

SUNSET REVIEW PROCESS 2009 -2012

Twenty-nine agencies are scheduled for Sunset review during the 2010 - 2011 biennium including the following which are relevant to oil and gas activity in Texas:

Railroad Commission of Texas (R_RC)

Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC)

*Electric Reliability Commission of Texas (ERCOT)

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)

*Subject to a focused, limited scope, or special purpose review

Reviews

In 1977, the Texas Legislature created the Sunset Advisory Commission to identify and eliminate waste, duplication, and inefficiency in government agencies. The 12-member Commission is a legislative body that reviews the policies and programs of more than 150 government agencies every 12 years. The Commission questions the need for each agency, looks for potential duplication of other public services or programs, and considers new and innovative changes to improve each agency's operations and activities. The Commission seeks public input through hearings on every agency under Sunset review and recommends actions on each agency to the full Legislature. In most cases, agencies under Sunset review are automatically abolished unless legislation is enacted to continue them.

The **Self Evaluation Report (SER)** is a key part of the Sunset review process. It provides an in-depth look at an agency's, operations and program functions. After the Self Evaluation Report is submitted, the Sunset Commission will hold an initial public hearing to discuss the reports, take public input and allow for agency testimony. Agency board member or commissioner participation will be requested. At the hearing's conclusion, Sunset staff will begin extensive meetings with agency leadership and staff. Board members and stakeholders can expect to be contacted by Sunset staff during this process. The Sunset staff will then prepare a report containing recommendations for each agency relating to policy and administration.

The agency will have the opportunity to provide a written response to the Sunset staff recommendations. The Commission conducts a final public hearing to discuss the recommendations. The agency serves only as a resource during the hearing; however, the public is given an opportunity to provide input. The Legislature will then draft Sunset legislation to be considered during the 82nd Legislative Session that in most cases incorporates the Sunset recommendations developed through the course of the review process and authorizes the continuation of the agency.

Timetable:

September 21, 2009 - Deadline for submitting self-evaluation report to Sunset Commission

September, 2009 - Sunset Commission review schedules approved

September 2009 to December 2010- Agency reviews, Sunset Commission initial public hearings, final decision meetings