

Our Mission

Commission Shift is reforming oil and gas oversight by building public support to hold the **Railroad Commission of Texas** accountable to its mission in a shifting energy landscape.

About Us

Commission Shift **develops solutions** to protect consumer rights, prevent orphaned oil and gas wells, and ensure Texans have full access to information and participation opportunities at the Railroad Commission of Texas.



**ORPHANED
& INACTIVE WELLS
IN TEXAS**

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**COMMISSION
SHIFT**

Orphaned and Inactive Wells in Texas



What are they?

An orphaned well is an oil and gas well that has been abandoned by its operator. An inactive well is one that still has an operator on record, but has been inactive for at least a year. As these wells age, they risk abandonment by operators.

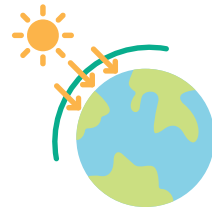
There are over **8,000** orphaned and **114,000** inactive wells in Texas. With plugging costs between \$15,000 and \$200,000 per well, plugging them will cost billions.



Impacts

Orphaned and inactive wells pose **significant risks** to human health and the environment such as

- Water contamination with benzene, which can cause cancer
- Leaks of harmful fluid on land, that can harm wildlife, agriculture, and livestock
- Emissions of gases like methane, which trap heat in the atmosphere and contribute to global warming



Solutions

The **Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)** has the most important role to play in ensuring oil and gas well operators follow through with their obligations to properly clean up sites and plug inactive wells:

- Require operators to prove they can afford to plug their wells before they dig or acquire oil and gas wells
- Reduce unlimited well plugging extensions on inactive wells



Join Us!

Subscribe to Commission Shift's newsletter to learn about opportunities to voice your concern and talk to your legislator!



Contact us

Have orphaned wells impacted you? We want to hear your story.



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