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Sent: Friday, January 3, 2025 1:13 PM
To: Jennifer Bremer
Subject: TLMA Monthly Newsletter - December 2024

[Texas Legislature Online](#) | [Texas House](#) | [Texas Senate](#)



December 2024 Monthly Update

As we wrapped up and reflect on 2024, I am reminded just how much I have to be grateful for. It has been a busy year filled with many successes – both professionally and personally.

Last year, I attended legislative hearings, filed comments in rulemakings, and hosted a record-breaking Statewide Members Meeting. This year, the TLMA team will work diligently during the legislative session to protect your rights.

In early December, TLMA celebrated 25 years of advocacy! We have accomplished a lot in those years but know that we have a lot more to accomplish in the next 25. We hope that you will continue to be a part of our efforts.

I hope the warmth and magic of the holiday season stay with you throughout the new year!



Upcoming 89th Legislative Session

On January 14, 2025, members of the 89th legislature will be sworn in and the legislative session begins. The session lasts 140 calendar days and will conclude on Memorial Day, May 25, 2025.

What seems like a 140-day sprint to do as much as possible to most is somewhat limited by constitutional requirements.

The constitution limits the business that may take place in the first 60 days. The House will elect a Speaker, both chambers will set committees, and bill filing will continue. Unless a bill is set as an emergency item by the Governor, the bill cannot be debated on the floor of either chamber assuming that the rules are not suspended to allow debate.

The field for the Speaker's race continues to narrow. The Republican Caucus voted for Representative David Cook to be the next Speaker. Republican Representative Dustin Burrows also remains in the race. The official vote for Speaker will occur during the first days of the legislative session.

The final month of the session is also governed by rule deadlines. Bills must be voted out of committee by certain date, and committee reports must be distributed by a certain date and debated on the floors by a certain date, and more.

Bill filing began in mid-November with historical numbers. Following the initial rush to file bills, there has been a significant slowdown in bill filings. Filing a bill early does not directly impact its likelihood to be passed during the legislative session. The final day to file a bill in this

legislative session is on the 60th day, Friday, March 14, 2025.

We will continue to provide monthly updates but will also use email alerts if we need action from you.

You can find more information on the 2025 Legislative Session [webpage](#).

Please make sure your email is up to date on your account so that you receive all emails related to the legislative session.



TLMA Files Comments on Brine Mining/Lithium Rules

In early December, TLMA filed comments on the proposed brine mining rules. As we have previously discussed, the brine production addressed by this rule is not brine produced as an incidental to oil and gas production. This brine production is what can be found in the Smackover formation.

Our comments address:

- The scope and purpose;
- Including additional facilities necessary for the extraction of elements and minerals;
- Recommendations related to aquifers and other subsurface water areas of review;
- Clarifying definitions including “good faith claim”;
- Plugging and abandoning orphaned brine production wells;
- Assignment of acreage; and,
- Extending record retention.

You can view our comments [here](#) and the proposed rule [here](#).

We will notify you when a final rule is adopted.

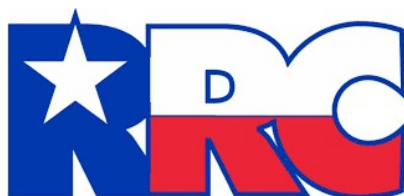


Texas H2 (Hydrogen) Council Report Released

The Texas Hydrogen Production Policy Council (Council) was formed by HB 2847 during the 88th legislative session “to study and make recommendations relating to the policy framework of the Railroad Commission of Texas for hydrogen energy development in Texas.” They released their report as required by the bill. Texas has a unique opportunity to be a leader in the hydrogen industry that is expected to grow immensely in the coming years.

“To capitalize on this immense potential, Texas should make minor adjustments to enhance its already robust framework of regulatory oversight, ensuring that the hydrogen industry continues its long track record of excellence in safety and environmental stewardship. To retain and expand its leadership position in the hydrogen industry, Texas must support the critical enablers of hydrogen production, transportation, storage and demand. To sustain this momentum, Texas policymakers, industry experts and community leaders must collaborate to continue this momentum and achieve a shared vision of Texas as the epicenter of the hydrogen industry, now and in the future.”

You can view the full report at the following [link](#).



RRC Waste Rule Adopted

During the December 17 RRC Open Meeting, the Commissioners approved the adoption of the waste rule

comments. As mentioned in previous updates, the waste rule has not been updated in 40 years and was a significant undertaking. The rule changes will impact our members and we will provide a write up in the new year.

You can view the adopted rule [here](#) and the press release from the RRC [here](#).

Do you have a topic or issues you want to be included in the monthly newsletter? Please email it to info@tlma.org for review and potential inclusion.

Upcoming Dates of Interest

January 14 – 89th Texas Legislative Session Begins

January 28 – RRC Open Meeting

March 14 – 60th Day of Legislative Session and Final Day to File Bills

Additional Articles and Links

Do you need to update your contact information? Please email info@tlma.org for assistance.

[Texas House Committee Assignments - BY MEMBER](#)

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