



Texas Landowners Face Challenges from Low-Producing Oil Wells

Description

In Tom Green County, Texas, some oil wells produce significant amounts of oil daily, while others produce very little. Jackie Chesnutt, a retired engineer, claims the five wells on her ranch are not meeting state regulations and should be shut down. The company operating these wells, CORE Petro, argues that it is struggling financially and insists all its wells are compliant with regulations.

Texas has around 99,000 active oil wells, with about two-thirds producing fewer than 10 barrels a day. To remain operational, a well must produce at least five barrels for three consecutive months or one barrel for 12 months. Companies often choose to maintain minimal production instead of spending substantial sums on well closure, a practice that impacts landowners like Chesnutt, who are concerned about pollution and visual clutter.

Industry analysts suggest that some companies may underreport production to avoid the costs associated with plugging wells. Environmental advocates are calling for stricter regulations to ensure timely well closures and avoid downloading costs onto the state.

Chesnutt has documented pollution from the wells and raised complaints with the Railroad Commission, which oversees the oil industry. However, she feels her concerns have been largely ignored, and her frustrations have led to confrontations with company staff. The commission has not penalised CORE Petro.

The issue highlights a larger problem in Texas, where thousands of low-producing wells continue to exist, creating potential environmental risks. Chesnutt remains determined to hold the company accountable and is concerned about the future of her property. Further developments in regulations and the financial stability of operators like CORE Petro will significantly impact the resolution of these matters.

Vocabulary List:

1. **regulations** //ˌrɛɡjəˈleɪʃənz// (noun): official rules made by government or authorities
2. **compliant** //kəmˈplaɪənt// (adjective): following rules or what is required
3. **underreport** //ˌʌndəˈrɪːpɔːt// (verb): to give a lower number than actual
4. **pollution** //pəˈluʃən// (noun): dirty or harmful materials in air or water
5. **advocates** //ˈædvəkəts// (noun): people who publicly support an idea
6. **operational** //ˌɒpəˈreɪʃənəl// (adjective): working and able to be used

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. How many active oil wells are there in Texas?
Option: 50,000
Option: 75,000
Option: 99,000
Option: 120,000

2. What is the minimum production required for a well to remain operational for three consecutive months?
Option: One barrel
Option: Five barrels
Option: Ten barrels
Option: Twenty barrels

3. What company operates the wells on Jackie Chesnutt's ranch?
Option: CORE Petro
Option: Texaco
Option: Exxon Mobil
Option: Chevron

4. What are some concerns that Jackie Chesnutt has regarding the wells?
Option: Noise pollution and traffic
Option: Visual clutter and pollution
Option: Loss of property value
Option: Water contamination

5. Which organization oversees the oil industry in Texas?
Option: Environmental Protection Agency
Option: Railroad Commission
Option: Texas Oil and Gas Association
Option: Department of Natural Resources

6. What do environmental advocates want regarding oil wells?
Option: More oil production
Option: Stricter regulations
Option: Closure of all oil wells
Option: Less oversight



True-False

7. Jackie Chesnutt is pleased with CORE Petro's management of the oil wells.
8. Two-thirds of the oil wells in Texas produce fewer than 10 barrels a day.
9. CORE Petro has been penalised by the Railroad Commission.
10. Companies often choose to close wells instead of maintaining minimal production.
11. Jackie Chesnutt has documented pollution and raised complaints with the Railroad Commission.
12. The financial stability of operators like CORE Petro is irrelevant to the resolution of the issues.

Gap-Fill

13. A well must produce at least _____ barrels for three consecutive months to remain operational.
14. Approximately two-thirds of Texas oil wells produce fewer than _____ barrels a day.
15. Jackie Chesnutt claims that the five wells on her ranch are not meeting state _____ and should be shut down.
16. Environmental advocates are calling for stricter _____ to ensure timely well closures.
17. The Railroad Commission oversees the _____ industry in Texas.
18. Chesnutt has raised complaints regarding _____ from the wells.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. 99,000 2. Five barrels 3. CORE Petro 4. Visual clutter and pollution 5. Railroad Commission 6. Stricter regulations

True-False: 7. False 8. True 9. False 10. False 11. True 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. five 14. ten 15. regulations 17. oil 18. pollution



Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What does 'capacity' typically refer to in a business context?
 - Option: The maximum output a company can produce
 - Option: The amount of funding available
 - Option: The number of investors in a startup
 - Option: A regulatory requirement
2. What is usually a primary source of funding for startups?
 - Option: Grants
 - Option: Personal savings
 - Option: Investors
 - Option: All of the above
3. Which of the following best describes 'infrastructure'?
 - Option: Financial support mechanisms
 - Option: Basic physical systems of a business or nation
 - Option: Community advocacy groups
 - Option: Technological advancements
4. Who are typically considered 'investors'?
 - Option: People who support community projects
 - Option: Individuals or entities that provide capital for a business
 - Option: Participants in clinical trials
 - Option: Workers in refineries
5. What are the environmental consequences of pollution?
 - Option: Improved health
 - Option: Cleaner air and water
 - Option: Harm to wildlife and ecosystems
 - Option: Increased biodiversity
6. What does it mean when a project is 'approved'?
 - Option: It has been unanimously rejected
 - Option: It has received formal consent to proceed
 - Option: It is still under consideration
 - Option: It has been put on hold
7. In genetics, what does 'mutation' refer to?



- Option: An improvement in DNA sequences
- Option: A change in the DNA sequence
- Option: The creation of new therapeutic methods
- Option: A type of funding model

8. Which term describes the income generated from normal business operations?

- Option: Expenditure
- Option: Profit
- Option: Revenue
- Option: Assets

9. What do 'regulations' typically enforce?

- Option: Voluntary compliance in industry
- Option: Mandatory rules that govern behaviors
- Option: Market fluctuations
- Option: Increased competition

10. What does 'transition' mean in the context of organizational change?

- Option: A permanent change
- Option: A change from one state to another
- Option: An increase in staff
- Option: A decrease in revenue

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

- 11. The manufacturing plant is operating at full _____ to meet demand.
- 12. The startup secured additional _____ to launch its new product.
- 13. Several new _____ expressed interest in the company during the pitch.
- 14. The city upgraded its _____ to support more traffic and reduce delays.
- 15. The _____ gathered outside the building to voice their concerns about pollution.
- 16. The government implemented new laws to combat air _____ in urban areas.
- 17. The project was _____ by the board after a thorough review.
- 18. The _____ in the virus's genetic code made it more resilient.



19. The company reported a significant increase in its _____ this quarter.

20. New _____ for construction were enacted to enhance safety measures.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The production facility operates at a maximum capacity of 10,000 units per day.
22. The project received significant funding from several venture capitalists.
23. Many investors are looking for sustainable business models in the current market.
24. Investing in infrastructure is crucial for economic growth.
25. The protesters voiced their opposition to the proposed legislation.
26. Efforts to reduce pollution are necessary for a healthy environment.
27. The new regulations were approved unanimously by the committee.
28. The scientists studied the mutation of the virus to develop a vaccine.
29. The company's revenue has increased significantly over the past year.
30. The government has established new regulations to protect wildlife.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. The maximum output a company can produce 2. All of the above 3. Basic physical systems of a business or nation 4. Individuals or entities that provide capital for a business 5. Harm to wildlife and ecosystems 6. It has received formal consent to proceed 7. A change in the DNA sequence 8. Revenue 9. Mandatory rules that govern behaviors 10. A change from one state to another

Gap-Fill: 11. capacity 12. funding 13. investors 14. infrastructure 15. protesters 16. pollution 17. approved 18. mutation 19. revenue 20. regulations

Matching sentence: 1. capacity 2. funding 3. investors 4. infrastructure 5. protesters 6. pollution 7. approved 8. mutation 9. revenue 10. regulations

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