



**Texas  
Independent  
Producers and  
Royalty Owners  
Association**

## TEXAS OIL & GAS REGULATORS COLLABORATE WITH STAKEHOLDERS ON SOLUTIONS TO REDUCE FLARING

At this month's public conference hosted June 16<sup>th</sup> by the Railroad Commission of Texas, top regulators of the oil and natural gas industry heard ideas on how Texas can curb flaring and improve energy emissions across the state. Several industry trade organizations, including TIPRO, along with environmental advocacy groups and oil and gas producers testified before Railroad commissioners at last Tuesday's hearing, offering recommendations on meaningful reforms that the state may consider adopting to help reduce flaring activity.

"I am very concerned by the rate of flaring in Texas," acknowledged Wayne Christian, chairman of the agency, who last month initiated the latest round of discussions focused on flaring in Texas. "We cannot continue to waste this much natural gas and allow the practice of flaring to tarnish the reputation of our state's thriving energy sector to the general public and investors on Wall Street."

As part of his testimony offered last week before the three Railroad commissioners, TIPRO's President Ed Longanecker emphasized proactive, industry-led efforts currently underway to reduce energy emissions and minimize flaring. "The Texas oil and gas industry continues to voluntarily step up to identify and adopt practices that are improving our environmental performance and supporting a reduction to energy emissions. On the larger topics of energy production, emissions and the environment, we should recognize that our country today remains a leader in clean air, water and environmental stewardship, while also leading the world in oil and natural gas development and production," advised Longanecker.

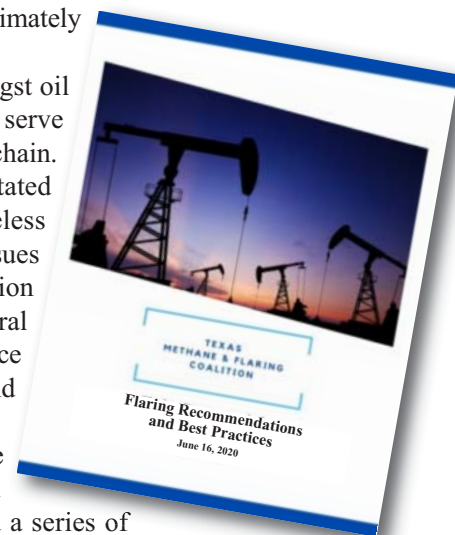
"Methane emissions from oil and natural gas systems are down 23 percent since 1990, according to the 2020 Environmental Protection Agency's Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks. Also since 2005, total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions have dropped by 12 percent and total greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel combustion have decreased approximately 15 percent," he described.

Longanecker noted several industry-led initiatives helping to promote best practices amongst oil and gas operators, as well as spread awareness on new technologies and other efficiencies that serve to mitigate emissions and improve environmental performance throughout the oil and gas value chain. "As the nation's largest producer of oil and gas, Texas operators are leading these efforts," stated Longanecker. "Despite the progress of our industry and measurable results, we nonetheless understand more can be done. It is this ongoing commitment and desire to better assess the issues related to methane emissions, flaring and industry-led solutions that contributed to the formation of the Texas Methane & Flaring Coalition (TMFC), an alliance comprised of Texas oil and natural gas trade associations and over 40 Texas energy companies. This voluntary effort will help advance operational and environmental best practices to further support solutions to lower flaring and methane emissions."

During the June 16<sup>th</sup> Railroad Commission meeting, trade associations involved in the Blue Ribbon Taskforce for Oil Economic Recovery, which includes TIPRO, unveiled their report titled "*Flaring Recommendations & Best Practices*." Within the report, the coalition has identified a series of proposed recommendations to deter flaring, including revisions and enhancements to regulatory reports and government forms that would create distinctions between venting and flaring and serve to better monitoring of operator activity while collecting further data. The group also has suggested that the commission reduce the time an administrative approval can be provided for flaring by 50 percent to support a decline in flaring as well. The complete report prepared by the task force is available for download through the TMFC website at the following website: [www.texasmethaneflaringcoalition.org](http://www.texasmethaneflaringcoalition.org).

As the industry continues to engage and pursue solutions regarding flaring, the completion of new infrastructure and billions of dollars worth of pipelines will also further meet transportation needs and help producers pull back on flaring as well, oil and gas trade leaders also told the commissioners last week.

At the conclusion of Tuesday's conference, Chairman Christian directed Railroad Commission Executive Director Wei Wang and commission staff to consider the information provided by all parties and devise with a plan of action for state regulators to address flaring this Fall. "The Texas oil and gas industry is resilient and has led our nation to American energy dominance," reinforced Chairman Christian. "I have faith we can meet this challenge and ensure the Lone Star state sets an example for the rest of the world."



## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

TIPRO members,

As we continue to struggle with this unprecedented downturn, it is clear that no part of our industry or the nation's energy supply chain has gone unscathed from the dramatic shifts experienced in global energy markets. While upstream oil and gas production and development in Texas and around the U.S. has taken a substantial hit in the first and second quarters of 2020, so too have opportunities for energy companies to export U.S.-produced resources abroad. This has abruptly stopped trends which otherwise were allowing for a notable rise in export volumes of U.S. energy resources like crude oil, petroleum products and natural gas that as of last year were reaching all-time highs.

In 2019, gross exports of U.S. crude oil increased to record levels, as did the number of destinations receiving U.S. crude oil exports. In the first half of 2020, meanwhile, oil exports from the U.S. have decreased by as much as 2 million barrels per day at times from highs recorded at the end of last year.

Volumes of U.S. liquefied natural gas (LNG) for export have also dropped significantly this year, in correspondence with lower demand globally for natural gas and other liquid fuels. Citing new data by IHS Market, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) reported in late June that U.S. LNG exports have declined by nearly 50 percent so far in 2020. As of January, LNG exports had totaled 8.1 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d), a threshold cut down to 5.8 Bcf/d in May, experts from the EIA estimate. High natural gas storage inventories in Europe and Asia, caused by a mild winter and government-imposed mitigation efforts from the coronavirus diminishing natural gas demands, have affected consumption of natural gas, which has in turn reduced the need by such nations to import LNG, the EIA said recently. Although last year the United States became the world's third-largest exporter of LNG, EIA analysts are forecasting gross U.S. LNG exports to fall to a low of 3.2 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d) in July 2020 before increasing in each of the remaining months of the year. All this comes at a time when new U.S. LNG export facilities have become operational, adding infrastructure and systems that have expanded U.S. total liquefaction capacities.

While members of TIPRO continue to react to present-day challenges, energy experts across the board seemingly agree that before the year's end, we can expect consumer demand for oil, petroleum products and natural gas to bounce back as economies and businesses reopen with the relaxation of government-mandated stay-at-home policies, which will help drive a limited recovery to commodity prices and alleviate market pressures on oil and gas suppliers. A rebalance in supply and demand fundamentals will support a more stable pricing environment for the oil and natural gas sector and we hope bring about an increase to E&P activities throughout our state and country's energy basins. Of course, the recovery will rely on many factors, which TIPRO is tracking closely.

Regards,

Eugene Garcia



**Eugene Garcia**

## TCEQ PUBLISHES MONITORING RESULTS FROM AIR SURVEYS CONDUCTED IN THE PERMIAN BASIN

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) on Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup> released results from state-conducted air monitoring surveys performed recently in the Permian Basin in West Texas. The surveys come as oil and gas development has grown in the region over the past five years, with increasing interest over the impact of rising drilling activity to area air emissions. In order to assess conditions, the TCEQ said it initiated deployment of teams equipped with van-mounted air monitors from Austin in December and again in February to conduct the surveys, with intent of specifically measuring hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) and sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) levels. The objectives of the surveys were to determine H<sub>2</sub>S and SO<sub>2</sub> emissions in populated areas of the region and evaluate potential locations for permanent stationary monitoring sites in the future.

"TCEQ strives to protect our state's public health and natural resources consistent with sustainable economic development," said Toby Baker, the agency's executive director. "The Permian air surveys will not only pave the way to make life better for residents and workers of the area, but it will also help the oil and gas industry become more efficient and better stewards of the resources they are extracting."

TCEQ notes that staff from the agency's regional office in Midland have also been investigating facilities with a history of emission events or complaints near areas identified in the surveys.

Detailed reports on the December and February surveys, including monitoring results, observations and maps, can be found via the TCEQ's Permian Basin Geological Area webpage, available at the following web address: <https://bit.ly/3i1Xy9v>.

### TIPRO Calendar of Events

<p><b>SEPTEMBER 9, 2020</b> HOUSTON — IPAA/TIPRO Leaders in Industry Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. Houston Petroleum Club. For info, call: (202) 857-4733.</p>	<p><b>SEPTEMBER 23-24, 2020</b> SAN ANTONIO — TIPRO's 2020 Summer Conference, Hyatt Hill Country Resort and Spa. For info, call: (512) 477-4452.</p>	<p><b>OCTOBER 14, 2020</b> HOUSTON — IPAA/TIPRO Leaders in Industry Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. Houston Petroleum Club. For info, call: (202) 857-4733.</p>	<p><b>NOVEMBER 11, 2020</b> HOUSTON — IPAA/TIPRO Leaders in Industry Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. Houston Petroleum Club. For info, call: (202) 857-4733.</p>
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## REMINDER: TAX DEADLINE LOOMS, WITH TAX RETURNS DUE BY JULY 15<sup>TH</sup>

Taxpayers are reminded that the tax-filing deadline, postponed from April 15, is quickly approaching on Wednesday, July 15, for those who have yet to file their tax returns with the government. The U.S. Department of Treasury and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) announced in March that taxpayers would be able to defer payments, without penalty, for federal income taxes, regardless of the amount owed, until mid-July in a move to offer greater flexibility and provide Americans with economic relief following the break-out of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic earlier this year. Taxpayers who owe for tax year 2019 or need to pay 2020 estimated taxes originally due for the first quarter on April 15<sup>th</sup> or the second quarter on June 15<sup>th</sup> can schedule an electronic payment up to the July 15 due date.

Individual taxpayers who will need additional time to file beyond the July 15<sup>th</sup> deadline, can request a filing extension by filing Form 4868 through their tax professional, tax software or using the Free File link on [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov). Businesses who need additional time must file Form 7004.

Texas businesses are also required to file and pay their state franchise tax returns by July 15, 2020. State Comptroller Glenn Hegar decided in early April to push the due date for 2020 franchise tax reports to July 15<sup>th</sup> to be consistent with the postponed IRS federal tax deadline. More information is available for business owners and the public through the comptroller's website at the link that follows: <https://comptroller.texas.gov/about/emergency/>.

## U.S. SENATORS DISCUSS COVID'S IMPACT TO AMERICA'S ENERGY INDUSTRY



On Tuesday, June 16, members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources convened for a special hearing focused on the impacts of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic to the United States' energy industry. Officials during the hearing took accounts of the devastation to the nation's oil and gas sector caused this year as a result of the spreading virus, including substantial declines in industry jobs and crippling economic fall-out to energy businesses around the country.

"Though every layer and every facet of American society has seemingly been affected – often dramatically – by the pandemic, it's clear to me as chairman of this committee that the energy sector has suffered acutely and uniquely," acknowledged U.S. Senator Lisa Murkoski (R-Alaska), chairman of the committee, in opening remarks. "Limits on business, travel, and social activities in an effort to contain the virus have had far-reaching consequences for our nation's energy producers."

At the June hearing, the U.S. Energy Information Administration's (EIA) Deputy Administrator Stephen Nalley advised lawmakers on changes to domestic production caused by COVID-19, which altered demand and supply dynamics for energy resources. "U.S. crude oil production, which reached an all-time high of 12.9 million barrels per day in November 2019, had fallen by 1.5 million barrels per day as of May 2020," reported Nalley. "We expect to see a continued decline in U.S. crude oil production until March of next year. Globally, we forecast that supply will fall by almost 6 million barrels per day in 2020. The decrease in non-U.S. supply is mainly the result of voluntary cuts by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, or OPEC, and its partner countries."

Nalley also projected it could be years for natural gas development to recover. "We expect to see both natural gas consumption and production in the United States decline in 2020, with consumption declining by about 4 percent and production falling by nearly 3 percent. Despite our forecast of a recovery in 2021, we do not expect U.S. production and consumption to return to 2019 levels," he stated.

Also speaking on the industry's behalf at the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee hearing was Frank Macchiarola from the American Petroleum Institute (API), who discussed employment trends for the U.S. oil and gas sector, as well as other market impacts.

An archived video of the committee's hearing is available for viewing at <https://bit.ly/2YXAD6G>.

## LEGISLATION INTRODUCED TO EXTEND RELIEF TO AMERICA'S ENERGY INDUSTRY

U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-Texas) and lawmakers from other oil-producing states this week introduced a new bill in Congress aimed at offering to help American energy companies weather the economic downturn, as layoffs and bankruptcies mount for oil and gas-related businesses struggling from this year's price bust. The proposed *SAVE Jobs Act* would suspend certain capitalization rules and tax payments to allow energy companies to build liquidity and redirect funds to keep employees on their payroll. Under the policy, taxpayers would be allowed to expense 100 percent of the cost of intangible drilling costs in 2020, as well as immediately expense certain direct and indirect costs, like inventory, that would otherwise be required to be capitalized in 2020. Other measures included through the legislation would support producers who hold leases on federal lands and waters by simplifying the existing process to receive a royalty rate reduction, along with a reduction to other regulatory requirements and burdens.

"Throughout this pandemic, the Senate has been working to deliver targeted relief to Americans who need it most, and there's no doubt many in the energy industry have been hanging by a thread," said Senator Cornyn. "These reforms will allow Texas' job creators to weather this downturn, continue paying their workers, and invest in their infrastructure for years to come."

# PUZZLING TIMES?

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■ OVERSUPPLY

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## NOMINATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR *D CEO*'S THIRD ANNUAL OIL & GAS AWARDS

In partnership with professional associations like the Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO) and research institutions in Texas, *D CEO* this Fall will again honor and celebrate executives from North Texas in the upstream, midstream, energy service and finance sectors as part of *D CEO*'s third annual Oil & Gas Awards. With a focus on innovation and resiliency, this year's program will give a special nod to leaders making notable contributions to industry progress, even in turbulent times and disruptive market cycles such as conditions experienced in 2020.

As the Texas energy industry continues to react to rapid changes presented from this year's downturn and other systemic effects from the COVID-19 outbreak, industry executives and leaders remain dedicated to overcoming present-day challenges and emerging even stronger than before. "The outstanding men and women working in oil and gas will ensure that our industry thrives during our recovery, and these awards are an important way to recognize the positive impact they are making on our state and country," commented TIPRO President Ed Longanecker.

In 2019, several executives and companies involved with TIPRO were recognized by *D CEO* as part of this awards program, including lifetime achievement honoree Trevor Rees-Jones of Chief Oil & Gas and Joseph Wm. Foran of Matador Resources. TIPRO President Ed Longanecker last year also served on *D CEO*'s nominations selection committee for their oil and gas awards.

The organization's awards are open to industry players from East Texas to the Permian Basin, as long as there is a strong North Texas tie. Categories for this year's awards cover executives of the year, regulator of the year, legacy and lifetime achievement awards, rising star, private equity firm of the year and financing/capital deal of the years. Nominations for the awards program are currently being accepted and are due by July 10, 2020. After the nominations window has closed, a team of judges will review each nomination and determine the finalists and winner.

Winners and finalists will be featured in the November issue of *D CEO* magazine as well as recognized at a private awards event this fall. For more information and to submit a nomination, please visit <https://bit.ly/3hQHLKJ>.



## AS PANDEMIC WAGES ON, BLM FURTHER EASES REQUIREMENTS FOR OIL AND GAS ROYALTY CUTS

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has modified requirements for oil and gas producers needing to obtain a suspension or reduction in royalty payments for leases on public lands. In updated guidance published in June, energy regulators stated that minimum royalty fees may be reduced on an entire leasehold because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic so long as operators can show the lease is uneconomic at the current royalty rate. Before, as TIPRO reported in the May 28<sup>th</sup> issue of *The TIPRO Target* newsletter, producers needed to prove that leases not only were uneconomic at the current royalty rate, but otherwise would be economic and profitable with a royalty rate reduction from the federal government.

Since the Department of Interior under the Trump Administration agreed this Spring to grant royalty relief to oil and gas companies during the COVID-19 emergency, some lawmakers have since spoken out against such actions, arguing that adjusted requirements to receive authorized reductions for royalty payments is in violation of the Minerals Leasing Act (MLA). U.S. Representative Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Arizona), chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, joined by Representative Alan Lowenthal (D-California), chair of the House Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, and Representative Mike Levin (D-California) wrote to Interior Secretary David Bernhardt on June 17<sup>th</sup> seeking an explanation for the recently modified guidance by BLM that has made it easier for companies to pay less in public royalties for producing oil and gas on public lands. In their outreach, the lawmakers also asked Secretary Bernhardt to account for how the new guidance is consistent with a 1986 Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) decision that requires an applicant to demonstrate a royalty rate cut is necessary to promote development of the lease in order to receive approval of a BLM royalty reduction - a stipulation that was removed by BLM in its revised June guidance.

The representatives also contend that the BLM has done a poor job in making information available to the public as to specifics on royalty rate applications, supposedly "stonewalling information requests from Congress and the press" on such matters. Accordingly, the congressmen are seeking additional information from officials over the BLM's royalty rate guidance to allow the House Committee on Natural Resources to carry out its oversight and legislative functions.

"While there are certainly extraordinary circumstances the Interior Department could cite to justify lowering rates for lease holders—perhaps even the COVID-19 pandemic—Interior appears to not only be indiscriminately approving rate cuts, but under cover of the pandemic has also tried to quietly make it easier for companies to qualify for these rate cuts. Interior is abrogating its responsibility both to transparency and the U.S. taxpayer, all in the name of sweetheart deals for the oil and gas industry," said Representative Lowenthal.

Despite criticisms, officials from the BLM maintain their interpretation of the MLA. "Neither the MLA nor the regulations require a BLM determination that a royalty reduction renders a lease to be economic," the agency said in a statement to *The Hill*, adding that the new guidance "clarifies and more closely aligns with the statutory and regulatory standards."

"Career experts at the Bureau approving of some of these applications for only up to 60 days has been in the best interest of conservation and encourages the greatest ultimate recovery of our natural resources," the agency affirmed.

To view updated guidance on the BLM's royalty relief policies, please see <https://on.doi.gov/2XaXCeC>.

## DRILLED BUT UNCOMPLETED WELL COUNTS GROW AS CRUDE PRICES REMAIN LOW

A new analysis from energy research firm Rystad Energy shows the number of drilled but uncompleted wells, also referred to as DUC wells, has grown to a nearly three-year high in wake of this year's downturn for the oil and natural gas industry. With operators pulling back on drilling activities to ride out and survive suppressed market conditions, Rystad analysts estimate there were 5,729 DUC wells in the United States at the end of May, a level not recorded since the end of 2017. In fact, over just the last three months, DUC wells have risen by 750 assets, a backlog which could increase over the summer, warns Rystad.

"Usually there is a typical DUC build-up during winter months and a gradual drawdown during the spring and summer months. Contrary to the norm, in the last three months this metric jumped to 15 to 25 months of frac activity. However, in the second half of 2020 we might see a modest rebound in fracking without extra drilling," explained Rystad Head of Shale Research Artem Abramov.

According to Rystad experts, there is a particularly strong build-up of drilled wells awaiting frac services in the Permian Basin, where almost 500 DUC wells were added over the past three months. Other major basins also saw growth in DUC well counts, though at a more modest rate.

Data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) meanwhile suggests DUC well inventory could actually be even higher, totaling more than 7,500 wells as of May in the seven primary drilling regions throughout the United States.

## DRILLING PERMITS IN TEXAS WENT DOWN NEARLY 45 PERCENT BETWEEN APRIL AND MAY

In a recent update, the Railroad Commission of Texas said that drilling permits approved by the state decreased nearly 45 percent between the months of April and May this year, as Texas producers continued scaling back operations last month to adjust to slumping market conditions for the oil and gas industry. The commission said that in May 2020, 251 drilling permits were issued, 205 fewer than the month before when 456 permits were granted by the state. Altogether, so far in 2020, the number of drilling permits processed by the Railroad Commission has fallen by 790 since January.

According to the commission, in May, 59 drilling permits issued were for oil, 22 gas, 159 oil or gas, seven injection, and four other permits.

Drops in authorized drilling permits were heaviest felt in the Midland region, central to drilling in and around the Permian Basin, the nation's most prolific oil formation.

Withstanding the declines to drilling permits between the months of April and May, the *Houston Chronicle* reports that in early June, 42 companies filed for 109 drilling permits with the Texas Railroad Commission between June 3-9, a substantial uptick suggesting stabilizing oil prices may be allowing operators to resume shale drilling. Of the permit applications submitted to the commission, nearly half were filed for projects in the Permian Basin, noted the *Chronicle*.



## AS MARKETS CONTINUE TO REALIGN, OIL SUPPLIES AND DEMAND SEEMINGLY BEGIN TO REBALANCE



A new analysis published June 18<sup>th</sup> by the American Petroleum Institute (API) demonstrates a presumed rebound in U.S. energy markets beginning last month, as states slowly started to lift restrictions to limit the spread of the coronavirus and otherwise resumed with reopening their economies. Within API's *Monthly Statistical Report (MSR)* for May 2020 and the organization's *Q2 2020 Industry Outlook*, fresh data shows U.S. petroleum demand increased 14 percent to 16.2 million barrels per day (mb/d) in the month of May, while reduced drilling activity led to a 0.6 mb/d decrease in U.S. crude oil production in the same time period. This shift has helped to support improving market conditions for the oil and gas sector, following the historic collapse in oil demand earlier this year resulting from the spreading pandemic which diminished global fuel consumption and overwhelmed supply providers. Leading economic indicators still remain weak, warned API economists, though recent trends signal responsiveness by industry operators is working, and proving the resiliency of America's oil and gas producers.

"The underlying market fundamentals still appear constructive and should position the U.S. natural gas and oil industry to play an important role in the recovery of the global economy," API Chief Economist Dean Foreman commented. "Market forces are in the midst of driving an unprecedented realignment of oil markets despite significant uncertainty around the rate of recovery and longevity of the pandemic. The uptick in demand associated with the gradual reopening of state economies leads us to be cautiously optimistic that the worst may be behind us."

## TRUMP ADMINISTRATION FINALIZES REGULATIONS ALLOWING RAIL SHIPMENT OF LNG

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) this month issued a final rule authorizing the bulk transportation of liquefied natural gas (LNG) by rail. Adopting amendments on June 19<sup>th</sup> to Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR), policy changes will authorize transport of LNG by rail in DOT-113 tank cars with enhanced outer tank standards and improved braking systems. Additional monitoring by railroads of the pressure and location of LNG tank cars and other route risk assessments will also be expected in accordance with the new federal rules in order to evaluate and ensure safety and security of all rail transport of LNG.



“The department’s new rule carefully lays out key operational safeguards to provide for the safe transportation of LNG by rail to more parts of the country where this energy source is needed,” said U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao.

Though a majority of the nation’s natural gas supply is delivered in its gaseous form through pipelines, transporting gas in liquid form via rail has become an increasingly attractive option for domestic producers. LNG, which is not typically transported by pipeline due to design complexities presented by the physio-chemical and safety characteristics of the fuel, is traditionally moved by truck in the U.S. when used for domestic consumption. Under government code, LNG before was forbidden on passenger aircraft, cargo aircraft, and passenger rail.

A petition presented by the Association of American Railroads (AAR) in January 2017 initiated the regulatory change so as to provide the ability to move large supplies of LNG to demand regions. In permitting the bulk transport of LNG by rail, companies now will have increased accessibility to consumers along with other economical and environmental benefits.

Officials say that the new rulemaking will not impose any new compliance costs but instead merely enables the transportation of LNG by rail as an alternative mode. The regulation is expected to bring numerous benefits to regulated entities, shippers and the public by allowing utilization of the nation’s railway systems to move large quantities of LNG materials over long distances.

The new rule is scheduled to go into effect in less than 30 days.

## TRUMP ADMINISTRATION MOVES FORWARD WITH PLANS TO OPEN NATIONAL FORESTS TO MORE DRILLING

Officials with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in mid-June published new plans aimed at expanding opportunities to develop energy resources on public lands by reworking existing oil, gas and mining regulations. Agriculture Secretary Sunny Purdue issued a memorandum on June 12<sup>th</sup> directing the U.S. Forest Service to prioritize the increase of productivity across national forests and grasslands by streamlining regulatory processes and expediting environmental reviews to support activity like oil and gas drilling. Secretary Purdue described his plans as a “blueprint” for regulatory reform that is to be executed by the U.S. Forest Service, which he said will also deliver relief from burdensome regulations, improve customer service interactions with the government and boost productivity of the national forest system.

Following Purdue’s directive, the Forest Service will amend applicable policies to ensure environmental reviews focus on analysis as required by law and regulation, streamline consultation processes and environmental reviews, as well as establish time and page limits on the completion of environmental documents, including categorical exclusions, environmental assessments, and environmental impact statements.

## MIDLAND COLLEGE’S PETROLEUM PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER



The Petroleum Professional Development Center (PPDC) of Midland College provides quality continuing education for the Permian Basin energy industries. The center is one of seven mid-career training centers worldwide recognized by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG).

The mission of the PPDC is to provide quality continuing education designed to keep oil and gas industry professionals current in their areas of expertise through dynamic interaction between the community, the college, and the industry. The PPDC will provide high quality, timely, and pertinent educational opportunities to meet the professional development needs of those working in the regional energy industry.

Many of PPDC’s classes qualify for re-certification credits that professional engineers, professional geologists and petroleum landmen use to maintain their professional certification status. The PPDC also holds various symposiums on timely issues important to the region's oil and gas industry.

At this time, the center is inviting members of TIPRO and others in the energy community to participate in a digital survey focused on gauging professional demand for adding further virtual classes at the PPDC in addition to face-to-face courses offered by the college, as well as determining demand for additional new class offerings and other specific educational needs by workers in the Texas petroleum industry. Please click

on the following link to complete the survey at your earliest convenience: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2020-2021\\_PPDC](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2020-2021_PPDC).

*BOOK YOUR ROOM AT SAN ANTONIO'S HYATT HILL COUNTRY RESORT FOR*

# TIPRO'S 2020 SUMMER CONFERENCE!

Take advantage of pricing deals and secure your hotel reservation at the Hyatt Hill Country Resort in San Antonio for TIPRO's 2020 Summer Conference, scheduled for September 23-24. Members of TIPRO may book your hotel room online for the TIPRO event via the following link: <https://bit.ly/3cTl8Bx>. Please note that reservations at the Hyatt Hill Country property for the TIPRO meeting may also be made with the hotel by calling (210) 647-1234.

Look for additional details and confirmed speakers for TIPRO's Summer Conference to be announced in the coming weeks. We hope to see you at the event!



**Texas Independent  
Producers &  
Royalty Owners  
Association**

With nearly 3,000 members, TIPRO is the nation's largest statewide association representing both independent producers and royalty owners. Our members include small family-owned companies, the largest publicly traded independents and large and small mineral estates and trusts.

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