

Developments in Oil and Gas Waste Litigation

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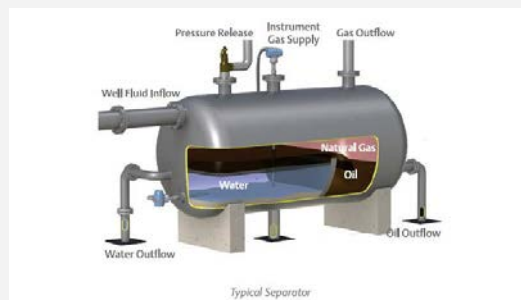
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Oil and Gas Wastewater Management

Texas’ oil and gas industry will produce “massive amount” of toxic wastewater with few reuse options, study finds

Oil and gas companies produce 3.8 billion barrels of wastewater per year in the arid Permian Basin. A state consortium is trying to figure out whether it can be reused.

BY DYLAN BADDOUR, [INSIDE CLIMATE NEWS](#) SEPT. 2, 2022 5 AM CENTRAL



Typical Separator

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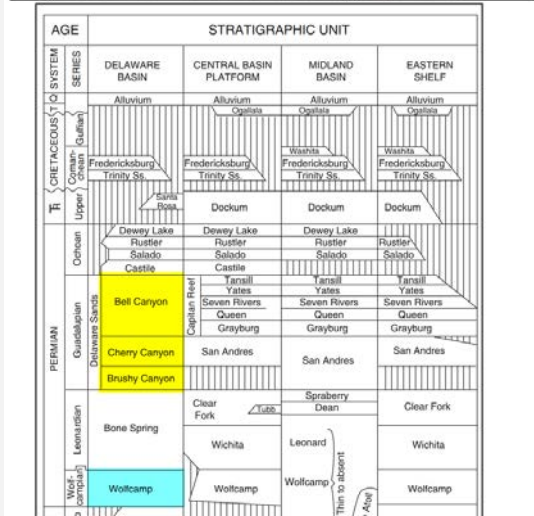
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Oil and Gas Wastewater Management

Figure 5. Permian Basin Stratigraphic Column.



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Railroad Commission Regulation



16 TAC § 3.9

§ 3.9. Disposal Wells

Currentness

Any person who disposes of saltwater or other oil and gas waste by injection into a porous formation not productive of oil, gas, or geothermal resources shall be responsible for complying with this section, Texas Water Code, Chapter 27, and Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code.

(1) General. Saltwater or other oil and gas waste, as that term is defined in the Texas Water Code, Chapter 27, may be disposed of, upon application to and approval by the commission, by injection into nonproducing zones of oil, gas, or geothermal resources bearing formations that contain water mineralized by processes of nature to such a degree that the water is unfit for domestic, stock, irrigation, or other general uses. Every applicant who proposes to dispose of saltwater or other oil and gas waste into a formation not productive of oil, gas, or geothermal resources must obtain a permit from the commission authorizing the disposal in accordance with this section. Permits from the commission issued before the effective date of this section shall continue in effect until revoked, modified, or suspended by the commission.

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Railroad Commission Regulation



16 TAC § 3.46

§ 3.46. Fluid Injection into Productive Reservoirs

Currentness

(a) Permit required. Any person who engages in fluid injection operations in reservoirs productive of oil, gas, or geothermal resources must obtain a permit from the commission. Permits may be issued when the injection will not endanger oil, gas, or geothermal resources or cause the pollution of freshwater strata unproductive of oil, gas, or geothermal resources. Permits from the commission issued before the effective date of this section shall continue in effect until revoked, modified, or suspended by the commission.

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Railroad Commission Regulation



16 TAC § 3.7

§ 3.7. Strata To Be Sealed Off

Currentness

Whenever hydrocarbon or geothermal resource fluids are encountered in any well drilled for oil, gas, or geothermal resources in this state, such fluid shall be confined in its original stratum until it can be produced and utilized without waste. Each such stratum shall be adequately protected from infiltrating waters. Wells may be drilled deeper after encountering a stratum bearing such fluids if such drilling shall be prosecuted with diligence and any such fluids be confined in its stratum and protected as aforesaid upon completion of the well. The commission will require each such stratum to be cased off and protected, if in its discretion it shall be reasonably necessary and proper to do so.

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