

New Mexico Oil & Gas Association

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August 12, 1996

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New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission
2040 South Pacheco
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Subject: NMOGA Comments on Case 11596 - Commission Meetings
Docket Dated 8-15-96

Gentlemen:

The New Mexico Oil & Gas Association (NMOGA) wishes to comment for the record in this case in the form of this letter.

NMOGA would like to propose two revisions to the proposed Rule 19 NMAC 15 A.19:

1. Commission members might participate in meetings and hearings by video-conference rather than telephone. This would facilitate the viewing of exhibits and evidence considered on the record at the hearing. Properly placed, video-conferencing has proven to be a very cost effective communications vehicle.
2. Witnesses be allowed to participate in meetings and hearings by video-conferencing. Video-conferencing could save operators several hundred dollars per hearing in situations where no cross-examination takes place. Operators would determine which witnesses were sufficiently important to the case to require being at the hearing.

It is therefore proposed that the rule read as follows:

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION RULE 19 (19 NMAC 15 A.19)

Pursuant to Section 10-15-1 NMSA 1978, Commission members and *witnesses* may participate in Commission meetings and hearings by means of *video-conferencing* or other similar communications equipment when it is *not economically advantageous* or otherwise difficult or impossible to attend the meeting or hearing in person. Each member or *witness* participating *in the meeting or hearing* by *video-conference* or other similar communications equipment must be *able to be seen and heard by all those participating in the meeting or hearing at the hearing location*.

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Members of the public attending the meeting or hearing must be able to hear *and see* the Commission members *or witnesses* who speak during the meeting or hearing.

NMOGA feels that this approach to cost effective meetings will result in improvement to the meeting and hearing process. Your consideration of these comments and proposed revisions to Rule 19 will be appreciated.

Sincerely,


Darwin Van De Graaff
President