



RRC ENERGY MINUTE

For the 86th Legislature

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Our mission is to serve Texas by our stewardship of natural resources and the environment, our concern for personal and community safety, and our support of enhanced development and economic vitality for the benefit of Texans.

State Managed Well Plugging Update

The Railroad Commission administers Texas' state managed well plugging program. Although most non-productive oil and gas wells are plugged by responsible actors, RRC's well plugging program works to eliminate the safety and environmental risks associated with abandoned wells. This program is funded entirely through fees paid to RRC by the oil and gas industry.



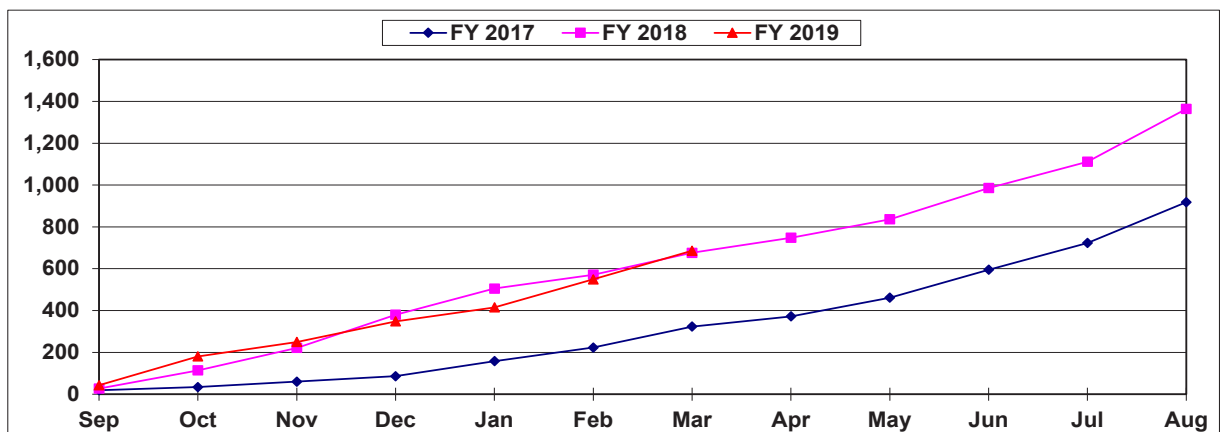
This unsecured, abandoned well in Rains County was at risk of leaking potent levels of H₂S, a lethal gas. Due to the high hazards associated with this well, and its proximity to homes in the area, RRC timely plugged the well in February 2019. The total cost to plug this well was \$1,019,878.

Since its inception in 1984, RRC's program has plugged nearly 39,000 wells across Texas. In FY 2018, the agency plugged 1,364 wells, over 400 more than were plugged in the previous fiscal year. As of April 2019, RRC has physically plugged 1,038 wells, and remains on track to cap 1,600 wells for the 2019 fiscal year.



This leaking, abandoned well in Dimmit County was secured by the RRC in July 2018 to stop and remediate the oil pollution. This well is classified as a Priority 1 within the RRC's well plugging priority system due to its threat to public safety and the environment. Now that the well is secured and no longer leaking, it will be plugged in May 2019.

State Managed Well Plugging Program
Cumulative Wells Plugged
March 2019



	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
FY 2017	19	34	60	86	158	223	323	372	461	595	723	918
FY 2018	27	114	221	380	505	571	676	748	836	986	1,111	1,364
FY 2019	43	181	250	348	415	549	686					

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