



**MCELROY,  
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.

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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

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