

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

**IN RE API 30-025-11873, ABANDONED WELL
AND ACTIVE RELEASE**

EMERGENCY ORDER

The Director of the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (“Division”) issues this Emergency Order to remediate an active release and to plug and abandon API 30-025-11873.

FINDINGS

1. On November 22, 2023, the Division received notification of an active release of hydrocarbons at the wellhead location of API 30-025-11873.
2. The report to the Division and subsequent investigation information received from a property owner confirmed the active release of produced water or other oilfield waste, as identified in 19.15.2.7 (R)(4) NMAC. The Division photographed pooling of waste and staining on the ground surrounding the identified wellhead as well as witnessed the wellhead actively releasing what appears to be produced water onto the surface.
3. Division records indicate that the referenced well was and remains operated by Unified Operating, LLC. Additionally, records indicate that the referenced well has not produced since July 2011. The Division attempted to reach the contact for Unified Operating, LLC on November 23, 2023, at which time the Division advised the contact of the release. The contact advised he would make a call and get the issue fixed. As of November 27, 2023, Unified Operating, LLC has not stopped the release or otherwise addressed it.
4. Unified Operating, LLC is the last identifiable potential operator of API 30-025-11873. According to New Mexico Secretary of State records last visited on November 23, 2023, Unified

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Operating, LLC is a foreign profit corporation incorporated in Colorado, with good standing in the State of New Mexico.

5. As of the date of this Order, the Division considers Unified Operating, LLC the responsible party for API 30-025-11873 as the Division possesses no filings of any kind reflecting the transfer of the subject well to any other operator by Unified Operating, LLC.

6. Upon information and belief, the release documented at API 30-025-11873:

- a. may result in a major release pursuant to 19.15.29.7 (A) NMAC if allowed to continue to leak;
- b. may with reasonable probability endanger public health; or,
- c. substantially damage property or the environment; and,
- d. is not subject to plugging or remediation activity by any currently identifiable operator.

7. Pursuant to Section 70-2-23 of the Oil and Gas Act and 19.15.2.11(A) NMAC, the Division finds that an emergency exists regarding the release identified at API 30-025-11873, which requires an Order permitting the Division to immediately remediate the release and perform any necessary cessation of the release, including plugging and abandonment of the well.

ORDER

8. To reduce waste, prevent potential damage to correlative rights, and to protect public health and the environment, the Division hereby ORDERS that the Division may immediately remediate the identified release and perform any necessary work to properly plug and abandon API 30-025-11873 through use of the Reclamation Fund.

9. The Division retains jurisdiction of this matter for the entry of such further orders as determined necessary and retains the right to pursue possible enforcement actions or potential actions to recover costs associated with work performed pursuant to this Order.

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STATE OF NEW MEXICO

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION



Date: 11/28/23

DYLAN FUGE
ACTING DIRECTOR

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District I
1625 N. French Dr., Hobbs, NM 88240
Phone:(575) 393-6161 Fax:(575) 393-0720
District II
811 S. First St., Artesia, NM 88210
Phone:(575) 748-1283 Fax:(575) 748-9720
District III
1000 Rio Brazos Rd., Aztec, NM 87410
Phone:(505) 334-6178 Fax:(505) 334-6170
District IV
1220 S. St Francis Dr., Santa Fe, NM 87505
Phone:(505) 476-3470 Fax:(505) 476-3462

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

CONDITIONS

Action 290663

CONDITIONS

Operator: UNIFIED OPERATING LLC 704 23rd St SE Mandan, ND 58554	OGRID: 281652
	Action Number: 290663
	Action Type: [IM-SD] Well File Support Doc (ENG) (IM-AWF)

CONDITIONS

Created By	Condition	Condition Date
jagarcia	None	12/4/2023