

**Midland Reporter-Telegram**

Investigator: Number of Permian quakes trend downward: Official: Occurrence of earthquakes reached a maximum level over the last 12 to 14 months “and have been decreasing since then in a real sense”

By Mella McEwen

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<https://www.mrt.com/business/oil/article/center-integrated-seismicity-research-permian-17880695.php>

Attempts to mitigate the rising number of earthquakes rattling the Permian Basin seem to be paying off.

Peter Hennings, principal investigator at the Center for Integrated Seismicity Research at the Bureau of Economic Geology, University of Texas at Austin, said there seems to be a downward trend in occurrences.

Occurrence of earthquakes reached a maximum level over the last 12 to 14 months “and have been decreasing since then in a real sense,” he said.

“Operators and regulators are adapting, using data and trends successfully,” he said during his address to the American Association of Drilling Engineers’ National Technical Conference, being held in Midland for the first time.

Those changes have resulted in water disposal being moved to other corridors less susceptible to seismicity, he said.

Hennings presented a slide charting the number of earthquakes reported by the US Geological Survey’s Earthquake Hazards program. Over occurrences in the Permian Basin was the number 200, the number of earthquakes felt and reported by people. “That’s 200 unique earthquakes reported by thousands of people,” he said...