

**RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
Oil and Gas Division**

NOTICE TO OIL AND GAS WELL OPERATORS

**NOTICE OF THE PERMITTING PROCESS FOR
VENTING/FLARING OF CASINGHEAD GAS AND GAS WELL GAS
PURSUANT TO 16 TAC §3.32 (STATEWIDE RULE 32)**

The Railroad Commission is charged with the responsibility of conservation and prevention of waste of the State's natural resources. Releases of gas resulting from routine oil and gas production operations are necessary in the efficient drilling and operation of oil and gas wells and are authorized subject to the requirements of subsection (e) of SWR 32. However, unauthorized venting or flaring of gas may constitute waste. SWR 32 prohibits venting or flaring of gas under certain conditions unless authorized by the Commission. Operators shall notify the Commission of flaring or venting as soon as reasonably possible in accordance with SWR 32(f)(1)(C) and (g)(1). Operators shall submit applications for flaring or venting beyond the initial 24-hour period within the next first full business day. Any venting/flaring of casinghead gas or gas well gas not authorized by SWR 32 or by permit may be subject to administrative penalty action.

Per current practice, applications to vent or flare will initially be approved for incremental periods no longer than forty five days, up to a maximum of 180 days. In the event an operator anticipates a need for additional time for venting and flaring, the commission can grant an extension only when and if the operator demonstrates with sufficient specificity the need for such an extension. In any event, pursuant to SWR 32(i)(3), an operator shall file an application and fee for renewal of an exception with the commission 21 days prior to expiration of the existing exception.

An operator whose application to vent or flare gas is denied in whole or in part has the right to request a hearing before the Commission.

For any comments or questions please contact the Engineering Unit at 512-463-1126 or email Scott.Rosenquist@rrc.state.tx.us or Terry.Edwards@rrc.state.tx.us

Please Forward to the Appropriate Section of Your Company