Other Pipeline Safety Proposed Changes
  - **Published 1/23/17**
  - **Effective 60 days after publication**
  - **Effective date postponed for extra 90 days**
- Underground Storage Facilities for Natural Gas
  - **IFR**



What's Next?



SMS!

# Safety Management Systems (SMS)



- What is SMS?
  - Formal Business approach to managing safety risk, which includes
    - Systematic approach
    - Necessary management commitment
    - Organizational structures, accountabilities, policies and procedures
- SMS incorporates continuous improvement

- Will SMS become a Federal Regulation?
  - No.....not yet.
  - PHMSA does not intend to incorporate API 1173 by reference into the regulations
  - Yet we could be one bad incident away from adding

# SMS vs PSM



- Is compliance with OSHA's PSM enough?
  - SMS and PSM are not the same
  - OSHA's Process Safety Management (PSM) and SMS share some of the same critical elements
  - SMS focuses more on organization leadership and commitment, stakeholder engagement, safety culture and continuous learning

# Stay Informed!



- NPRM Webinars
  - PHMSA Pipeline Technical Resources- Public Meetings
  - <https://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/meetings/>

# Regulatory Status Updates



Interpretations (Search by date or regulation)

<http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline/regs/interps>

Special Permits and State Waivers

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

Rulemakings (tabular with links to detail)

<http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline/regs/rulemaking>

Advisory Bulletins (tabular with links to detail)

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



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