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Drilling Permit Roundup: Flurry of new oil wells for San Antonio independents

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They're small, independent and drilling for oil throughout Texas — four San Antonio-area oil companies seeking permission to tap various geological formations.

San Antonio-based **Millennium Exploration Co. LLC** leads this pack with its third drilling permit application submitted to the Railroad Commission of Texas in 2018. The latest is for a new directional well on its Gemini lease in Wharton County off FM 442 about 7 miles southeast of the city of Wharton.

Millennium's drilling project targets the Wildcat field to a depth of 6,500 feet. The new well and another drilling permit filed for the Gemini lease last month are the first of three two-well prospects that the company plans to drill on the land this year, Millennium President [Richard Monroy](#) told the Business Journal. In the meantime, two-well prospects for the company's Opus and Phoenix leases are expected to be drilled in the fourth quarter.

"Millennium has succeeded in positioning itself to aggressively develop its extensive portfolio of prime drilling prospects in anticipation of the inevitable rise of oil and gas prices," Monroy said.

Boerne-based **Faith Petroleum A Texas LP** has filed the first drilling permit under its name. Founded by [E.P. McCall](#) in May 2011, Faith Petroleum is seeking permission to drill a new vertical well in the Texas Panhandle. The company plans to drill a 7,000-foot well targeting the Wildcat field on its McWilliams lease in Briscoe County.

San Antonio-based **Hellifino Operating LLC**, founded by local lawyer [F. Blake Dietzmann](#) in June, is seeking permission to re-enter a pair of oil wells in the Edwards Plateau. The permit applications



MILLENNIUM EXPLORATION COMPANY LLC

Aerial view shows Millennium Exploration Company LLC's Gemini lease in Wharton County.

represent the oil company's first drilling project. The vertical wells were previously drilled to a depth of 3,800 feet by Midland-based Marshall & Winston Inc. in 1992 and 1993.

Vantage Operating LLC is seeking permission to drill a new vertical gas well just northeast of Houston. The San Antonio-based company is targeting the Rich Ranch field of the Yegua geological layer to a depth of 12,600 feet on its Governor Bill Daniel Sect 161 lease in Liberty County. The project marks the second drilling permit for Vantage, founded by [Justin Little](#) in January 2016.

South Texas Drilling Permit Roundup

The South Texas Drilling Permit Roundup is a weekly review of new drilling permit applications filed with the Railroad Commission of Texas for a 67-county area of South Texas. For the full drilling data table, see below or [click here](#) to download it.

Date Range: Aug. 13 through Aug. 19

New Permit Applications: 100

Companies Filing: 34

Most Active County: La Salle County with 20 drilling permit applications

Most Active Company: Sanchez Energy Corp. (NYSE: SN) with 20 drilling permit applications

New and Noteworthy:

San Antonio-based **GulfTex Energy IV LP** is preparing to drill four new horizontal oil wells in Karnes County. The company received drilling permits for four new oil wells on its Wiatrek lease off State Highway 80 about 16 miles northeast of Karnes City. Two of the wells target the Eagleville field of the Eagle Ford geological layer, and the other two target the Sugarkane field of the Austin Chalk geological layer. All four horizontal drilling projects go to a total depth of 12,500 feet. Total depth refers to the length of pipeline required for the vertical and horizontal sections of a well. So far this year, GulfTex has received 21 drilling permits — all for projects in oil-rich Karnes County.

Former Occidental Petroleum Corp. (NYSE: OXY) CEO Steve Chazen is preparing to drill the first well under his new oil company's name. Chazen's **Magnolia Oil & Gas Corp.** (NYSE: MGY) received a drilling permit for a new horizontal well on its STP Unit lease in Karnes County off State Highway 81 near Hobson. The company plans to target the Eagleville field of the Eagle Ford geological layer to a total depth of 11,000 feet. Chazen closed a \$2.66 billion deal to buy 360,000 net acres of Eagle Ford and Austin Chalk leases from Houston-based EnerVest Ltd. on July 31. The drilling permit marks the first project under Magnolia Oil & Gas' name.

Two companies are seeking to develop three saltwater disposal wells in South Texas. Dallas-based **Goodnight Midstream LLC** received drilling permits to develop a pair of saltwater disposal wells on the company's Rooster SWD lease in DeWitt County off State Highway 119 about 5 miles northwest of Yorktown. The vertical injection wells target the De Witt field of the Eagle Ford geological layer to a depth of 10,000 feet. El Campo-based **Viper S.W.D. LLC** received a drilling permit to recomplete a saltwater disposal well in Wharton County. The company plans to recomplete a vertical injection well targeting the Tenna field of the Hillje Sand formation on its Brothers-Knipling Oil Unit Lease about 8 miles north of Louise.



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