

- SUBJECT:** Allowing Railroad Commission to send certain notices by email
- COMMITTEE:** Energy Resources — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — Goldman, Craddick, Ellzey, T. King, Leman, Longoria, Reynolds
- 0 nays
- 4 absent — Herrero, Anchia, Darby, Geren
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify*:; Jimmy Carlile, Fasken Oil and Ranch; Cyrus Reed, Lone Star Chapter Sierra Club; Ben Shepperd, Permian Basin Petroleum Association; Lon Burnam, Public Citizen; Jason Modglin, Texas Alliance of Energy Producers; Ryan Paylor, Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO); Suzanne Mitchell)
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Jeremy Mazur, Railroad Commission)
- BACKGROUND:** Interested parties have suggested that the Railroad Commission of Texas should have the discretion to send certain notices as emails in order to eliminate postage, printing, and labor costs associated with delivering notices by physical mail.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 3039 would authorize the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) to send as an electronic record:
- a notice of a contract to plug a delinquent inactive oil or gas well;
  - a notice related to the possession and sale of certain equipment and hydrocarbons to cover plugging costs; or
  - a notice that an application for the release of certain surface mine bonds or deposits had been filed.

The bill also would authorize RRC to deliver a required notice of a cancellation of a certificate of compliance through personal service, registered or certified mail, or as an electronic record. RRC could send certain required notices relating to an application for a quarry safety certificate either through certified mail or as an electronic record.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2021.