

Public Comments
Received 5-26-2012

Case Numbers
14784 & 14785

Duran-Saenz, Theresa, EMNRD

From: Anna Sanchez [snchz22@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2012 8:31 AM
To: Davidson, Florene, EMNRD
Subject: maintain the requirements of the Pit Rule

Dear Oil Conservation Commission,

Please do not give in to industry pressure to weaken the requirements on the Pit Rule. Let's continue ensuring a high standard for our beautiful state's land and water to be enjoyed by all.

Sincerely,
Anna Sanchez
Santa Fe 87505

Duran-Saenz, Theresa, EMNRD

From: jeanlcnm@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2012 8:39 AM
To: Davidson, Florene, EMNRD
Subject: pit rules

I urge the members of the Oil Conservation Division to resist the industry push to remove the protections that the pit rule provides for our environment, particularly ground water. NM can be proud of having truly effective rules for environmental protection.

B. Jean Apgar
1155 N. Miranda St #H-2
Las Cruces NM 88005

Duran-Saenz, Theresa, EMNRD

From: Katherine Pappas [kpappas1@comcast.net]
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2012 3:09 PM
To: Davidson, Florene, EMNRD
Subject: public comments to the Oil Conservation Commission to keep the current Pit Rule

To: Florene Davidson, at Oil Conservation Division, 1220 South Saint Francis Drive, Santa Fe, NM 87505

Please forward this email to Ms. Bailey, Mr. Balch, and Mr. Bloom:

The current weather conditions are actual proof that we must do everything we can to protect all water supplies in the southwest. Allowing any activity that could jeopardize any water source just doesn't make sense. T. Boone Pickens who made his fortune in oil, has recognized the importance of water to our future success. In Albuquerque, the Air Force is expending millions of dollars chasing an underground jet fuel spill that is threatening the aquifer. A properly constructed containment pit around the tank farm would have prevented this problem. We urge the OCC to uphold the requirement for lined pits and the other requirements as currently written. An ounce of prevention now is worth millions in clean-up costs in the future.

Prior to the rule's implementation four years ago, New Mexico had at least 400 cases of groundwater contamination from oil and gas development. Since the Pit Rule, there have been zero. Please do not cave to industry pressure and continue to ensure a high standard for our beautiful state's land and water.

We ask that the pit rule stay as it is.

**George and Katherine Pappas
5905 Tierra Viva PI NW
Albuquerque, NM 87107**

Duran-Saenz, Theresa, EMNRD

From: Gloria Hacker [teddycatglo@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2012 4:53 PM
To: Davidson, Florene, EMNRD
Subject: Pit Rule

Attn. Florene Davidson, please keep the Pit Rule in place. Let's not roll-back the safeguards in place to protect our water & soil from Oil & Gas drilling contaminants. Until now the industry has been fine with this Pit Rule in place & today more than ever, with more wells being drilled, we need this Pit Rule to continue. Thank You,
Gloria L Hacker

Duran-Saenz, Theresa, EMNRD

From: Jane Tokunaga [janetokunaga@cybermesa.com]
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2012 5:25 PM
To: Davidson, Florene, EMNRD
Subject: Attention: Commissioners Bailey, Balch and Bloom re proposed changes to New Mexico Pit Rule.

Dear Commissioners Bailey, Balch and Bloom,

I have lived and voted in New Mexico for over twenty-five years. I am deeply concerned about the health of our environment, how it affects the lives of New Mexicans, our economy, our future. The New Mexico pit Rule was enacted to prevent unlined drilling pits. The changes proposed by the oil and gas industry will weaken the present pit rule to become among the least strict in the United States.

I am very concerned that these proposals that weaken the Pit Rule which was a collaborative process and included heavy input from the oil and gas industry, will open the door for abuses that will include pits the size of lakes. These are already existent in Texas and Colorado. The proposed changes would open the door to the use of temporary disposal pits for up to a year, allowing companies to log their pits within their own records with out oversight, allowing higher levels of poisonous chlorides in the pit waste. The industry did not present ANY evidence that the Pit Rule is impossible to comply with, overly burdensome, or that it does not protect the environment.

Prior to the rule's implementation four years ago, New Mexico had at least 400 cases of groundwater contamination from oil and gas development. Since the Pit Rule, there have been zero. Please tell the commission not to cave to industry pressure and to continue ensuring a high standard for our beautiful state's land and water.

I look to you to represent the interests of the people of New Mexico and keep them as your top priority,

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns,

Jane Tokunaga
264 Camino de la Sierra
Santa Fe, NM 87501
505.983.9115

Duran-Saenz, Theresa, EMNRD

From: Louishawk2@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2012 6:31 AM
To: Davidson, Florene, EMNRD
Subject: The Pit Rule

Commissioners Bailey, Balch and Bloom,

Based upon the information I have read on The Pit Rule i would ask that consideration not be given to changing any aspect as requested by the oil and gas industry. I feel we are on the right track to keeping New Mexico's ground water uncontaminated and the beauty of our state intact. Thank you for your consideration.

Louis F. Baum Sr.
721 Dayhill Street
Bayard, NM 88023
575 313 5767

Duran-Saenz, Theresa, EMNRD

From: Mary Chatfield [marychat@suddenlink.net]
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2012 10:45 AM
To: Davidson, Florene, EMNRD
Subject: Pit Rule

Please keep the PIT Rule as it is. It was carefully considered before being implemented, with much input from the oil industry.

M. V. Chatfield

Duran-Saenz, Theresa, EMNRD

From: Roger Peterson [rogpete@aol.com]
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2012 1:15 PM
To: Davidson, Florene, EMNRD
Subject: pit rule

NEW MEXICO NATURAL HISTORY INSTITUTE

A Nonprofit Corporation
1750 Camino Corrales
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-7502

26 May 2012

Ms. Florene Davidson
1220 S. Saint Francis Drive
Santa Fe NM 87505

comments on Oil Conservation Division
"Pit Rule"

Dear Ms. Davidson:

Founded in 1977, we are a small, state-wide group of scientists interested in protection of New Mexico's biological communities.

We strongly oppose relaxation of the "pit rule." Greater use of temporary pits and allowing higher toxic chloride levels would harm soils and wildlife.

It puzzles us that relaxation is being considered seriously. Stricter management of pits has proved effective, beneficial, and without any known down-side. The petroleum industry has, I think, shown no negative effect; probably not a single undertaking has been foregone because of the rule.

Yours truly,
Roger S. Peterson

Roger S. Peterson
Secretary; ecologist

Duran-Saenz, Theresa, EMNRD

From: Phyl Morello [1432phyl@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2012 3:04 PM
To: Davidson, Florene, EMNRD
Subject: Do not cave in to the oil industry

Dear sirs

Do not give in to the oil industry.

Groundwater is sacred & important to keep pure. Demand a HIGH standard for the sake of land & water purity.

Do not overturn the Pit Rule

Phyl Morello
984 Harrison Ferry
White Pine TN 37890

Duran-Saenz, Theresa, EMNRD

From: avatar11@rediffmail.com on behalf of Ravi Grover [avatar11@rediffmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2012 5:20 PM
To: Davidson, Florene, EMNRD
Subject: keep requirements of Pit Rule in place

The New Mexico Pit Rule was enacted to prevent unlined drilling pits. The commission heard testimony during the week of May 14-18 from the oil and gas industry regarding their petition to roll back the requirements of the Pit Rule. The oil industry which is petitioning to remove the pit rule has not presented evidence that the Pit Rule is impossible to comply with, overly burdensome, or that it does not protect the environment.

Prior to the rule's implementation four years ago, New Mexico had at least 400 cases of groundwater contamination from oil and gas development. Since the Pit Rule, there have been zero.

Do not cave into special interest oil companies and keep all requirements in place.

Thank you,
Ravi Grover
POB 802103
Chicago IL 60680-2103



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Duran-Saenz, Theresa, EMNRD

From: Ruth Rudner [ruthrudner@aol.com]
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2012 9:58 AM
To: Davidson, Florene, EMNRD
Subject: pit rule

I'd like to go on record as saying I see no reason to change the current pit rule, which works, and which was implemented with oil and gas industry input. The proposed changes have the potential to do a great deal of damage, and no good.

Thank you.

Ruth Rudner-Muench
Corrales, NM 87048

Duran-Saenz, Theresa, EMNRD

From: Trish Phelps [trish_phelps@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2012 10:20 AM
To: Davidson, Florene, EMNRD
Subject: New Mexico Pit Rule

Hello, Ms. Davidson

I am writing this to encourage you to support retention of the current New Mexico regulations on the oil and gas industry in order to protect one of New Mexico's most valuable resources: its aquifers. The current regulations came arose when aquifers were being contaminated by oil residues, and these regulations have proven to be effective in protecting further destruction of water supplies. It is imperative to remember the reason that they were adopted and to remain true to that resolve.

Trish Phelps
86 Wagner RD
Magdalena NM 87825

Duran-Saenz, Theresa, EMNRD

From: Yolanda Garcia [otherstuff@swcp.com]
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2012 11:12 AM
To: Davidson, Florene, EMNRD
Cc: Bailey, Jami, EMNRD; balch@prrc.nmt.edu; Bloom, Gregory B.
Subject: Submission of public comment to the Oil Conservation Commission about the Pit Rule.

Ms. Florene Davidson, Division Administrator

Oil Conservation Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87505

ATTENTION: NM Oil Conservation Commissioners Ms. Jami Bailey, Mr. Robert S. Balch, and Mr. Greg Bloom

Please DO NOT roll back the requirements of the Pit Rule.

As you know, the New Mexico Pit Rule was enacted to prevent unlined drilling pits. Prior to the rule's implementation four years ago, New Mexico had at least 400 cases of groundwater contamination from oil and gas development. Since the Pit Rule, there have been zero.

If the oil and gas industry's petition to roll back the requirements of the Pit Rule is granted, the regulations of oil and gas development in New Mexico will shift from being among the strictest in the country to being among the least strict. The companies see an opportunity to assert their power over the political process, even when there is no logical reason to overturn the rule. There is no justification for their request except avarice and a play for power. The welfare of our state and of our citizen's does not concern their underlying lust for financial gain.

As a life-long resident of New Mexico, I ask that you do not surrender to industry pressure. Please continue ensuring a high standard for our beautiful state's land and water and for our citizens by protecting New Mexico groundwater and soil from contamination!

We rely on you; you must not roll back the Pit Rule. To do so would be very wrong.

Sincerely,

Yolanda Garcia

PO Box 1441

Peralta, NM 87042