

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION**

IN RE: NOTICE OF VIOLATION ISSUED TO GEORGE A DENTON

OGRID #8807

CASE NO.: 26066

**OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION'S
DOCKETING NOTICE**

The New Mexico Oil Conservation Division ("OCD"), pursuant to 19.15.5.10(E)(2)(a) NMAC, gives notice that it has docketed the Notice of Violation ("NOV"), a true and correct copy of which is attached as **Exhibit A**, and states the following in support thereof:

1. On or about March 26, 2026, OCD issued an original NOV to George A Denton, OGRID #8807 ("Respondent").
2. Based upon information, custom, and belief, certified mail containing the NOV arrived or will soon arrive at Respondent's address of record. Additionally, electronic mail was sent to Respondent's known email addresses of record and based upon past correspondence with Respondent, if any.
3. The NOV identifies the factual basis for the alleged violations, the compliance actions required to remedy the alleged violations, and the proposed sanctions.
4. The Original NOV stated that if Respondent did not informally resolve the NOV within 30 days of receipt of service, then OCD would proceed to a hearing.
5. Unless this case is resolved prior, the period for informal resolution will have elapsed without coming to a resolution prior to May 5, 2026.
6. The NOV states that OCD will hold a hearing on May 5, 2026, should this case fail to be resolved prior to that date.

WHEREFORE, OCD requests that the NOV be docketed for hearing on May 5, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Hall
Assistant General Counsel
New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
Oil Conservation Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
Phone: (505) 479-1137
Email: Michael.Hall@emnrd.nm.gov

Exhibit A

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Michelle Lujan-Grisham
Governor

Erin Taylor
Acting Cabinet Secretary

Ben Shelton
Deputy Secretary

Albert C.S. Chang
Division Director
Oil Conservation Division



BY CERTIFIED MAIL

March 25, 2026

GEORGE A DENTON
P.O. Box 1252
Artesia, NM 88210

No email provided by Operator

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

The Director of the Oil Conservation Division (“OCD”) issues this Notice of Violation (“NOV”) pursuant to 19.15.5.10 NMAC.

1. **Alleged Violator:** GEORGE A DENTON, OGRID # 8807 (“Operator”).
2. **Factual and Legal Basis for Alleged Violation(s):**

Operator is the registered operator of one (1) well. The one (1) well identified in **Exhibit A** has been continuously inactive since at least April 2010, and is therefore out of compliance with 19.15.25.8 NMAC and is not already subject to an agreed compliance or final order.

These alleged facts constitute violations of the following:

19.15.25.8 NMAC:

- A. *The operator of wells drilled for oil or gas or services wells including seismic, core, exploration or injection wells, whether cased or uncased, shall plug the wells as Subsection B of 19.15.25.8 NMAC requires.*
- B. *The operator shall either properly plug and abandon a well or place the well in approved temporary abandonment in accordance with 19.15.25 NMAC within 90 days after:*
 1. *a 60 day period following suspension of drilling operations;*
 2. *a determination that a well is no longer usable for beneficial purposes; or*
 3. *a period of one year in which a well has been continuously inactive.*

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19.15.5.9(A) NMAC:

An operator is in compliance with Subsection A of 19.15.5.9 NMAC if the operator...

4. *has no more than the following number of wells out of compliance with 19.15.25.8 NMAC that are not subject to an agreed compliance or final order setting a schedule for bringing the wells into compliance with 19.15.25.8 NMAC and imposing sanctions if the schedule is not met:*
 - (a) *two wells or fifty percent of the wells the operator operates, whichever is less, if the operator operates 100 wells or less;*
 - (b) *five wells if the operator operates between 101 and 500 wells;*
 - (c) *seven wells if the operator operates between 501 and 1000 wells;*
and
 - (d) *10 wells if the operator operates more than 1000 wells.*

3. **Compliance:** No later than thirty (30) days after receipt of this NOV, Operator shall:
 - a. plug and abandon the one (1) well listed in **Exhibit A**.

4. **Sanction(s):** OCD may impose one or more of the following sanctions:
 - a. civil penalty;
 - b. modification, suspension, cancellation, or termination of a permit or authorization;
 - c. plugging and abandonment of well(s);
 - d. remediation and restoration of well location(s) and associated facilities, including the removal of surface and subsurface equipment and other materials;
 - e. remediation and restoration of location(s) affected by a spill or release;
 - f. forfeiture of financial assurance;
 - g. shutting in well(s); and
 - h. any other remedy authorized by law.

For the alleged violations described above, OCD proposes the following sanctions:

- a. **Plug and Abandon Wells:** OCD will request an order requiring Operator to plug and abandon wells listed in **Exhibit A**, and/or an order authorizing OCD to plug and abandon those wells.
- b. **Termination of Authorization to Transport:** OCD will request an order terminating Operator's authority to transport from all wells listed in **Exhibit A**.
- c. **Civil Penalties:** OCD proposes to assess civil penalties as specified below. The civil penalty calculations are attached. OCD has taken into consideration the alleged violator's good faith effort (or lack thereof) to comply with the applicable requirements. Copies of the civil penalty calculations are attached as **Exhibit B**.

Civil Penalty: \$450.00

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5. **Informal resolution**: A process is available to informally discuss and resolve the NOV. This process will run for 30 days from the date of your receipt of this letter. To initiate this process, contact the OCD employee identified at the end of this letter.

6. **Hearing**: OCD will docket this matter for May 5, 2026, at which time this case will move forward to a formal hearing should informal resolution be unsuccessful. Please see 19.15.5.10 NMAC for more information regarding the hearing.

For more information regarding this NOV, contact Michael Hall at (505) 479-1137
or Michael.Hall@emnrd.nm.gov

Regards,

Albert Chang

Albert C.S. Chang
Director, Oil Conservation Division

cc: Office of General Counsel, EMNRD

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

EXHIBIT A

Inactive Well List

Total Well Count: 1 Inactive Well Count: 1

Printed On: Tuesday, December 30 2025

District	API	Well	ULSTR	OCD Unit	Ogrnd	Operator	Lease Type	Surface Owner	Well Type	Last Production	FormationNotes	Status	TA Exp Date
2	30-015-02289	STATE #002	P 18-19S 28C	P	8807	GEORGE A DENTON	S	S	O	04/2010			

EXHIBIT B



Alleged Violator
Alleged Violator OGRID
Alleged Violator ID

By Month	0
History of Non-Compliance	0
Economic Impact	0
Total Priority	0

GEORGE A DENTON
SB07

Alleged Violator ID	Violation Citation	Description	MP/PSI	Multi Day / Single Day	Days in violation	Days Analyzed	Priority Judgment	Effort to Comply	Religence and W/VIOL	Factor Subtotal	Outstanding Conditions	TOTAL	Comments
20-014-02189	5.002(1)(a)	each inactive well exceeding the threshold	5	200	1	1	5	200	0.6	0.6	No outstanding conditions	2,000.00	

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on March 31, 2026, I served a true and correct copy of the foregoing Oil Conservation Division's Docketing Notice as follows:

To:

GEORGE A DENTON
P.O. Box 1252
Artesia, NM 88210

USPS Certified Mail Tracking No.: 7019164000079862529

Thank you,



Madai Corral
Law Clerk
EMNRD-Oil Conservation Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
Madai.corral@emnrd.nm.gov
505-584-3818

