





### **Railroad Commission of Texas**

Optimizing GIS and Office 365 Applications to Manage Energy-related Regulatory Activities

Jared Ware, Oil & Gas Division October 23, 2024









### Agenda



- Overview
- GIS applications by regulatory function
- GIS applications used by staff and stakeholders
- Administrative and technical requirements
- Summary

### **Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)**

### COMMISSIONERS



Christi Craddick Chairman **RRC Mission Statement** 

Our mission is to serve Texas by our stewardship of natural resources and the environment, our concern for personal and community safety, and our support of enhanced development and economic vitality for the benefit of Texans.



Wayne Christian Commissioner



Jim Wright Commissioner The Railroad Commission of Texas (Commission) is the state agency with primary regulatory jurisdiction over the oil and natural gas industry, pipeline transporters, natural gas and hazardous liquid pipeline industry, natural gas utilities, the LP-gas industry, critical natural gas infrastructure, and coal and uranium surface mining operations.

# GIS and Office 365 for Regulatory Requirements

- Common applications in the public sector
  - Most agencies use Microsoft products applications
  - Esri's ArcPro is used throughout the public sector
- Cost effective support
  - Lower maintenance costs
  - Lower training costs
- Ease of use
  - Recognized data types
  - Sharable information

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Business Apps Other Apps Admin Select	cted			
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Explore by category Productivity Utilities Education Co Forms Customize surveys and quizzes, get real-time results. To Do List and manage your tasks.	communication Content management Project m Calendar Manage and share your schedule.  Project Project Develop project plana, assign tasks, track progress, and menage budgets.	anagement         Developer tools         Employee Experi           Image: Power Bil         Create actionable, dynamic, and engaging data distribuards you can share with others.           Create actionable, dynamic, and engaging data distribuards you can share with others.         Bookings           Simplify how you schedule and manage appointments both inside and outside your organization.         Simplify how you schedule and manage appointments	ence Stream Share videos of classes, meetings, presentations, and training sessions. Whiteboard Keate and colaborate on a freeform canvas designed for per, fouch and kepboard.	Visio Simplify and communicate complex information visually.
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### **Power BI**



- Enhance data access and security by connecting ArcGIS Maps for Power BI to ArcGIS Online / Enterprise
- Enables secure data distribution in dashboards and reports



### **Power Automate**



Power Automate			
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əllo Michael Tolle - 58457			
u are permitted to drill a shallow close le 4G.	d loop geothermal injection well at 4101 Southwestern Blvd Geo	orgetown, TX 78626 with a start date of 8/27/2024	in accordance with Senate Bill 786 and Railroad Commission of Texas
e proposed use is for a Closed-Loop C	Geothermal at the following coordinates: Latitude: 30° 36' 07.3-	4" N and Longitude 097° 38' 07.23" W in Williams	on County at a depth not to exceed 600 feet.
ithin 30 days of the drilling end date, p	lease submit a completed State of Texas Well Report to the Ra	ilroad Commission of Texas to geothermal@rrc.te	xas.gov and j.ware@rrc.texas.gov in .pdf format.
nank you, ermit Review Team			



Owner: Georgetown I.S.D.
Address: 507 E. University Georgetown, TX 78626
Well Location: 4101 Southwestern Blvd Georgetown, TX 78626
Well County: Williamson
Number of Wells Drilled: 2
Owner Well Number: No Data
Grid Number: 58-27-3
Latitude: 30° 36' 07.34" N
Longitude: 097° 38' 07.23" W
Elevation: 815 ft. above sea level
Type of Work: New Well
Proposed Use: Closed-Loop Geothermal
Drilling Start Date: 8/27/2024
Drilling End Date: 8/27/2024
Bore Hole Diameter (inches): 4.75
Bore Hole Top Depth (feet): 0
Bore Hole Bottom Depth (feet): 300
Drilling Method: Air Rotary
Company Information: Michael Tolle 6556 Indian Trail Sanger, TX 7626
Driller Name: Michael Tolle
License Number: 58457

### AI Modeling (in Power Automate)

- Use a consistently formatted form to train the AI model
- Ensure form fields have data or the training results will vary

::: Power Automate			C Manually trigger a flow	0
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### **Class V Geothermal Defined**



- Closed-loop geothermal injection well means a closed system geothermal well
  - used to circulate water, other fluids, or gases
  - through the earth as a heat source or heat sink
  - to generate power or heat or cool a structure.
- Designated as a Class V well under the underground injection control program administered by RRC



### • Timeline of events over the past 15+ months





### **Tracking Class V Wells Using GIS and Power BI**

- Tracking legacy and new well reports
  - Determining the proper digital data model
  - Ensuring all regulatory information is captured

Geographic Information System





**Microsoft Power BI** 

### **Class V Geothermal Wells – Data Modeling**





# **Geothermal Wells - Regulatory Requirements**



- Track lifecycle of the well: pre & post construction
  - Permitting, Completion, and Plugging
  - Well characteristics (bore hole depth, drilling method)
- Establish well accountability
  - Transfer of authority (TCEQ to RRC)
  - Transfer of ownership (facility owners)
- Achieve well design and construction standards
  - Type of permit required based on methodologies
  - Informed inspection process
- Protect drinking water
  - Location and depth of well
  - Total dissolved solids

### Setting up the process



- Download report from TDLR in Excel or .CSV format
- Edit the columns/rows to set up required attribute fields
- Import into ArcPro and assign XY coordinates using latitude/longitude
- Save as a shapefile or feature class
- Extract data from individual reports using Power Automate and AI modeling
- Add extracted data to ArcPro
- Establish an email contact list of owners and operators
- Use Power Automate to send an email to owner upon receipt of well report

### **Technical**



- Refining the Geothermal Injection Well categories
  - Geothermal wells are classified as "Class V Geothermal"
  - Taxonomy to define construction and design methodologies
  - Address technology innovations in shallow and deep wells
- Updating permitting requirements
  - Consolidate several rules into a single geothermal rule
  - Construction specifications to permit-by-rule
  - Well compliance and enforcement standards

# Drilling Insight and Casing Estimator (DICE)



- Interactive website that provides depth and elevation estimates for select subsurface water-quality zones
  - Base of usable quality water (BUQW)
  - Base of underground sources of drinking water (BUSDW)
- Displays various layers
  - Water-bearing stratigraphic units
  - Aquifers
  - Drilling alerts
  - Well locations
- Partnering with Bureau of Economic Geology (BEG)
  - Common GIS Software (Esri)
  - Common Desktop Software (Microsoft Office 365)

## **Drilling Insight & Casing Estimator (DICE)**

### C Drilling Insight and Casing Estimator (DICE)

Logged Well

▷ □ Oil and Gas Wells

County Boundaries

Casing Data Available

Public Drilling Alerts

Sub-Sea)

Alert Areas

Alert

Aquife Gas Storag



Casing Query Result		×
Well	Casing Result	*
Longitude	-99.40287	
Latitude	31.7951	
Ground Elevation	1698 ft.	
Aquifers	Cross Timbers	
Top of Fresh Water Isolation Zone:	0' Depth (1698' Above MSL)	
Base of Fresh Water Isolation Zone:	See base of usable quality water	
Base of Usable Quality Water:	108' Depth (1591' Above MSL)	
Base of USDW:	320' Depth (1379' Above MSL)	

The Fresh Water Isolation Zone occurs at a depth of 0 feet (1698 feet Above MSL).

The base of the Usable Quality Water is estimated to occur at a depth of 108 feet (1591 feet Above MSL).

The base of the USDW is estimated to occur at a depth of 320 feet (1379 feet Above MSL).

Injection wells have additional requirements for isolation from Base of Usable-Quality water (BUWQ) and Underground Source of Drinking Water (USDW). In cases where the depth to BUWQ/USDW is not indicated consult the Groundwater Advisory Unit (GAU) at 512-463-2741.



# **DICE: A Full-Service Application & Website**

many (MC) rules where spectrum is simply a knowledge

Archer

Cottle

Wilbarger

Wichita

281



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m	Alert Area Details	へ 凸 ×
	Alert Area Type	Alert
	Name	RRC North Central Area Groundwater Protection Determination
	More Information at RRC	View
Wichita	Comment	The interval from the land surface to 20 feet beneath the base of Quaternary deposits, or 20 feet into the top of the Permian red beds, or to a
entral Texas Area Grou	ndwater Protection Determination	depth of 100 feet, whichever is deepest, must be protected."
UNCC rules require operations to other a binarcheare insuch artist to protect water water with the distribution operation is using an a web specific term the water argin is under in the area in a web specific term the active argin is under in the area in a web specific to California Frank reactal water from the binarchear pro- sed	ne lakermaden han die NCL beseman Anners ont (ant) selan hidrog s oot. Die teensegies werden die anders under e Ne a peel werden. Hennen, is weren auch of the state of transform Poterties (servenden van te saan te alwegend and en ener werde al state based besema die de ter de transform date et sometheau poterties approximation te biserig tartees (alwest came teen al state frank henne besema werden, wittenge, eel transf	If an operator encounters conditions during drilling that are inconsistent with the North Central Texas Area Groundwater Protection Determination, the operator must install and cement surface casing to protect all usable-quality
Hardeman	- human	water and notify the District Office and the Groundwater Advisory Unit. Notification must

and a description of how the information is inconsistent with the groundwater protection determination.

The North Central Texas Area Groundwater Protection Determination applies to the survey abstracts in the 14-county area listed in the Excel

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Aries Caddo

Oil Field

### **Class VI Permitting: Technical Reviews**

- Geologic Storage of Carbon Dioxide (Class VI Well)
- Environmental Justice (Federal guidelines for permitting)
- Federal-level Online GIS Applications
  - Environmental Protection Agency: *EJScreen Tool*
  - Department of Energy: *Energy Justice Dashboard*
  - Department of Agriculture: *Food Access Research Atlas (FARA)*
  - Council on Environmental Quality: *Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool*
  - Based on U.S. Census Data and a version of Esri online GIS applications

# Federal agency GIS applications: EJScreen 2.3



#### SEPA EJScreen EPA's Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (Version 2.3)

Please note: Territory data (except Puerto Rico) is not available as comparable to the US. It is only comparable to the territory itself by using the 'Compare to State' functionality. Likewise, some of the indicators may not be available for territories.

#### 9 D 💥

Compare to US Compare to State

Environmental Burden Indicators

Particulate Matter 2.5

Ozone

Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)

Diesel Particulate Matter

Toxic Releases to Air

- Traffic Proximity
- manic moximity

Lead Paint

Superfund Proximity

RMP Facility Proximity

Hazardous Waste Proximity

Underground Storage Tanks

Wastewater Discharge

Drinking Water Non-Compliance

Socioeconomic Indicators

55 Environmental Justice Indexes

Supplemental Indexes

🍰 Climate Change

**O** Health Disparities

Critical Service Gaps





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### **Technical review process: Site analysis**



#### SEPA EJScreen EPA's Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (Version 2.3)

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### **Technical review process: Reports**



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### **EJScreen Community Report**

This report provides environmental and socioeconomic information for user-defined areas, and combines that data into environmental justice and supplemental indexes.

### Fort Sam Houston, TX

#### 5 miles Ring Centered at 29.451514,-98.457921 Population: 290,841 Area in square miles: 78.53



#### LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME

LANGUAGE	PERCENT
English	57%
Spanish	41%
Total Non-English	43%

Selected location contains American Indian Reservation Lands*	1
Selected location contains a "Justice40 (CEJST)" disadvantaged community	Y
Selected location contains an EPA IRA disadvantaged community	Ye

2	0	0	0
Low income: 46 percent	People of color: 76 percent	Less than high school education: 21 percent	Limited English households: 10 percent
2	2	0	0
Unemployment: 6 percent	Persons with disabilities: 16 percent	Male: 50 percent	Female: 50 percent
76 years	N/A		0
Average life expectancy	Per capita income	Number of households: 113,023	Owner occupied: 48 percent

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

#### BREAKDOWN BY RACE





#### **EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data**

SELECTED VARIABLES	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN STATE	USA AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN USA
ENVIRONMENTAL BURDEN INDICATORS					
Particulate Matter 2.5 (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	8.83	8.86	45	8.45	70
Ozone (ppb)	66.9	63	81	61.8	77
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO <sub>2</sub> ) (ppbv)	12	9.5	74	7.8	88
Diesel Particulate Matter (µg/m³)	0.224	0.151	84	0.191	70
Toxic Releases to Air (toxicity-weighted concentration)	120	12,000	36	4,600	26
Traffic Proximity (daily traffic count/distance to road)	2,300,000	1,000,000	87	1,700,000	75
Lead Paint (% Pre-1960 Housing)	0.5	0.16	88	0.3	74
Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)	0.08	0.11	73	0.39	56
RMP Facility Proximity (facility count/km distance)	1.8	0.95	86	0.57	92
Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)	3.3	1.5	88	3.5	70
Underground Storage Tanks (count/km <sup>2</sup> )	3.9	2.3	79	3.6	74
Wastewater Discharge (toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance)	200	3800	82	700000	61
Drinking Water Non-Compliance (points)	0.077	2.3	75	2.2	74
SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS					
Demographic Index USA	2.28	N/A	N/A	1.34	84
Supplemental Demographic Index USA	2.26	N/A	N/A	1.64	83
Demographic Index State	2.28	1.72	70	N/A	N/A
Supplemental Demographic Index State	1.94	1.49	75	N/A	N/A
People of Color	76%	58%	64	40%	81
Low Income	46%	34%	70	30%	77
Unemployment Rate	6%	5%	69	6%	68
Limited English Speaking Households	10%	8%	73	5%	84
Less Than High School Education	21%	16%	70	11%	83
Under Age 5	6%	6%	57	5%	64
Over Age 64	14%	15%	56	18%	42

\*Diesel particulate matter index is from the EPA's Air Toxics Data Update, which is the Agency's ongoing, comprehensive evaluation of air toxics in the United States. This effort aims to prioritize air toxics, emission sources, and locations of interest for further study. It is important to remember that the air toxics data presenting here provide broad estimates of health risks over geographic areas of the country, not definitive risks to specific individuals or toxicstoms. More information on the Toxics Data Update can be found at: <u>https://www.esa.gov/https/air.toxics.cdata.go</u>

Sites reporting to EPA within defined area:	
Superfund .	0
Hazardous Waste, Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities	11
Water Dischargers	74
Air Pollution	75
Brownfields	38
Toxic Release Inventory	56

#### Other community features within defined area:

Schools	 	 	 	 	 	 			 		141
Hospitals	 		 	 	12						
Places of Worship	 	449									

#### Other environmental data:

### **GIS Analysis – Review and Assessment Tools**

• EPA: EnviroAtlas (or Esri's ArcGIS Living Atlas of the World)



# Well Plugging - Tracking federally funded projects

- State grants to plug abandoned/orphaned oil & gas wells
- Confirmation of well bore locations
- Geospatial analysis requirements
  - Internal data (well locations and geospatial analysis)
  - External data (GIS applications and services)
- Environmental (Environmental Species Act)
  - Biological Landscape (Types of grasslands)
  - Cultural Landscape (Types of land use)
- Historical (National Historic Preservation Act)
  - Historical Resources (Texas Historic Commission)

# Well Plugging – Site Analysis

- ArcPro Project
- Credible data sources for analysis (federal or state sources)
- Analysis conducted to meet or exceed DOI or federal requirements
- Sharable from one repository



### **Ecological Analysis of a Specific Area (Habitat)**





### **Administrative & Technical Considerations**

- Applications & Data Governance (The Plan)
  - Who needs what and why
  - How often is it used and to what extent
- IT & Cybersecurity (The Practice)
  - Access to applications
  - Exchange and storage of information
- Technical (The Process)
  - Hardware and Software
  - Training and education

## Summary: Optimizing the regulatory requirements 🚱

- Enhancing GIS applications and data for the agency's regulatory requirements
  - Ability to "scale up" as required using existing resources
- Embracing common digital applications (Esri and Office 365) and sharable data formats
  - Speeds up the review process and eliminates silos
- Extending GIS throughout the lifecycle of a regulated activity
  - "Permitting to Production to Plugging" using a consistent data set





### **Railroad Commission of Texas Website**

www.rrc.texas.gov

# For information on the newer programs, navigate to the agency homepage



https://www.rrc.texas.gov/oil-and-gas/applications-and-permits/injection-storage-permits/geothermal