

Midland Reporter-Telegram

Environmental excellence award honors seismicity work: -RRC, BEG win Bruno Hanson Midland College Environmental Excellence Award for response to seismicity in region

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<https://www.mrt.com/business/oil/article/Environmental-excellence-award-honors-seismicity-17184227.php>

A surge in seismic activity has shaken up residents throughout the Permian Basin who have been rattled by earthquakes of 3 magnitude or greater. That surge has also shaken up oil and gas operators and regulators who have scrambled to address the issue. At its 2019 legislative session, the Texas Legislature created the TexNet seismic monitoring system, overseen by the Bureau of Economic Geology. A series of earthquakes greater than 3 magnitude prompted the Railroad Commission to establish Culberson-Reeves and Gardendale Seismic Response Areas, telling operators to reduce injection volumes and pressures in those areas.

For their work addressing seismicity, the BEG and RRC have been awarded the Bruno Hanson Midland College Environmental Excellence Award. The award was presented during the Permian Basin Environmental Regulatory Seminar on Thursday at Midland College.

“The Railroad Commission is honored to be recognized with this award, which reflects our ongoing commitment to protect residents and the environment in the Permian Basin,” Andrew Keese, spokesperson for the commission, told the Reporter-Telegram by email. “Thanks to collaboration with the BEG and their TexNet seismic monitoring system, RRC closely monitors seismic activity and has been able to work with stakeholders, including operators, and take actions when needed as the response plans for our Seismic Response Areas show. We will continue that important work.”

Scott Tinker, director of the BEG and State Geologist of Texas, told the Reporter-Telegram by email, “All of us at the Bureau of Economic Geology are honored to be receiving this prestigious award recognizing the work of our TexNet earthquake monitoring program and Center for Integrated Seismicity Research teams. We now have a much better understanding of the earthquake activity in the Permian Basin, and, in partnership with our colleagues at the Railroad Commission, have taken important steps toward mitigating the impacts of these seismic events.”...