

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
Oil and Gas Division

NOTICE TO OIL AND GAS WELL OPERATORS

**Newark, East (Barnett Shale) Field
Changes in Railroad Commission Field Oversight**

The subject field was discovered in October of 1981 in Wise County and is now developed with 6505 wells as of July 13, 2007, located in 18 counties across three Districts (District 09 - Wichita Falls, District 7B - Abilene, and District 05/06 - Kilgore). An additional 3682 wells are permitted to drill in 23 counties, with expectations of the field expanding into several more counties, as drilling activity remains high for the foreseeable future.

Efficiency and resource issues have developed relative to Field Operations Activity due to the fact that the field was established in District 09, but is extending into multiple districts well beyond the boundaries (up to 100 miles) of District 09. This has created resource management problems relative to fieldwork (drilling, completion, and plugging), response to emergencies and complaints, well record accuracy, and location of files. In addition, this has led to confusion for the general public as they try to determine which RRC District office is responsible for regulatory oversight

To resolve these issues, regulatory management of the Newark, East (Barnett Shale) Field will be split along district boundaries for field oversight purposes only effective September 1, 2007. There will be no change in electronic, or paper records that are filed and maintained in Austin.

The Commission District Office with oversight responsibility will be the one where the surface location of the well is located. All correspondence, required notifications, required filings, and inquiries will go to this district. This includes but is not limited to alternative casing requests, casing notice, approval of plugging procedures, complaints, compliance questions, and records that are required to be filed in the district office. All Commission required forms must still show District 09 as the district of record.

District assignments for counties with wells currently completed or permitted in the Newark, East (Barnett Shale) Field are as follows:

District 05 - Kilgore (903) 984-3026 : Bosque, Dallas, Ellis, Hill, Johnson, McLennan, and Tarrant

District 7B - Abilene (325) 677-3545: Brown, Comanche, Eastland, Erath, Hamilton, Hood, Palo Pinto, Parker, Somervell, and Stephens

District 09 - Wichita Falls (940) 723-2153: Clay, Cooke, Denton, Jack, Montague, and Wise

Austin, Texas

July 2007

PLEASE FORWARD TO THE APPROPRIATE SECTION OF YOUR COMPANY
