

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Michelle Lujan-Grisham
Governor

Melanie A. Kenderdine
Cabinet Secretary

Ben Shelton
Deputy Secretary

Erin Taylor
Deputy Secretary

Albert C.S. Chang
Division Director
Oil Conservation Division



BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

November 7, 2025

Ms. Amy Blythe
El Paso Natural Gas Company, L.L.C.
1001 Louisiana St., Suite 1000
Houston, Texas 77002
Amy_Blythe@kindermorgan.com

**Re: Request for Temporary Permission to Discharge Hydrostatic Test Water
El Paso Natural Gas Company, L.L.C. - OGRID 7046
Permit: HBP – 44**

Dear Ms. Blythe:

The New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD) has completed its review of El Paso Natural Gas Company, L.L.C.'s (EPNG) renewal request, dated November 4, 2025, for approval of a 120-day temporary permission to discharge small quantities of hydrostatic test wastewater generated from the testing of new transmission pipelines of oil and gas or products thereof throughout the State of New Mexico, which will expire on November 15, 2025. OCD acknowledges receipt of the filing fee (\$100.00) and temporary permission fee (\$50.00) within a separately mailed submittal received by OCD on November 7, 2025.

Based on the information provided in the request, *temporary permission is hereby granted to EPNG for the discharge of the hydrostatic test wastewater generated from all new pipeline hydrostatic tests* an operator may perform during the approved 120-day period with the following provisions and conditions:

1. The volume of the discharge is less than 25,000 gallons per hydrostatic test;
2. Water from a public/municipal water supply or other OCD approved sources, by written request and analytical results, is used for each hydrostatic test;
3. Email or written notification must be provided to the OCD 72 hours prior to each hydrostatic discharge event. The notice shall contain the following information:

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

- a. the proposed location of hydrostatic test discharge (Section/Township/Range or GPS coordinates);
 - b. the date of the proposed discharge;
 - c. the volume of the proposed discharge; and
 - d. the source of hydrostatic test water.
4. No discharge shall enter any lake, perennial stream, river, or their respective tributaries that may be seasonal;
5. No discharge shall occur:
 - a. where ground water is less than 10 feet below ground surface;
 - b. within 200 feet of a watercourse (19.15.2.7.W(4) NMAC), lakebed, sinkhole, or playa lake (19.15.2.7.P(4) NMAC);
 - c. within an existing wellhead protection area (19.15.2.7.W(8) NMAC);
 - d. within 500 feet of a wetland (19.15.2.7.W(9) NMAC); or
 - e. within 500 feet from the nearest permanent residence, school, hospital, institution, or church.
6. No discharge shall occur to a surface water body without obtaining a National Pollution Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) permit from the US EPA, NMED, and OCD prior to the discharge;
7. Best management practices must be implemented to contain the discharge onsite, to ensure that the discharge does not impact adjacent property, and to control erosion;
8. The discharge does not cause any freshwater supplies to be degraded or to exceed standards set forth in Subsections A, B, and C of the 20.6.2.3103 NMAC (the Water Quality Regulations);
9. EPNG shall report all unauthorized discharges, spills, leaks, and releases of hydrostatic test wastewater and conduct corrective action pursuant to the Water Quality Regulations of 20.6.2.1203 NMAC and release notification pursuant to OCD Rule 29 (19.15.29 NMAC);
10. The landowner(s) of each proposed discharge and/or collection/retention or alternative discharge location must be properly notified of the activities prior to each proposed hydrostatic test event; and
11. A report, summarizing each test of new pipeline with less than 25,000 gallons per hydrostatic test per discharge event performed within the approved 120-day period, shall be submitted to OCD within 45 days after the temporary permission expiration date and shall contain the following information:
 - a. the location of hydrostatic test discharge (Section/Township/Range or GPS coordinates);

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

- b. the date of each discharge;
- c. the volume of each discharge; and
- d. the source and quality of test water (laboratory analysis, if necessary).

This 120-day temporary permission will expire on March 15, 2026. Renewal requests for a 120-day temporary permission to discharge shall be submitted forty-five (45) days prior to the expiration date. A 120-day temporary permission may be revoked or suspended for violation of any applicable provisions and/or conditions of this approval.

Please be advised that approval of this request does not relieve EPNG of liability should operations result in pollution of surface water, ground water or the environment. Nor does this approval relieve EPNG of its responsibility to comply with any other applicable governmental authority's rules and regulations.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (505) 709-5149 or via email should you have any questions or concerns regarding this temporary permission.

Respectfully,



Joel Stone
Senior Environmental Scientist
joel.stone@emnrd.nm.gov

Sante Fe Main Office
Phone: (505) 476-3441

General Information
Phone: (505) 629-6116

Online Phone Directory
<https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/oed/contact-us>

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources
Oil Conservation Division
1220 S. St Francis Dr.
Santa Fe, NM 87505

CONDITIONS

Action 524547

CONDITIONS

Operator: El Paso Natural Gas Company, L.L.C 1001 Louisiana Street Houston, TX 77002	OGRID: 7046
	Action Number: 524547
	Action Type: [UF-HP] HBP Permission (HBP)

CONDITIONS

Created By	Condition	Condition Date
joel.stone	None	11/7/2025