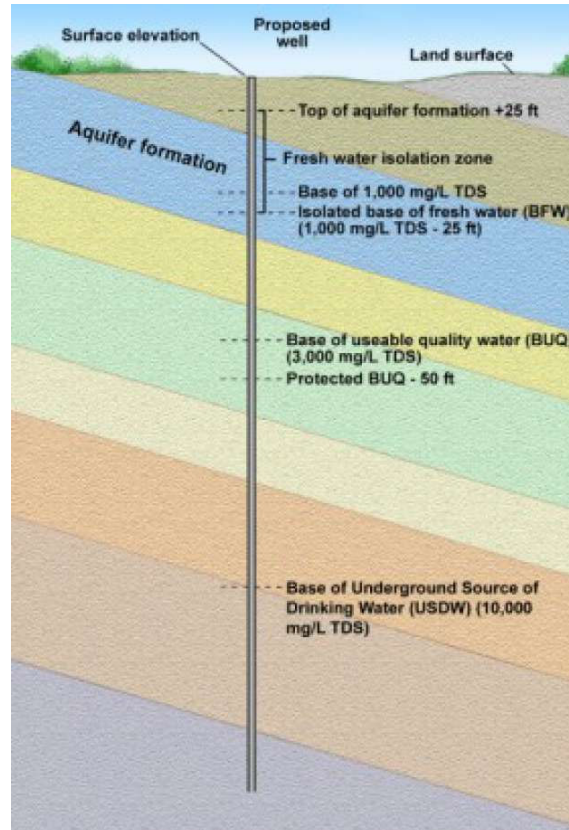




https://www.mrt.com/business/oil/article/Railroad-Commission-BEG-collaborate-on-Surface-13914642.php

## Railroad Commission, BEG collaborate on Surface Casing Estimator tool

By [Mella McEwen](#), MRT.com/Midland Reporter-Telegram Updated 1:12 pm CDT, Monday, June 3, 2019



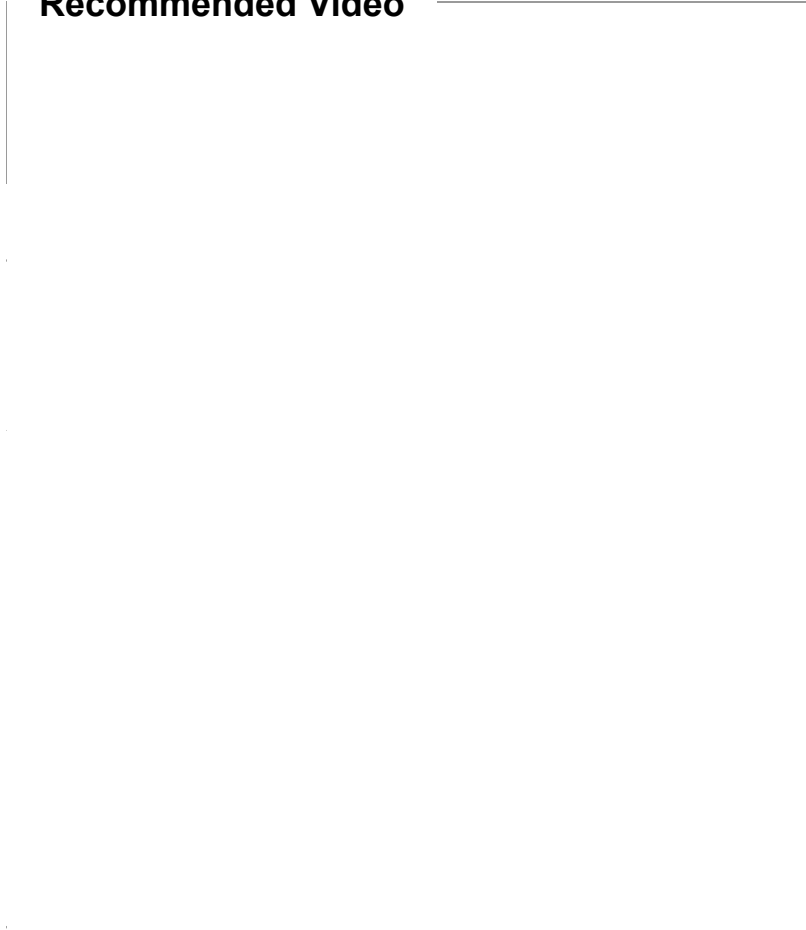
Obtaining that information to submit to the Railroad Commission is being made easier as the commission teams up with the Bureau of Economic Geology at the University of Texas on its online Surface Casing Estimator.

As operators prepare to drill new wells or re-enter an existing well, their well design is required to include use of surface casing and cement to protect fresh water and useable quality water.

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"My goal is, I want to protect groundwater and make information available" to

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operators, James Harcourt, Groundwater Advisory Unit manager with the Railroad Commission, said in a phone interview. "The first goal is folks know where the

ice, operators can click on an s where the latitude, longitude, notified.

still need to order a letter from s located. That letter is then lations for designing well

court. "The information can let

For example, operators could use it as a what-if analysis of a region where they don't have a significant presence in order to gauge if it's worth the investment.

He said the unit and BEG will be redoubling their efforts in the Permian Basin in the next budget cycle, which begins in September, in order to add more information and make the estimator more accurate.

"The Permian Basin is a complex area; we're on our second pass," he said. "Sometimes complex areas require multiple passes."

"They can be confident that what they find on the site is similar to what's in our letter," he said.

The online tool is the result of demand by stakeholder groups, Harcourt said.

"We're working with the BEG to make more data more available. We wanted to

aggregate the data and make a larger picture available."

The site is available to anyone, from the general public to researchers to other state agencies, Harcourt said.

"We're looking to protect water," he said. "The first step is to figure out where it is, measure it, protect it. We will continue to improve and grow this site. I want the work this groundwater advisory unit and the Railroad Commission do to be more widely known."

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