



**MC ELROY,
SULLIVAN,
MILLER &
WEBER, L.L.P**

What You (Yes, You) Need to Know to Drill and Complete an Oil or Gas Well in Texas.

An overview of the key rules, forms and trouble spots involved in obtaining authority from the Railroad Commission of Texas to drill and complete an oil or gas well.

UT LAW

CLE

Continuing
Legal Education

William "Bill" B. Hayenga, II, Partner
MC ELROY, SULLIVAN, MILLER & WEBER LLP
APRIL 13, 2023



1

History

Oil and gas well permitting is handled by the Railroad Commission of Texas ("RRC")

- 1891 – Created by legislative enactment
- 1919 – Oil & Gas Division
- 1920 – Gas Utilities
- 1976 – Surface Mining
- 1984 – Alternative Fuels
- (2005 – Ceased oversight of railroads)

2

Overview & Jurisdiction

Enabling statute(s): Texas Natural Resources Code

- §85.041 - Prevent waste, protect correlative rights, and prevent pollution
- §85.042 - Adopt rules and orders as necessary

Jurisdiction:

- Oil and Gas
- Pipeline Safety
- Alternative Fuels
- Gas Utilities
- Mining and Exploration

3

3

Commissioners

Commissioners



Wayne Christian
Commissioner



Christi Craddick
Chairman



Jim Wright
Commissioner

4

4

So, you want to drill a well?

5

5

Are you sure?

6

6

Find the full text of this and thousands of other resources from leading experts in dozens of legal practice areas in the [UT Law CLE eLibrary \(utcle.org/elibrary\)](https://utcle.org/elibrary)

Title search: What You (Yes, You) Need to Know to Drill and Complete an Oil or Gas Well in Texas

Also available as part of the eCourse

[2023 Fundamentals of Oil, Gas and Mineral Law eConference](#)

First appeared as part of the conference materials for the
2023 Fundamentals of Oil, Gas and Mineral Law session

"What You (Yes, You) Need to Know to Drill and Complete an Oil or Gas Well in Texas"