

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## WATER COMMITTEE

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The PBPA Water Committee met on November 17th for its Q4 2021 meeting. The primary focus of this meeting was on seismicity and injection wells given the recent regulatory response by both Texas and New Mexico. Mark Henkhaus, PBPA RPC's co-chair, gave an overview of the two Seismic Response Areas (SRA) identified and issued by the Texas RRC earlier this year. The first, issued in September 2021, was the Gardendale response and SRA that encompassed nearly 80 injection wells near Midland and Odessa in Midland, Ector, Martin and Andrews County. This action reduced the permitted maximum daily injection rate to 10,000 barrels per day (bpd) for the wells identified, regardless of injection formation. The second RRC response, issued in October, was the Northern Culberson-Reeves SRA that requested an operator led response plan (OLRP) for an area encompassing nearly 90 wells near the TX-NM state line. Absent an OLRP by the second half of January 2022, the RRC commission will implement a response action plan that would limit maximum daily volume based on depth and location within the SRA. Maximum daily volumes would be limited to 10k-20kbpd and 10k-30kbpd for shallow and deep wells respectively depending on location within the SRA.

After talking about agency response in Texas, we turned to the induced seismicity response protocols recently put in place in New Mexico by the Oil Conservation Division. This protocol will now impact injection operations within a 10 mile radius of 2.5 magnitude events (actually triggered if there are two or more 2.5 magnitude events within 30 days of each other and within 10 miles of each other), with increased limitations if an event exceeds a 3.0 magnitude, and further increased limitations if an event exceeds a 3.5 magnitude. Depending on the magnitude of an event, and regardless of whether or not that event has been determined to be naturally occurring or induced, injection volumes and average daily surface pressure could either require specific monitoring and reporting, be reduced, or even shut-in. Operations within a 3 mile radius of a 3.5+ magnitude event will be required to fully shut-in.

In addition to the seismicity discussion, members were updated on the TX Produced Water Consortium that was formed by recent legislation (Texas SB601). The consortium will consist of various stakeholders and experts across the industry and will serve to evaluate potential opportunities for beneficial reuse of produced water. Consortium enrollment is open and more information can be found on the TxPWC website hosted by Texas Tech.