Texans First Fuel Program

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SECTION 1. EXECUTIVE STATEMENT

Texas has more energy resources than any state in the country, yet many Texans still struggle with fuel costs and watch thousands of inactive oil wells sit unused on land that could be productive again. These wells are not empty. Many can be repaired, brought back online, and made useful for the people who live and work here. The problem is that small operators cannot afford the high cost of reviving them, landowners do not benefit from wells that no longer produce, and the state carries the burden of eventually plugging wells that sit abandoned for too long.

The Texans First Fuel Program is a practical way to turn a problem into an opportunity. Instead of letting these wells remain idle, the state offers voluntary partnerships that help cover part of the cost to bring them back. In return, Texas receives a small share of the oil that comes out of these revived wells. That oil is refined in Texas and used to create a steady supply of discounted fuel for Texas drivers. Landowners keep full control of their mineral rights, operators remain in charge of their wells, and the state becomes a partner that helps reduce financial risk.

This approach does not replace the oil industry and does not interfere with the regular market. It builds a separate channel that grows naturally over time. The more wells that come back online, the more discounted fuel becomes available. Early on, Texans may receive a small weekly or monthly fuel allowance at a reduced price. As the program grows, that benefit increases. For many families, even a small amount of affordable fuel can make a real difference in their budget.

The goal is simple. Use what Texas already has to help Texans directly. Revive the wells that make sense, respect the people who own the land, support the operators who keep the industry moving, and give every driver in this state a chance to see real value from the resources beneath our feet. This program is built to work slowly, steadily, and responsibly. It is designed to strengthen the Texas energy economy while giving something back to the people who keep this state running.

2. The Texas Oil Well Problem

Texas is home to thousands of inactive and abandoned oil wells that could still provide value if properly evaluated and revived. These wells affect landowners, operators, and the state in different ways, and the underlying causes are tied to economics, aging equipment, and regulatory obligations. This section explains the conditions that created the problem and why a structured program is needed to address it responsibly.

2.1 Inactive Wells Across the State

Inactive wells are found in nearly every producing region of Texas, and many still contain recoverable oil that is not being brought to the surface. These wells were shut down for different reasons, ranging from mechanical failure to unstable prices. As they sit idle, they create no benefit for the people who own the land or for the communities around them.

- Thousands of inactive wells remain scattered across private and rural land.
- Many have not been assessed in years, leaving their true condition unknown.
- Valuable resources remain underground while the wells produce nothing.

2.2 Why Operators Walk Away

Smaller operators often face financial limitations that prevent them from repairing or reviving older wells. A single workover can be expensive, and operators must decide whether the potential return justifies the cost. When finances are tight, the safest choice for them is to shut the well in and focus on new projects.

- Repairing a well can cost tens of thousands of dollars or more.
- Multiple repairs are sometimes needed before production becomes steady.
- When cost exceeds expected revenue, the operator walks away.

2.3 Landowner Concerns

Landowners receive no benefit from wells that have stopped producing, yet these wells remain on their property indefinitely. Over time, inactive wells can reduce land value and increase worries about long-term liability. Without a clear path to revival, landowners often feel stuck with an unused and aging structure on their land.

- Property owners lose royalty income once wells stop producing.
- Inactive wells can lower the economic value of the surrounding property.
- Long-term liability concerns grow as wells sit untouched.

2.4 Why Texans Still Pay Full Market Fuel Prices

Texas produces large amounts of oil, but the fuel Texans buy is priced according to global markets. Oil from Texas enters national and international supply chains, so local abundance does not automatically translate into lower fuel costs. As a result, Texans bear the same price pressures as consumers in other states.

- Fuel prices are shaped by global events, not state production alone.
- Local oil is blended with national and international supply.
- Texas drivers do not receive a direct price advantage from in-state production.

2.5 State Responsibility for Plugging

When operators cannot afford to maintain or revive older wells, these wells risk becoming orphaned and eventually fall under state responsibility. Plugging wells is expensive and requires specialized service crews, which strains state resources. The longer wells remain inactive, the more likely they are to require public intervention.

- Plugging costs can reach tens of thousands of dollars per well.
- The state must act when wells are abandoned without a responsible operator.
- Each year of inactivity increases the likelihood of state-funded plugging.

2.6 Economic Pressures in 2025

Texans face higher costs for transportation, groceries, and essential services, and fuel prices play a major role in these increases. When fuel becomes expensive, every part of daily life becomes more costly, especially for families who commute long distances. Practical solutions that reduce these costs are needed across the state.

- Higher fuel prices increase the cost of goods and services.
- Families feel financial strain during periods of unstable gasoline prices.
- Rural Texans face longer driving distances and greater overall impact.

2.7 Impact on Rural Communities

Rural counties host a large share of inactive wells, and these wells represent missed economic opportunity. Reviving even a small number of wells can create local work and bring revenue back to landowners. For many rural regions, the ability to restore production has a direct economic benefit.

- Local service companies gain new work when wells are revived.
- Landowners receive income that supports their property and operations.
- Communities benefit from increased activity and stable production.

3. Why the Texans First Fuel Program Is Needed

Texas has the resources, workers, and infrastructure to support a practical fuel relief system built around wells that already exist. Many of these wells can be revived with reasonable investment, but small operators and landowners cannot shoulder the cost alone. This program provides a way to connect these unused resources to a direct benefit for Texas families while maintaining current markets and respecting property rights.

3.1 Connecting Unused Wells to Fuel Relief

Texas has thousands of wells that still contain producible oil but remain inactive due to cost barriers. By helping bring some of these wells back online, the state can create a steady supply of crude dedicated to fuel relief for Texans. This approach turns an existing problem into a practical benefit.

- Revived wells produce oil that would otherwise stay underground.
- Production is used to support discounted fuel for Texas drivers.
- The system relies on voluntary participation from landowners and operators.

3.2 Keeping the Market Stable

The program does not alter how Texas oil is bought or sold in commercial markets. Instead, it creates a separate, limited channel based on a share of revived well production. This protects market stability while allowing Texans to benefit from a controlled portion of in-state resources.

- Commercial operations continue with no changes to pricing rules.
- The state's share is small and collected only from participating wells.
- The structure prevents interference with broader energy markets.

3.3 Support for Small Operators

Small operators play a major role in Texas production but often lack the funds to revive older wells. The program reduces financial risk by covering part of the repair cost in exchange for a small share of the revived production. This allows operators to stay active and maintain wells that would otherwise remain idle.

- Operators retain control of their wells and daily operations.
- State participation lowers the upfront cost of revival.
- Small producers gain an opportunity to restore profitable production.

3.4 Benefits for Landowners

Landowners see no benefit from inactive wells and shoulder the burden of having unused structures on their property. When a well is revived, they regain royalty income and improve the economic value of their land. This program creates a path for landowners to participate without taking on the cost themselves.

- Landowners keep full mineral rights and royalty shares.
- Revived wells restore income for property owners.
- Surface agreements protect land use and property conditions.

3.5 Benefits for Texas Drivers and Families

Fuel costs affect every household, especially those who drive long distances for work, school, or daily needs. The fuel credit system provides Texans with a steady discount that grows as more wells participate. Even small savings can have a noticeable impact on household budgets.

- Fuel credits reduce the cost of essential travel.
- Discounts increase as more revived wells contribute to the supply.
- Families receive direct, measurable value from Texas resources.

3.6 Why This Approach Fits 2025 Conditions

Economic conditions in 2025 create a need for solutions that lower costs without raising taxes or disrupting markets. Texas has unused wells, existing refineries, and a strong service industry capable of supporting the program. The structure builds on what the state already has instead of creating a new system from scratch.

- The core program can be structured so that it does not require new taxes if lawmakers choose to redirect part of existing energy revenues.
- Existing energy infrastructure supports the system.
- The approach uses Texas resources in a targeted and practical way.

4. How We Choose Which Wells to Revive

Not every inactive well in Texas is suitable for revival. Some wells can be repaired and made productive, while others are too damaged or costly to restore. This section explains the evaluation process used to identify wells that can safely and responsibly return to production under the program.

4.1 Classifying Wells for Viability

Each inactive well is placed into a category based on its current condition, history, and potential for safe production. This classification helps determine whether the well can be revived or if it should remain capped or plugged. The goal is to focus on wells with realistic potential that do not carry unnecessary risk.

- Category A wells have strong potential for quick revival.
- Category B wells require moderate repairs but can still be viable.
- Category C wells are too costly or unsafe to revive.

4.2 Engineering Review and Condition Checks

A technical evaluation is performed to understand the mechanical state of each well. Engineers review tubing, casing, cement integrity, and past production records to determine whether the well can operate safely. This ensures only wells that meet basic structural standards move forward.

- Mechanical issues such as collapsed tubing are identified early.
- Casing and cement are checked for leaks or weak points.
- Engineers confirm whether the well can safely hold pressure and flow.

4.3 Safety and Environmental Considerations

Some wells pose higher safety or environmental risks due to age, location, or structural problems. These wells require deeper evaluation to determine whether revival is responsible or if plugging is the safer option. Safety standards must be met before any repair work begins.

- Wells with significant corrosion or leakage are excluded from revival.
- Nearby water sources are reviewed to ensure no contamination risk.
- Environmental conditions are included in the final decision process.

4.4 Cost and Production Potential

A well must have the potential to produce enough oil to justify the cost of repair. Engineers and operators estimate expected output based on reservoir data, pressure tests, and historical production. Wells that cannot reasonably produce enough oil are not selected for revival.

- Production estimates are based on verified field data.
- Repair costs are compared against projected output.
- Wells with minimal expected returns are removed from consideration.

4.5 Final Selection Criteria

After technical, environmental, and economic reviews, wells that meet all requirements are placed into the program. This final screening ensures that each participating well is safe, viable, and capable of contributing to long-term fuel relief. Only wells that pass every step are approved.

- Wells must meet safety, engineering, and cost standards.
- Final approval is based on documented evaluations.
- Only wells with responsible production potential enter the program.

5. Working With Landowners and Operators

The Texans First Fuel Program only works when landowners and operators participate willingly and understand the protections in place for both sides. This section explains how agreements are formed, how rights are respected, and what steps ensure that wells are managed responsibly from start to finish. The goal is to create simple, clear partnerships that work for everyone involved.

5.1 Protection of Mineral Rights

Mineral rights remain fully intact under this program, and the state does not take ownership of any minerals. Landowners continue to receive their share of royalties just as they would with any producing well. This structure keeps control in private hands while allowing the program to support well revival.

- The state receives only a small share of oil that comes from revived wells.
- Landowners retain full legal ownership of their minerals.
- Royalty agreements remain unchanged and follow standard Texas law.

5.2 Voluntary Participation

Participation in this program is entirely voluntary for both landowners and operators. No well can be revived unless all parties agree to the terms and understand their responsibilities. This approach ensures trust and avoids conflict between private stakeholders and the state.

- Wells cannot enter the program without written consent.
- Participation requires clear documentation for each property.
- Operators remain in control of their day-to-day operations.

5.3 Royalty Safeguards

Landowners depend on royalty income, and the program protects this revenue by keeping all existing royalty structures in place. The state’s share comes only from the portion of oil tied to its financial support. This design ensures landowners do not lose income when wells return to production.

- Royalty percentages are not reduced by state involvement.
- Payments follow standard reporting and verification procedures.
- Landowners receive income based on actual production.

5.4 Surface Use and Property Agreements

Any revival work on a property must follow a surface use agreement that respects landowner rights. These agreements clarify access, work hours, and responsibilities if improvements or repairs are needed. Clear terms help maintain a positive relationship between landowners and operators.

- Surface agreements outline all expected activities.
- Property damage protections are included in the process.
- Landowners receive advance notice before work begins.

5.5 Liability and Long-Term Responsibilities

Both state and operator responsibilities must be clearly defined to avoid disputes. Operators remain responsible for well operation, safety, and compliance, while the state ensures its share of support is properly documented. Long-term obligations remain with the operator as required by Texas law.

- Operators continue to follow all safety and regulatory requirements.
- The state documents its role without assuming operational control.
- Long-term plugging responsibilities remain with the operator unless otherwise governed by existing law.

6. State Participation Options

The Texans First Fuel Program uses tiered participation levels to match the needs of different wells and operators. Some wells require only minimal assistance, while others need more significant support to become productive again. These options allow the program to stay flexible, cost conscious, and compatible with a wide range of field conditions.

6.1 Tier One: Light Assistance

Tier One is designed for wells that need minor repairs or simple workovers to resume production. The state provides a small financial contribution that reduces the operator's upfront cost without altering the structure of the project. This tier helps revive wells that are close to being productive again.

- The state covers a small percentage of revival costs.
- Operators retain full operational control and responsibility.
- Wells in this tier typically return to production quickly.

6.2 Tier Two: Moderate Assistance

Tier Two supports wells that require more substantial repairs but still have strong production potential. The state shares a larger portion of the cost in exchange for a small share of the revived well's output. This option helps revive wells that otherwise would not be financially viable.

- Moderate repairs such as tubing replacement or re-perforation may be required.
- The state receives a small, defined share of production.
- Operators gain access to resources that reduce financial risk.

6.3 Tier Three: High Assistance

Tier Three is reserved for wells that require significant investment before they can be safely revived. The state contributes a larger percentage of repair costs and receives a proportionate share of the oil produced. These wells carry more risk but can still provide long-term value if successful.

- Wells in this tier often need multiple forms of repair.
- State support helps offset the higher financial burden.
- Participation is voluntary and based on documented evaluation.

6.4 Full-Cost Revival Option

In limited cases, the state may assume the entire cost of reviving a well when the operator is unable to fund repairs. This option is used only when evaluations confirm that the well can produce enough to justify full support. The arrangement keeps the operator responsible for operation while allowing the state to recover its investment over time.

- Full-cost support is offered only after thorough review.
- The state receives a larger share of production to recover expenses.
- Operators continue managing daily operations under regulatory rules.

6.5 How Tiers Are Selected

The tier assigned to each well is based on engineering evaluations, cost estimates, and the expected production potential. This ensures that state resources are used responsibly and that wells selected for revival have realistic pathways to success. The process is transparent and documented for all participating stakeholders.

- Cost and production data determine the appropriate tier.
- Engineers assess the level of repairs needed.
- Operators and landowners agree before a tier is finalized.

7. Transport and Midstream Logistics

Bringing revived wells back into production requires access to reliable transport systems that move oil from the well site to refineries. Texas already has extensive pipelines, gathering systems, and trucking operations that support the energy industry. This section outlines how these existing logistics networks are used to handle production from wells participating in the program. These ‘midstream’ companies handle the pipelines, tanks, and trucking that move oil between the well and the refinery.

7.1 Using Existing Transport Systems

Texas has a mature transportation network that includes pipelines, trucking fleets, and storage facilities capable of handling small and moderate volumes of crude. The program relies on these existing systems rather than building new infrastructure. This reduces cost and makes implementation faster and more efficient.

- Current pipeline routes already serve most producing regions.
- Trucking services can move oil where pipeline access is limited.
- Existing storage tanks allow flexible scheduling of shipments.

7.2 Gathering Line Access

Gathering lines are essential for delivering crude from individual wells to larger pipeline systems. Wells that qualify for revival often sit near gathering infrastructure, simplifying the process. Access agreements are made between operators and midstream companies to keep flow consistent and safe.

- Operators negotiate standard access terms with gathering companies.
- Lines must meet safety and pressure requirements before use.
- Flow rates are scheduled to match production from revived wells.

7.3 Trucking Small-Volume Production

Not every revived well sits close to pipeline or gathering lines, and trucking becomes the practical solution in these areas. Modern trucking fleets are capable of handling smaller, periodic loads without requiring major changes to local infrastructure. This provides flexibility for both operators and midstream companies.

- Trucks can transport oil directly to nearby storage or pipelines.
- Production volumes are tracked for accurate reporting and payment.
- Trucking ensures rural or remote wells can still participate in the program.

7.4 Storage and Blending Needs

Storage tanks and blending facilities help manage the flow of crude from different wells and ensure that the oil delivered to refineries meets required specifications. The program uses existing storage points to avoid new construction and keep costs stable. Coordination between operators and facility managers ensures consistent quality.

- Storage tanks help balance production fluctuations.
- Blending improves compatibility with refinery requirements.
- Facilities are selected based on proximity and existing capacity.

7.5 Coordinating Midstream Support

Midstream companies play a key role in ensuring that revived wells integrate smoothly into the logistics network. Coordination focuses on scheduling, safety, and efficiency, allowing production to move at a steady pace. This cooperation helps keep the program reliable and predictable for all participants.

- Midstream companies verify that all safety standards are met.
- Scheduling ensures steady movement of product from wells to refineries.
- Operators and midstream companies share data to keep reporting accurate.

8. Refining and Cost-Plus Agreements

Texas has a strong network of refineries that are capable of processing crude from revived wells without new construction or major changes to existing operations. The program uses a cost-plus model to ensure refineries receive fair compensation while the state obtains a stable supply of fuel for the credit system. This approach keeps operations predictable and gives refineries a straightforward incentive to participate.

8.1 Why We Rely on Existing Refineries

Texas refineries already handle a wide range of crude types and have the capacity to absorb production from revived wells. Using existing infrastructure avoids unnecessary expenses and reduces the time needed to begin refining. This makes the program more efficient and easier to scale.

- No new refineries or expansions are required.
- Existing facilities already meet safety and regulatory standards.
- Refineries can process small additional volumes without disruption.

8.2 How Cost-Plus Pricing Works

A cost-plus model pays refineries for the cost of processing crude plus a small, fixed margin. In simple terms, the refinery is paid back for its costs plus a small, fixed profit. This structure provides predictable revenue for the refinery and a stable fuel supply for the state. It also prevents major price fluctuations that would affect the program.

- Refineries recover all processing costs through the agreement.
- A fixed margin ensures fair compensation for participation.
- The model creates price stability for the fuel credit system.

8.3 Matching Crude Quality

Different refineries are built to handle specific types of crude, and not all crude is processed the same way. Production from revived wells is matched to refineries based on quality, ensuring efficient processing. This step reduces compatibility issues and keeps refining operations smooth.

- Engineers evaluate crude characteristics such as gravity and sulfur content.
- Crude is directed to facilities equipped to handle similar grades.
- Matching reduces operational strain and prevents unnecessary blending.

8.4 Incentives for Refineries

Refineries benefit from the program through guaranteed processing arrangements and predictable volumes. The cost-plus structure provides steady compensation, making participation consistent and low-risk. This keeps refineries engaged and ensures long-term supply for the program.

- Refineries gain stable processing contracts.
- Predictable volumes support scheduling and planning.
- Participation involves minimal operational changes.

8.5 Ensuring Long-Term Refining Stability

As more wells join the program, refining demand will gradually increase. The cost-plus model ensures that this growth remains manageable and does not strain facility capacity. Long-term stability helps maintain a reliable supply for the fuel credit system without disrupting the broader energy market.

- Growth is gradual and based on revived well output.
- Agreements are structured to avoid overwhelming refineries.
- Capacity planning is coordinated with refinery operators.

9. The Fuel Credit System

The fuel credit system is the part of the program that directly benefits Texas drivers and families. It uses a portion of the oil collected from revived wells to create a steady supply of discounted fuel. The system is simple and digital and is designed to fit smoothly into everyday life by building on existing state agencies and payment networks, with new processes kept as limited as possible.

9.1 Connecting Fuel Credits to Driver's Licenses

Driver's licenses serve as the access point for the fuel credit system because they already provide a secure, statewide form of identification. Every licensed driver becomes eligible for a set amount of discounted fuel each week or month. This approach keeps the system fair and easy to manage.

- Credits are tied to individual driver records.
- Eligibility is automatically verified at participating gas stations.
- The system prevents duplicate or shared usage.

9.2 How Gas Stations Are Reimbursed

Gas stations sell fuel at a reduced rate to eligible drivers and receive reimbursement from the program for the difference. This ensures stations do not lose revenue while providing discounted fuel. The reimbursement process is automated to keep participation simple for retailers.

- Stations receive full payment for every discounted gallon.
- Reimbursements are processed through existing payment networks.
- Retailers maintain normal profit margins.

9.3 Weekly and Monthly Allowance Setup

Drivers receive a limited allowance of discounted fuel each period, depending on how much oil the program produces. As more wells join the system, the allowance can grow. This structure allows the benefit to scale responsibly over time.

- Allowances start small and expand as production increases.
- Every driver receives the same baseline quantity.
- The system adjusts to match actual supply.

9.4 How the Discount Is Calculated

The discount is based on the cost-plus refining model and the program's share of revived oil. This keeps pricing stable and predictable for both the program and drivers. The goal is to provide steady relief without affecting regular commercial prices.

- Discounts reflect actual fuel production from the program.
- Pricing formulas stay consistent from month to month.
- Commercial fuel markets operate independently from the credit system.

9.5 Preventing Fraud and Misuse

The system includes safeguards to ensure that credits are not misused or transferred. Driver's license verification prevents unauthorized purchases, and transaction monitoring ensures credits are used as intended. These protections keep the program efficient and fair.

- Credits cannot be bought, sold, or traded.
- Identity verification occurs at the point of sale.
- Usage patterns are monitored for irregular activity.

9.6 Growth and Scalability

The fuel credit system is designed to grow as more wells join the program. Early stages focus on modest but meaningful allowances, with expansion tied directly to increased production. This ensures the system remains financially stable while providing increasing benefit to Texans.

- Growth is based on verified increases in oil output.
- Allowances expand only when supply supports it.
- Long-term planning keeps the system sustainable.

10. Funding the Program Without New Taxes

The Texans First Fuel Program is designed so that it can operate without new taxes or additional financial burdens on Texans, by using existing revenue streams and production from revived wells. Instead, it relies on existing revenue streams, production shares from revived wells, and savings from reduced plugging obligations. This funding model allows the program to grow responsibly while keeping costs predictable and controlled.

10.1 Using a Portion of Severance Tax Revenue

Texas already collects severance taxes on oil production, and a small portion of this revenue can be directed to support the program. A severance tax is a state tax on oil and gas when they are taken out of the ground. Only a limited share is needed to help revive wells that have clear production potential. This approach uses existing funds without increasing tax rates.

- Severance tax allocations remain within the energy sector.
- Only a small portion is redirected to program support.
- Overall tax levels stay the same for the public.

10.2 Recycling Part of the State Fuel Tax

A small fraction of the fuel tax collected at the pump can be used to help reimburse stations that provide discounted fuel. This keeps retail operations fully funded while maintaining stability in the credit system. The redirection is limited and remains within existing tax structures.

- Fuel taxes continue to be collected at normal rates.
- A controlled portion supports credit reimbursements.
- Retailers maintain consistent revenue.

10.3 State Share of Revived Well Production

When the state helps fund well revival, it receives a small share of the oil produced. This production is refined and used to support the fuel credit system, reducing the need for external funding. As more wells participate, this share becomes the main financial engine of the program.

- Production shares come only from wells in the program.
- The share increases as participation grows.
- Fuel produced from these wells helps fund the credit system.

10.4 Savings From Avoided Plugging Costs

Reviving suitable wells reduces the number of wells that must be plugged using state resources. Plugging is expensive, and each successful revival prevents significant long-term costs. These savings can be redirected into the program to support additional well evaluations and repairs.

- Plugging costs often exceed tens of thousands per well.
- Each revived well reduces long-term public expenses.
- Savings help support future program stages.

10.5 Reinvestment Cycle and Sustainability

The program is designed to reinvest a portion of its own output into expanding operations. As revived wells produce oil, the resulting fuel credits support more interest and participation. This creates a sustainable cycle without requiring new taxes or long-term public subsidies.

- Growth comes from increased well participation.
- Reinvestment keeps the program self-sustaining.
- No new taxes or fees are required to continue expansion.

11. Environmental and Safety Standards

Reviving an inactive well requires careful attention to environmental protection and safety. Each well must meet strict standards before, during, and after the revival process. These requirements ensure that production remains safe, responsible, and fully compliant with Texas regulations while maintaining public confidence in the program.

11.1 Methane Inspection and Monitoring

Methane leaks pose both environmental and safety risks, and every well in the program must undergo a full inspection before revival can begin. Monitoring continues throughout the well's operation to ensure emissions remain within acceptable limits. These steps help prevent avoidable releases and maintain safe conditions.

- Inspections identify leaks or pressure issues before repairs begin.
- Ongoing monitoring ensures compliance with state requirements.
- Problem wells are removed from the program if methane cannot be controlled.

11.2 Casing and Cement Integrity

The structural integrity of casing and cement is essential for safe production. Engineers examine the condition of these components to determine whether the well can safely handle pressure and fluid movement. Wells with compromised integrity cannot proceed until repairs are completed.

- Integrity tests confirm that the wellbore is structurally sound.
- Repairs are required if casing or cement shows signs of weakness.
- Unsafe wells are excluded from the program until they meet standards.

11.3 Spill Prevention at the Surface

Surface spills are a preventable risk when proper procedures and equipment are used. Operators must follow updated spill prevention practices to manage fluids and prevent contamination of soil or water. These precautions protect both landowners and the surrounding environment.

- Equipment must meet modern containment and handling standards.
- Operators must follow documented spill prevention procedures.
- Any spill event is reported and addressed immediately.

11.4 Water Disposal and SWD Access

Safe water disposal is an important part of well operation, especially for older wells. Disposal routes must comply with Texas injection standards, and operators must demonstrate access to approved saltwater disposal facilities. Saltwater disposal wells are where the used water from oil production is injected safely back underground. These steps keep operations clean and maintain regulatory compliance.

- Produced water must be routed to permitted disposal sites.
- Operators verify disposal capacity before revival begins.
- Wells lacking a compliant disposal path cannot participate.

11.5 Plugging Wells That Cannot Be Saved

Some wells are too costly or too damaged to be revived, and plugging them is the most responsible option. If evaluations show that a well cannot meet safety or environmental standards, it is flagged for plugging instead of revival. This prevents long-term risks to landowners and the state.

- Wells with severe structural issues are removed from consideration.
- Engineering data determines when plugging is the safest choice.
- The program does not attempt to revive wells that cannot meet requirements.

11.6 Safety Checks Before Production Begins

Before any revived well is turned back on, it must pass a final series of safety tests. These tests confirm that repairs were completed properly and that the well can operate without risk to people or property. Only wells that pass all requirements may resume production.

- Final pressure and flow tests verify operational readiness.
- Safety reviews confirm compliance with updated standards.
- Wells may not produce until all tests are complete and documented.

12. Implementation Timeline

The Texans First Fuel Program is designed to grow in stages so that each part of the system can be tested, adjusted, and improved before expanding statewide. This timeline outlines how the program rolls out from the initial survey phase to full operation. The goal is to move steadily, avoid unnecessary risk, and ensure that every step works as intended.

12.1 Year One: Survey and Preparation

The first year focuses on identifying inactive wells, conducting engineering reviews, and selecting candidates for revival. This stage builds the foundation for the entire program by creating a verified list of wells that meet safety and economic standards. Clear documentation ensures each well is evaluated consistently.

- Engineers review inactive wells to determine eligibility.
- Landowners and operators receive program information and consent materials.
- High-quality candidates are selected for the first wave of repairs.

12.2 Year Two: First Wave of Well Revivals

During the second year, the initial group of approved wells undergoes repairs and workover operations. Production from these wells is monitored closely to establish accurate performance data. This stage helps refine procedures and confirm the effectiveness of the program model.

- Wells receive the necessary repairs to begin producing again.
- Production data is verified and recorded for accuracy.
- Lessons learned guide improvements for future revival waves.

12.3 Year Three: Launching the Fuel Credit System

As revived wells begin steady production, the state activates the fuel credit system. Texans receive their initial fuel allowances through a simple driver’s license verification process. This early rollout focuses on stability and reliable distribution of discounted fuel.

- Fuel credits become available to licensed Texas drivers.
- Gas stations receive reimbursement through standard payment systems.
- Program administrators monitor usage to ensure proper function.

12.4 Year Four and Beyond: Expansion and Refinement

After the fuel credit system is established, the program expands by adding more wells each year. Continued evaluations identify new candidates for revival while ensuring environmental and safety standards remain strong. The system grows at a pace that maintains stability and long-term sustainability.

- Additional wells join the program based on engineering reviews.
- Fuel allowances may increase as production grows.
- Ongoing monitoring keeps the program efficient and responsible.

13. Final Message From Stephen

Texas has always relied on the strength and independence of its people. Our land, our workers, and our resources have carried this state through every challenge. The Texans First Fuel Program is built on that same spirit. It takes a practical problem that has existed for years and turns it into an opportunity for families, landowners, and small operators. Instead of leaving inactive wells scattered across the state with no benefit, this program brings them back to life and directs part of their production toward easing the cost of fuel for Texans.

This plan does not attempt to replace the energy industry or change the way markets operate. It simply gives us a way to use what we already have in a manner that supports the people who live here. Wells that can be safely revived return to production. Landowners regain value on their property. Small operators receive the support they need to continue working. Midstream and refinery partners benefit from steady and predictable arrangements. And Texas drivers gain access to discounted fuel that grows as more wells participate.

The program moves at a careful and responsible pace. It starts small, proves each step, and expands only when the results show it is working as intended. Every part of the process is voluntary, documented, and transparent. The environment and safety standards remain strong, and only wells that meet those standards are accepted.

Texas has always been at its best when we take the initiative to solve our own problems. By combining our existing infrastructure with responsible planning, we can build a fuel relief system that strengthens the economy and supports families across the state. This program is not built on promises or assumptions. It is built on a straightforward idea: use the wells we already have, use the workers we already have, and use the resources beneath our feet to help the people who make Texas what it is.

This is a plan that respects landowners, supports operators, helps families, and strengthens our energy future. It is a plan that puts Texans first. And it is a plan that moves our state forward using the same principles that have guided us from the beginning: hard work, responsibility, and the belief that we solve problems by working together.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Texans First Fuel Program?

It is a program that helps revive inactive oil wells in Texas and uses a small share of the revived production to provide discounted fuel for Texas drivers. The system works through voluntary agreements between landowners, operators, and the state. Its goal is to create a steady source of affordable fuel while supporting responsible well management.

2. Does the state take control of private wells?

No. Operators keep full control of their wells, and landowners keep all of their mineral rights. The state only provides partial funding for repairs and receives a small share of oil from the revived wells as repayment for that support.

3. Will this change how oil markets operate in Texas?

No. The program operates separately from commercial production and does not change market pricing or interfere with private contracts. It uses a controlled portion of oil from revived wells and keeps the broader market functioning normally.

4. How do fuel credits work for drivers?

Drivers receive a limited allowance of discounted fuel that is accessed using their Texas driver's license. Gas stations provide the discount at the pump and are reimbursed through an automated system. Allowances grow as more revived wells join the program.

5. Does the program require new taxes?

No. It is funded through existing revenue sources, a small share of production from revived wells, and savings from reduced state plugging obligations. The structure is designed to operate without increasing the tax burden on Texans.

6. What happens if a well is too damaged to revive?

Wells that cannot be safely or economically revived are not included in the program. If engineering reviews show that a well is unsuitable, it is recommended for plugging instead. This protects landowners, operators, and the environment.

7. How are landowners protected?

Landowners keep full ownership of their minerals, continue receiving their royalties, and maintain surface control under standard agreements. All work must follow surface use terms, environmental rules, and documented operator responsibilities. The program adds support without reducing rights.

8. Why does the state receive a share of oil?

The state's small share is used to fund the program and provide discounted fuel. This share comes only from wells that receive financial assistance for repairs. It allows the system to expand gradually without new taxes.

9. Are small operators required to participate?

No. Participation is voluntary. Operators decide whether to enter a well into the program based on costs, production potential, and agreements with landowners.

10. What safeguards prevent misuse of fuel credits?

Driver's license verification prevents unauthorized use, and transactions are monitored to ensure credits are used correctly. Credits cannot be sold, transferred, or shared. These safeguards protect both retailers and the public.

11. How long does it take for wells to be revived?

Repair timelines vary, but many revived wells can return to production within a few months after evaluation and approval, depending on the condition of the well and the complexity of the work. The program's phased structure allows wells to come online at a steady and manageable pace.

12. Will Texans eventually receive more fuel credits as the program grows?

Yes, if production increases and the program remains stable. As more wells participate, more discounted fuel becomes available, allowing allowances to expand responsibly over time.

13. Does the program affect the environment?

Wells must meet strict environmental and safety standards before being revived. Wells that cannot meet these standards are excluded. Active monitoring continues throughout production to ensure compliance with Texas regulations.

14. How does this help rural communities?

Many inactive wells are located in rural counties, and reviving them creates new income for landowners, operators, and local service companies. This activity helps strengthen economic conditions in areas where opportunities can be limited.

15. Why is 2025 the right time for this program?

Texas families are facing higher living costs, and fuel prices remain a significant part of monthly expenses. At the same time, the state has thousands of unused wells with proven potential. Combining these factors makes this an ideal moment to start a responsible, well-structured fuel relief program.