

OVERVIEW OF RAILROAD COMMISSION REGULATIONS

A look at what the Railroad Commission does and does not do.

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- The Railroad Commission has primary regulatory jurisdiction over oil and natural gas industry, pipeline transporters, natural gas & hazardous liquid pipeline industry, natural gas utilities, the LP-gas industry, and coal & uranium surface mining operations. The Commission is responsible for research & education to promote the use of LP-gas as an alternative fuel.
- Created in 1891





The Railroad Commission of Texas

www.rrc.state.tx.us



Increasing Jurisdiction

- 1891 – Private Railroads
- 1919 – Oil and Gas
- 1920 – Gas Utilities
- 1931 – Buses and Trucks
- 1939 – LPG
- 1976 – Surface Mining
- 1991 – Alternative Fuels



- The Railroad Commission does not have jurisdiction over roads, traffic, noise, odors, leases, pipeline easements or royalty payments



- “...it is well established that the commission does not have jurisdiction to decide disputes over title or rights of possession...Rather, the commission’s authority to grant permits is negative in nature – the commission, through a permit, merely removes a barrier the conservations laws would otherwise impose...” Rosenthal v. Railroad Commission of Texas, et al, 3rd Court of Appeals-Austin, Opinion ID 18426

The Commissioners



Barry Smitherman

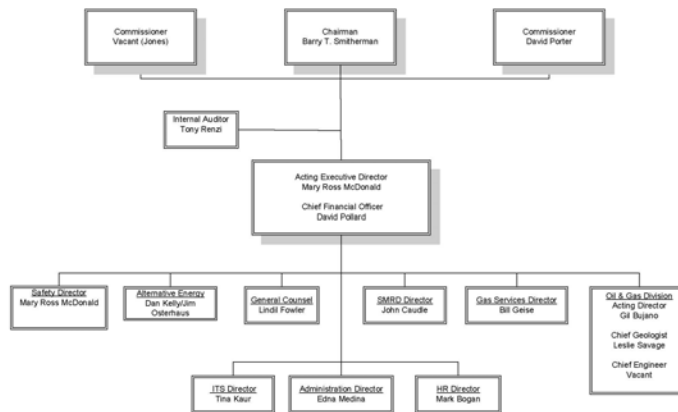


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