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Live racing resumes at Retama Park

AUSTIN, Texas (July 18, 2023) – The Executive Director of the Texas Racing Commission has approved an updated live racing schedule for Retama Park from July 19, 2023, through September 2, 2023, for Retama Park, a Class 1 horse racetrack, in Selma, near San Antonio.

On Friday, June 29, Retama Park faced a critical power outage, resulting in the park's cancellation of evening horse races, as well as races scheduled for the following day. The power outage brought to light significant challenges Retama has been confronting to comply with the *Texas Racing Act* and *Texas Rules of Racing*.

"Today, I would like to extend my thanks to the Texas Department of Insurance, the State Fire Marshal's Office and the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation for their technical assistance in reviewing compliance documents and performing an independent safety inspection on July 17, 2023," said Amy F. Cook, Executive Director of the Texas Racing Commission.

On July 5, 2023, following the power outage, Cook sent Retama's management a notice of unsafe conditions and a list of matters to address before they resumed live racing. "The Texas Quarter Horse meet is important to the Texas Horseracing Industry, as is the safety of the facilities where it is scheduled to take place. Today, we are confident that the Penn Entertainment, the racetrack association managing Retama Park, is committed to compliance with the Texas Racing Act, and the safety of the betting public and racing industry participants." Cook said.

Independent of the steps that the agency has taken with respect to Retama Park's safety posture, the Class 1 Racetrack license is scheduled for its regular five-year license review at the next scheduled public Commission meeting on August 16, 2023. Details on the Commission meetings and other activities of the Texas Racing Commission are available at: <https://www.txrc.texas.gov/commissionmeetings>.

The Texas Racing Commission is charged with regulating and supervising pari-mutuel racing pursuant to the Texas Racing Act. The Commission is composed of nine members, seven of whom are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, and the Commissioner of Agriculture and Chair of the Public Safety Commission serve as ex officio members.