



Update on TCEQ Oil & Gas Regulatory Activities in Texas

Texas Commission on Environmental
Quality
Office of Compliance and Enforcement



August 27, 2019

Approximately 308,192 Active Oil and Gas Wells as of July 31, 2019





Imagery Date: 12/5/2012

© 2013 Gnes/Spot Image
© 2013 Google
© 2013 INEGI
Image © 2013 TerraMetrics

Google earth

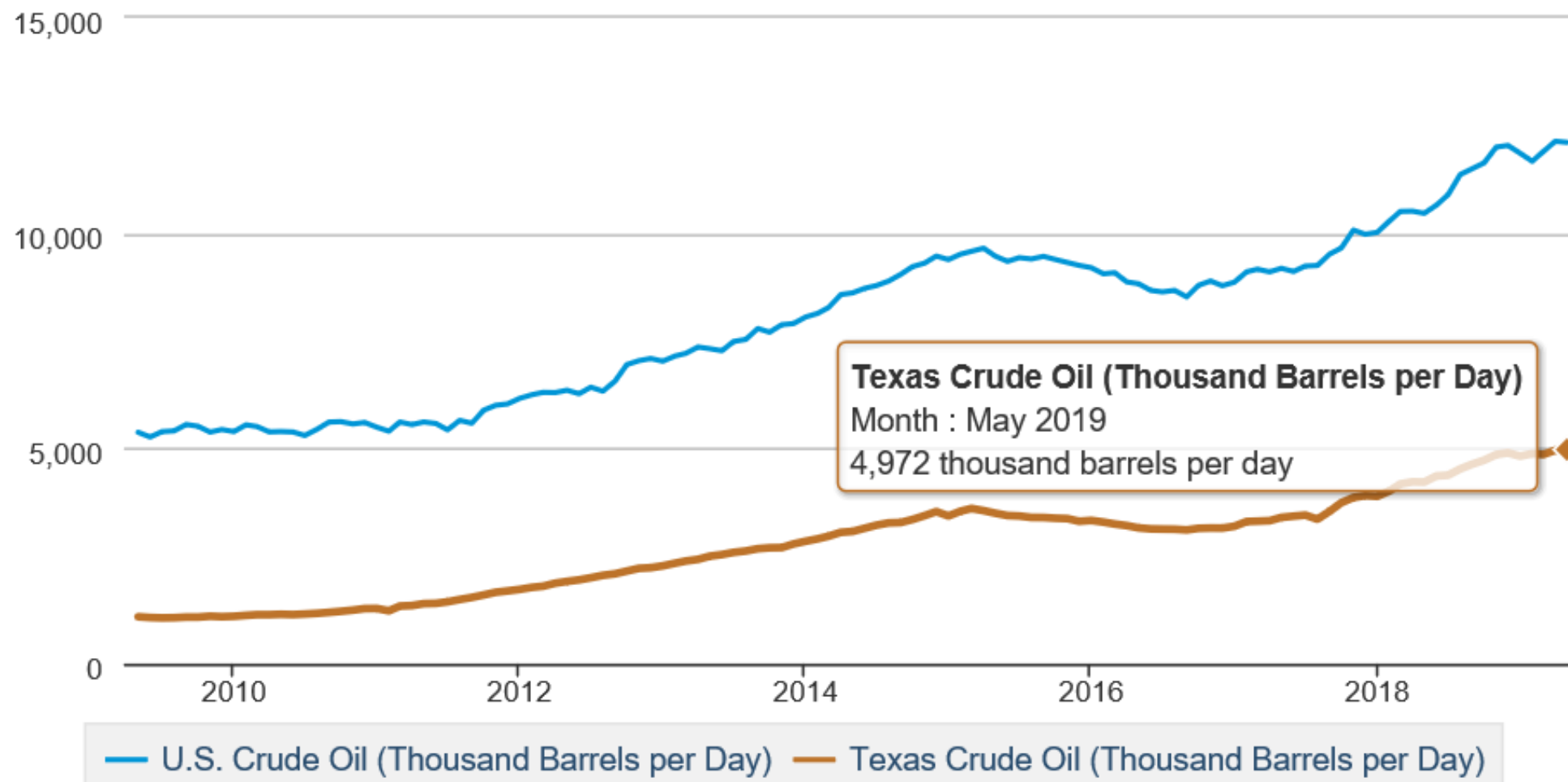
Eye alt 730.21 mi

31°11'27.05" N - 99°33'20.14" W elev 1799 ft

U.S. crude oil production



thousand barrels per day

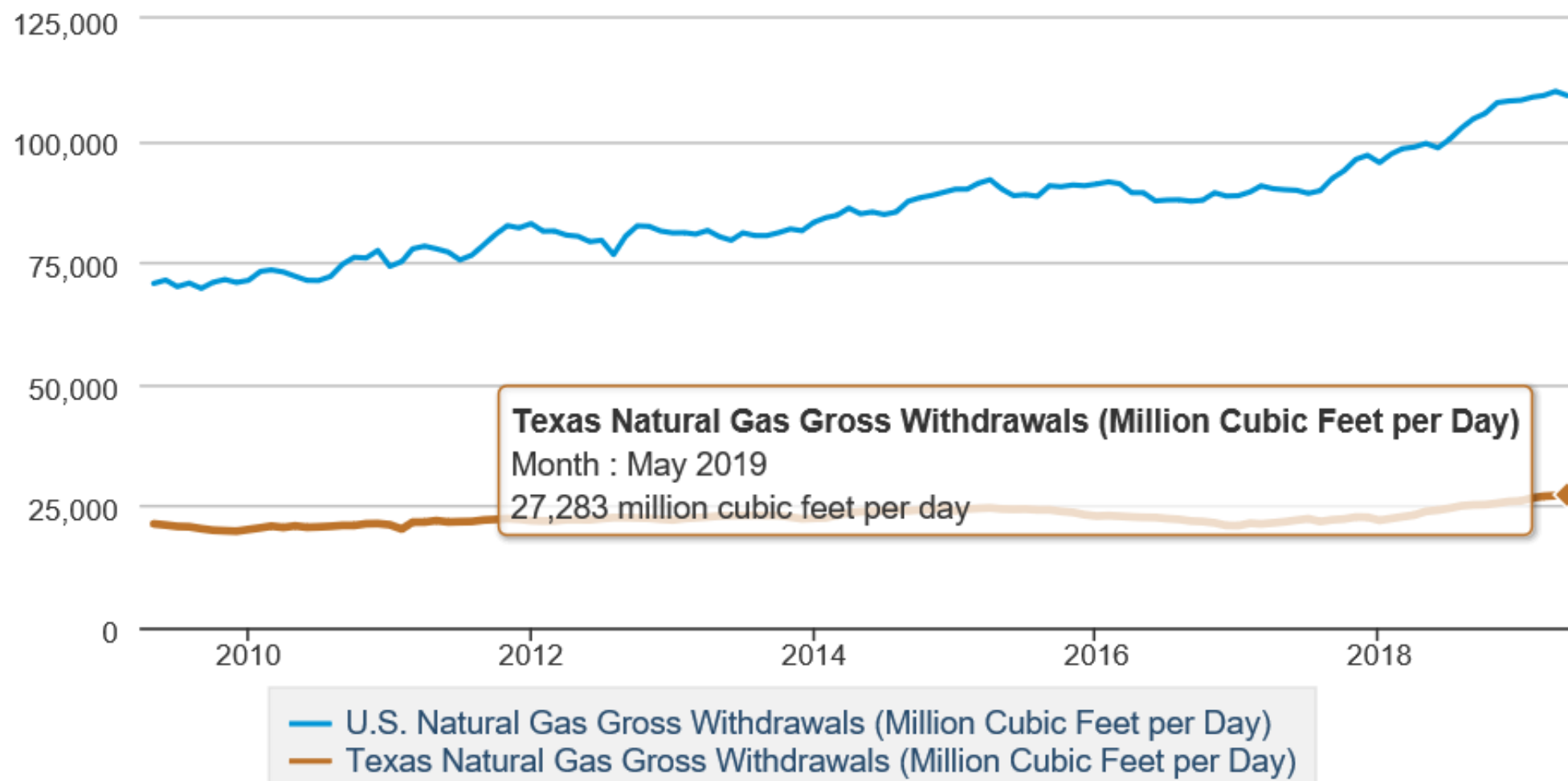


Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

U.S. natural gas production (gross withdrawals)



million cubic feet per day



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

TCEQ's Regulatory Role



- The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ's) primary regulatory role with O&G is regulating air emissions and ensuring air quality, as well as any potential impact to water.
- Investigations performed in response to oil and gas activities in multiple programs.

Compliance Tools



Environmental Assistance Division

Publications

**Regulatory
Workshops**

**TCEQ
Websites**

**Guidance
Documents**



**General Education
Events**

**Telephone
Hotlines**

**Permitting
Guidance & Workshops**

“Environmentors”

On-site/Off-site Facility Assistance

TCEQ Office of Compliance and Enforcement

- Critical Functions -

- Conduct Compliance Investigations
- Investigate Complaints
- Review Emission Events Reported to TCEQ
- Issue Notices of Violation
- Issue Enforcement Orders
- Conduct ambient monitoring of air quality
- Respond to environmental emergency incidents



Investigation Update

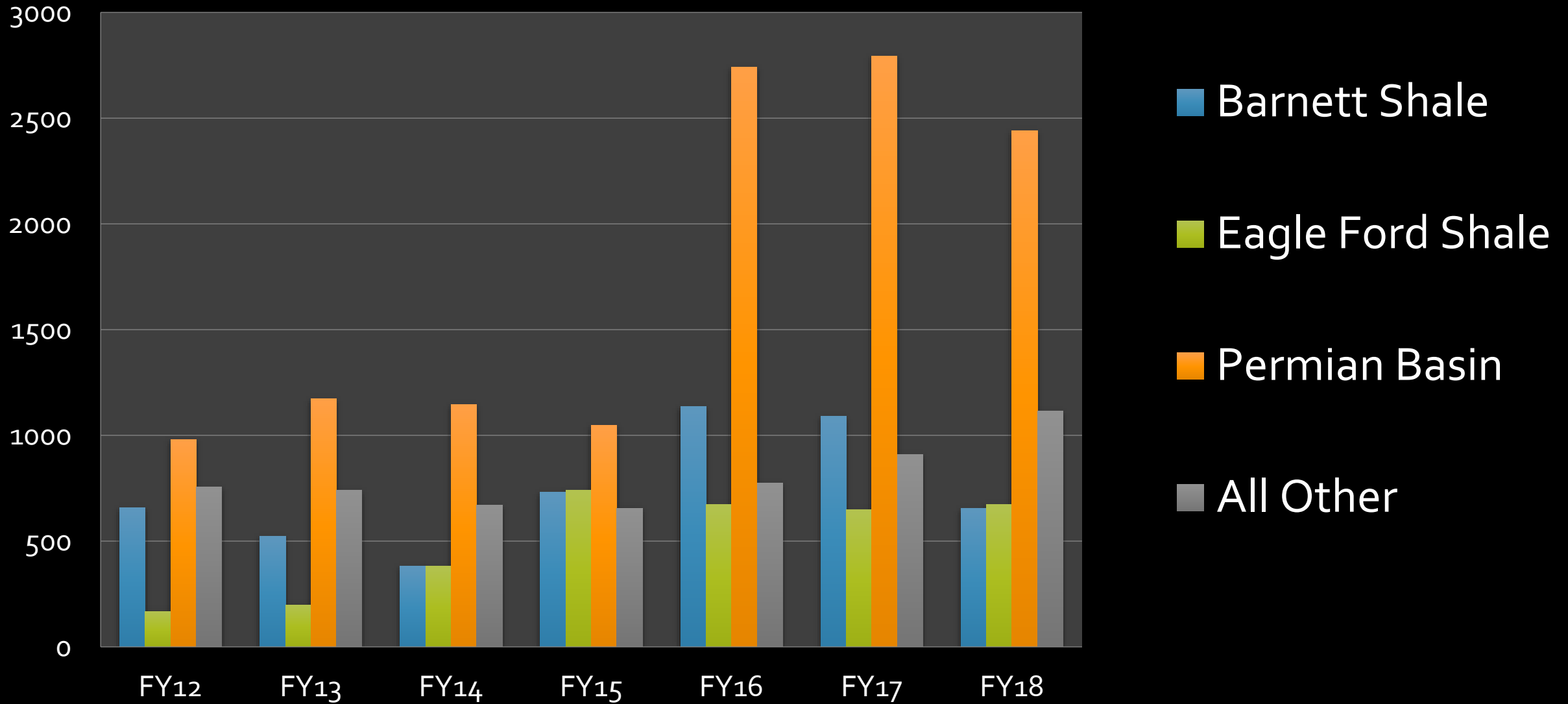


TCEQ Investigation Types

- Regularly scheduled investigation
- Complaint response investigation
- U.S. EPA or TCEQ initiative
- Spill response or emergency response
- Referral from another governmental entity



Air Investigation Activities Upstream & Midstream O&G

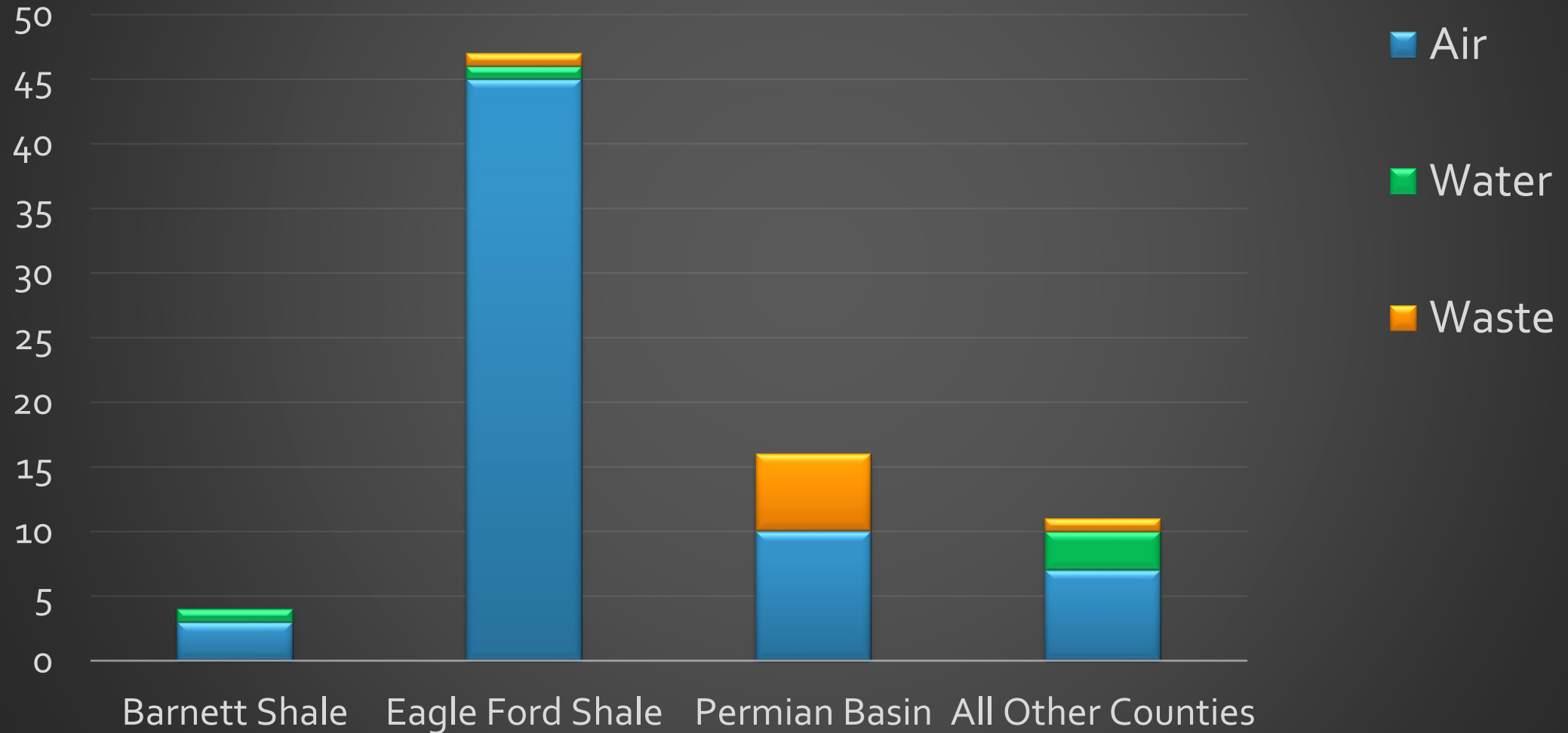


Complaint Response

TCEQ responds to all complaints received under its jurisdiction:

- Considered a core mission of the agency
- Complaints are assigned a priority with corresponding investigation timeline
- Alleged health related issues are considered our highest priority

FY2018 Complaints Received Upstream & Midstream O&G Sites



Reported Emissions

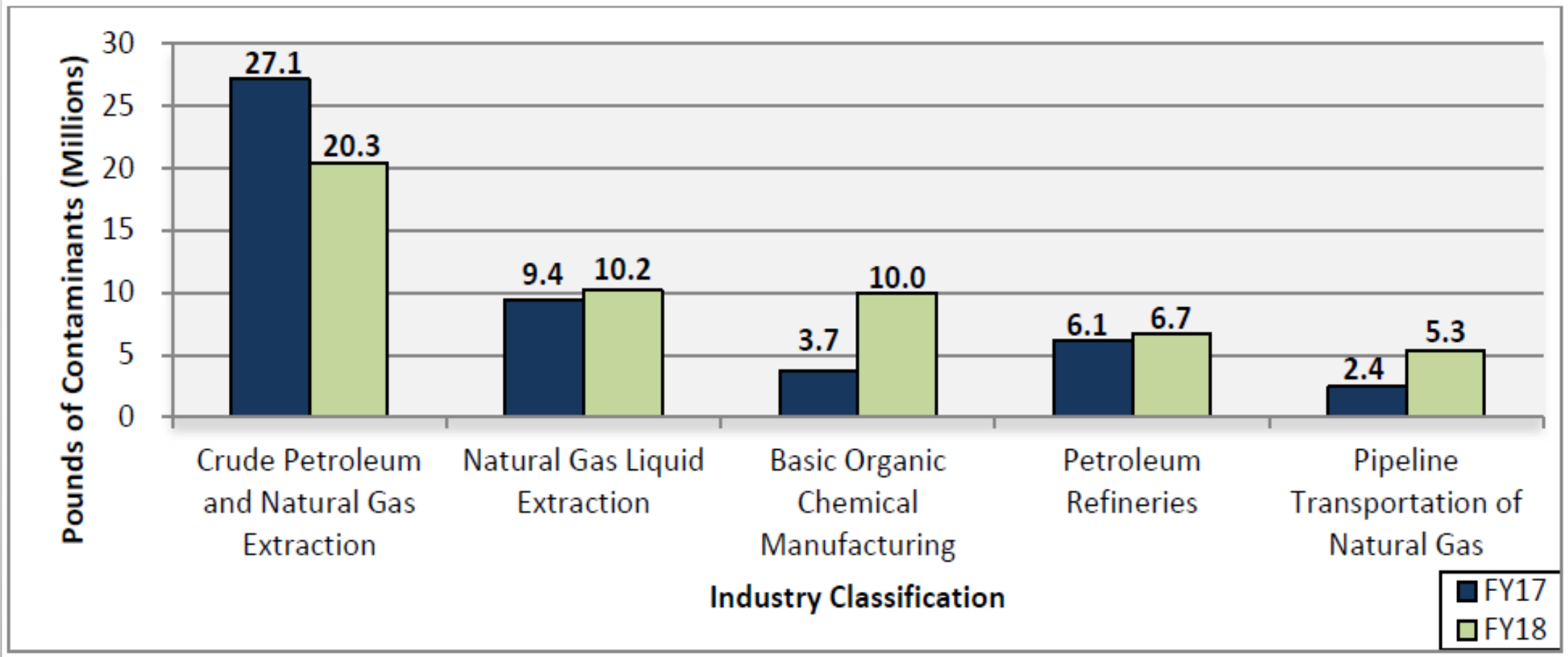


FY2018 Incidents Reported by Industry Type

Under 30 TAC Chapter 101, Subchapter F

Industry Type	Emissions Events	Scheduled Maintenance	Scheduled Startup	Scheduled Shutdown	Excess Opacity	Total
Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Extraction	1,990	32	3	3	1	2,029
Natural Gas Liquid Extraction	435	34	7	9	6	491
Petroleum Refineries	259	14	10	5	15	303
Pipeline Transportation of Natural Gas	86	7	0	0	0	93
Fossil Fuel Electric Power Generation	24	12	3	1	29	69
Petrochemical Manufacturing	31	2	2	0	0	35

Quantity of Contaminants by Industrial Classification FY2017 & FY2018



Innovative Approaches & Outreach



Optical Gas Imaging Camera (OGIC)



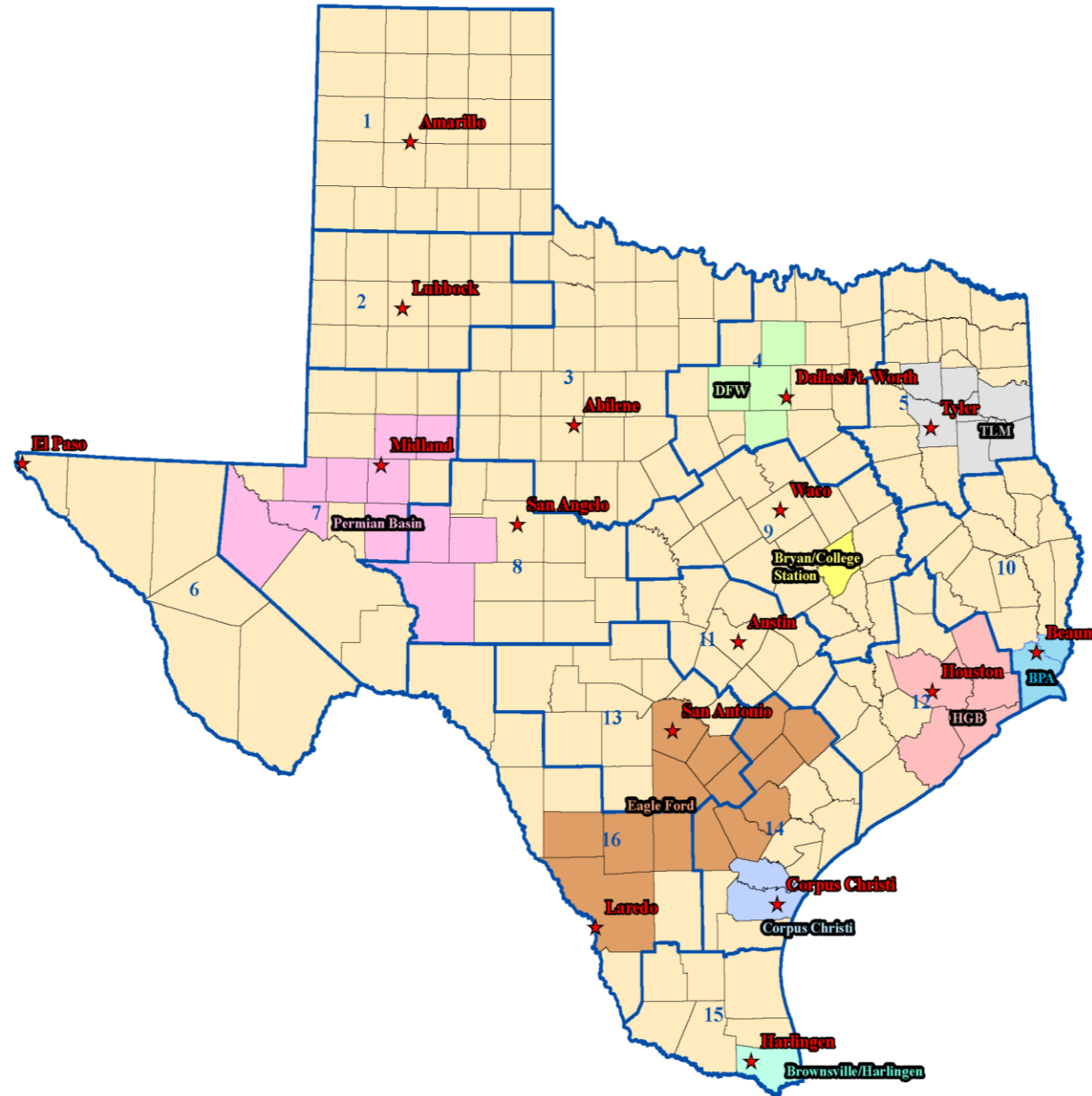
- Using the OGIC, we can potentially locate under reported or unrecognized VOC source types
- The camera is capable of locating and imaging emissions from various sources of air pollution
- Documented images of emissions for follow-up

TCEQ Statewide OGIC By the Numbers



- 20 Cameras
- Approximately 100 certified operators
- 2 Level III Infrared Training Center certified thermographers
- 1 level II ITC certified thermographer
- internal TCEQ certification program
- 2 to 4 flyovers per year

Flyovers with OGIC



- TCEQ has conducted multiple contractor-led aerial surveys or flyovers using a helicopter mounted with an optical gas imaging camera (OGIC) capable of detecting sources of air emissions:
- Effective screening tool;
- Evaluate large geographical areas;
- Allows TCEQ to focus resources on potentially problematic areas; and
- Thousands of individual tanks have been surveyed.



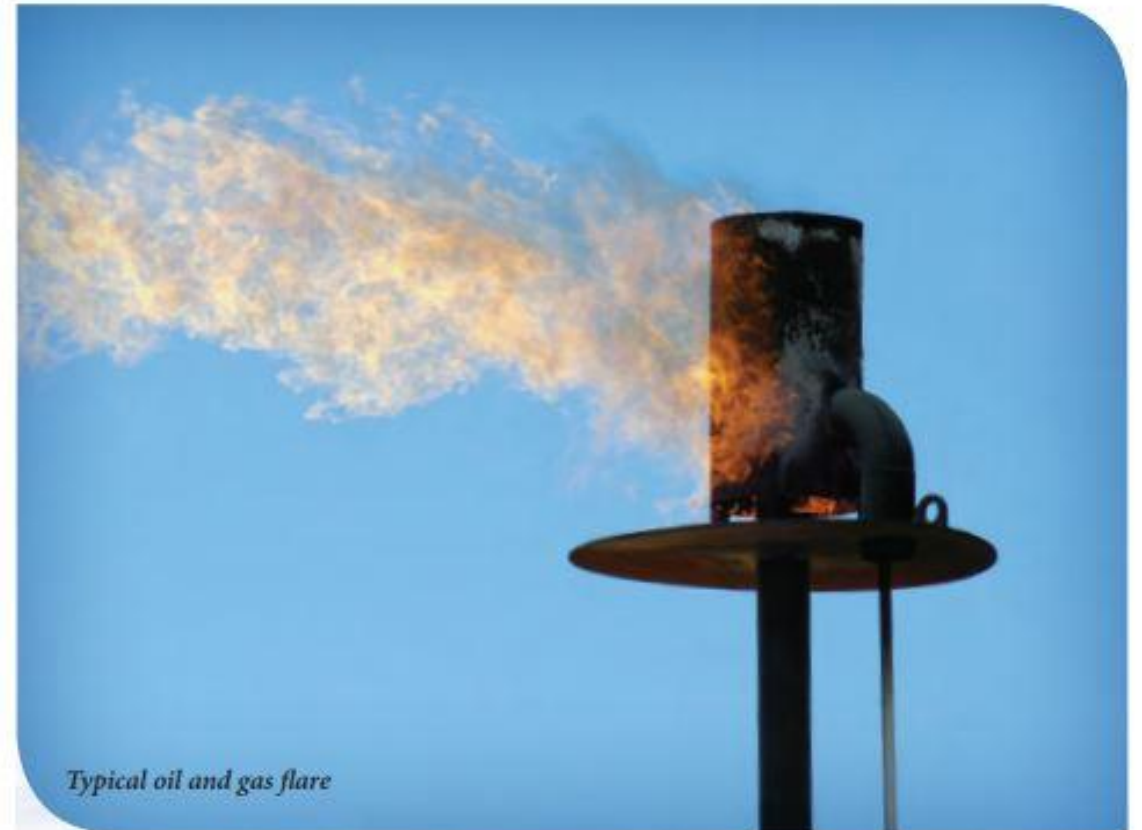
TCEQ's Outreach Activities



- Publications, Web Info, & FAQs
- Local Government Workshops, Public Workshops, Town Hall Meetings & Open Houses
- Outreach to County Judges
- Coordination with Railroad Commission of Texas
- TCEQ Environmental Trade Fair – Oil & Gas Track
 - In May of each year

TCEQ GI-457

- Explains what production flares are and why they are necessary
- If a visible flame is really ok
- Why a flare smokes
- Contains links to additional resources and contact information for submission of complaints



Typical oil and gas flare

FLARING AT OIL AND NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION SITES

Other Avenues to Compliance

- ✓ The Texas Audit Act is one avenue to helping an entity achieve voluntary compliance
- ✓ The TCEQ Program Support and Environmental Assistance Division also offers assistance through programs like the EnviroMentor Program and other compliance assistance options.

Audit Act Incentives

- Limited evidentiary privilege for certain information gathered in a voluntary self-audit.
- Immunity from administrative and civil penalties for certain violations voluntarily disclosed as a result of such an audit.

Immunity

- TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §1101.151
- Disclosed violations may be granted immunity from administrative or civil penalties:
 - Proper notice of intent to conduct an audit
 - Proper, voluntary disclosure of violations
 - Violations corrected in a reasonable amount of time

Audit Act

- **Most Common Violations:**
 - Failure to obtain the proper authorization
 - Failure to properly maintain emission control devices
 - Failure to maintain records

TCEQ Publication RG-173

- A Guide to the Texas Environmental, Health, and Safety Audit Privilege Act
- May be found on our website at:
https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/comm_exec/pubs/rg/rg-173.pdf

TCEQ's Oil and Gas Web Site

- Oil and Gas Facilities: Compliance Resources:
<http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assistance/industry/oil-and-gas/oilgas.html>
- Compliance information on air, water, waste, and spill issues
- Guidance documents for local governments
- Sign up for email updates for Oil & Gas

Thank you

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