

From: [Bonny Hennigan](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 3:21:52 PM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

As a New Mexico resident, I strongly support strengthening financial assurance rules for oil and gas operators. These rules are essential to protect our communities and taxpayers from the growing burden of orphaned wells.

New Mexico has over 60,000 production wells, and nearly half are low-producing stripper wells. These wells often emit harmful gases and pose risks to our water and land—yet they generate too little revenue to cover cleanup costs. Too often, companies offload these wells to smaller operators who can't afford remediation, leaving taxpayers to foot the bill when bankruptcy hits.

The proposed rule is a good start, but it needs to go further:

- Trigger financial assurance earlier—waiting until 15% of wells are inactive is too late. Insolvency often sets in before that threshold.
- Base assurance amounts on actual costs—in 2024, plugging a well averaged \$163,000, not \$150,000.
- Include remediation, not just plugging—land and water cleanup can cost tens of thousands to millions and must be accounted for.

We deserve rules that prevent environmental harm and financial fallout before they happen. Please strengthen Case No. 24683 to reflect the true costs and risks.

Sincerely,
Bonny Hennigan
Albuquerque, NM 87120

From: [Wendy Volkmann](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 3:06:48 PM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

We must strengthen the financial assurance rules for oil and gas operators in New Mexico. The rules should better protect New Mexico taxpayers from having to pay for clean up of dirty operators.

The rule should be triggered at a lower percentage of inactive wells. This would prevent the increased rate of abandonment.

The financial assurance amount should be raised and based on the average actual plugging and remediation costs for a given well type of the prior fiscal year. And an increase of cost should be assumed (from the comparison to the year prior).

The rule should also include financial assurance for remediation based on the particularities of the site to be remediated. It should be determined by an independent third party evaluator and this expense should be paid by the operator.

Please create rules that protect New Mexico taxpayers from picking up the tab of irresponsible and dirty oil and gas operators.

Make polluters pay!

Thank you for taking my comment.

Sincerely,
Wendy Volkmann
4 S Rancho de Bosque
Lamy, NM 87540

From: [Stephen Sachs](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:07:10 AM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

I support strengthening the financial assurance rules for oil and gas operators in New Mexico, and believe that rules should go even further to protect New Mexico taxpayers against bad operators. The rule should encompass all of these interrelated concerns: The obligation to properly decommission a well must apply to all parties who have held an interest in that well, and they must be held jointly and severally liable.

All transactions that affect or shift the ownership of a pre-existing well must be approved by the New Mexico state government, which can deny the proposed transaction as inconsistent with the public interest. Any such transaction that would increase the risk of orphaning a well must be rejected.

All new drilling of wells or transactions that effect or shift the ownership of a pre-existing well must be accompanied by a well-specific bond, the amount of which must be determined by the State, and not be based on blanket bonds, flawed productivity projections, or financial gaming of future costs.

The obligation to plug and remediate a well must be permanent, and companies must not be released from their obligations following initial plugging of a well. Plugged wells must be monitored for damage or leaks and must be repaired at the operators' joint expense. The plugs do not last forever.

The obligation to plug and remediate inactive wells must be fully and promptly enforced.

Failure to do all this will be extremely harmful to New Mexicans and a heavy financial cost for directly impacted New Mexican and the state's tax payers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Stephen Sachs
1916 San Pedro Dr NE
Albuquerque, NM 87110

From: [Carol Sassaman](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:07:09 AM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

I support strengthening the financial assurance rules for oil and gas operators in New Mexico, and believe that rules should go even further to protect New Mexico taxpayers against bad operators. The rule should:

Sincerely,
Carol Sassaman
PO Box 305
Hanover, NM 88041

From: [Mary Tutunjyan](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:07:09 AM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

I support strengthening the financial assurance rules for oil and gas operators in New Mexico, and believe that rules should go even further to protect New Mexico taxpayers against bad operators. The rule should:

Sincerely,
Mary Tutunjyan
Los Angeles, CA 91405

From: [Rita Glasscock](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:07:08 AM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

I support strengthening the financial assurance rules for oil and gas operators in New Mexico, and believe that rules should go even further to protect New Mexico taxpayers against bad operators. The rule should:

Sincerely,
Rita Glasscock
1200 Camino Consuelo
Santa Fe, NM 87507

From: [Maresa Pryor-Luzier](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:07:07 AM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

I support strengthening the financial assurance rules for oil and gas operators in New Mexico, and believe that rules should go even further to protect New Mexico taxpayers against bad operators. The rule should: The rule should include financial assurance for remediation based on the particularities of the remediation site and determined by an independent third party evaluator to be paid for by the operator.

New Mexican cans should not be penalized by oil and gas operators.

Sincerely,
Maresa Pryor-Luzier
Datil, NM 87821

From: [Jade McLellan](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:07:07 AM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

I support strengthening the financial assurance rules for oil and gas operators in New Mexico, and believe that rules should go even further to protect New Mexico taxpayers against bad operators. There's too much room for corporations to circumvent their responsibilities to clean up their hazardous messes; the rule should ensure that oil and gas companies, not New Mexican citizens, are liable for clean-up and restoration costs - the extent of which to be determined by third-party evaluators at corporate, not taxpayer, expense. Current and future New Mexicans have a right to safe, healthy environs - what will you do to protect that right?

Sincerely,
Jade McLellan
Albuquerque, NM 87106

From: [James Graham](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:07:05 AM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

I support strengthening the financial assurance rules for oil and gas operators in New Mexico, and believe that rules should go even further to protect New Mexico taxpayers against bad operators. Please protect our state's water.

Sincerely,
James Graham
Las Cruces, NM 88005

From: [James Graham](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:07:08 AM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

I support strengthening the financial assurance rules for oil and gas operators in New Mexico, and believe that rules should go even further to protect New Mexico taxpayers against bad operators.

Please protect our states water.

Sincerely,
James Graham
Las Cruces, NM 88005

From: [Rev. Glen Thamert](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:07:05 AM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

I support strengthening the financial assurance rules for oil and gas operators in New Mexico, and believe that rules should go even further to protect New Mexico taxpayers against bad operators. The rule should:

Sincerely,
Rev. Glen Thamert
PO Box 368
Jemez Springs, NM 87025

From: [Justin Kamm](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:07:04 AM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

I support strengthening the financial assurance rules for oil and gas operators in New Mexico, and believe that rules should go even further to protect New Mexico taxpayers against bad operators. The rule should hold drillers responsible for cleaning up after themselves, just like we teach every kindergartener. Running off with a bag of money while we who live here have to clean up the mess - with money we don't have - is beyond childish... it's evil. Please help to protect your neighbors from wealthy corporate interlopers who only come to take.

Sincerely,
Justin Kamm
Albuquerque, NM 87110

From: [Justin Kamm](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:07:06 AM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

I support strengthening the financial assurance rules for oil and gas operators in New Mexico, and believe that rules should go even further to protect New Mexico taxpayers against bad operators. The rule should make sure that drillers clean up after themselves, just like we teach every kindergartener. Please help protect your neighbors from wealthy corporate interlopers who only want to run off with a bag of money while we're stuck paying. They are takers. We are stewards. Let's hold them to their responsibilities.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Justin Kamm
5508 El Encanto Pl NE
Albuquerque, NM 87110

From: [Mary Valentine](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:07:04 AM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

I support strengthening the financial assurance rules for oil and gas operators in New Mexico, and believe that rules should go even further to protect New Mexico taxpayers against bad operators. The rules should ensure that well operators do their part honorably. There should be no more quiet sales to small companies, bonds should be large enough to ensure proper remediation of the land, as well as safe plugging of the well.

Sincerely,
Mary Valentine
Albuquerque, NM 87109

From: [Michael Lewitke](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:07:03 AM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

I support strengthening the financial assurance rules for oil and gas operators in New Mexico, and believe that rules should go even further to protect New Mexico taxpayers against bad operators.

Sincerely,
Michael Lewitke
Mora, NM 87732

From: [Karen Milstein](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:07:03 AM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

I support strengthening the financial assurance rules for oil and gas operators in New Mexico, and believe that rules should go even further to protect New Mexico taxpayers against bad operators. The rule should:

Sincerely,
Karen Milstein
3024 Governor Lindsey Rd
Santa Fe, NM 87505

From: [nancy king](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:07:02 AM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

I support strengthening the financial assurance rules for oil and gas operators in New Mexico, and believe that rules should go even further to protect New Mexico taxpayers against bad operators. The rule should include financial assurance for remediation based on the particularities of the remediation site and determined by an independent third party evaluator to be paid for by the operator.

The health of the planet depends upon environmental action based on science rather than greed.

Sincerely,
nancy king
santa fe, NM 87501

From: [nancy king](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:07:06 AM

You don't often get email from nanking1224@earthlinl.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

I support strengthening the financial assurance rules for oil and gas operators in New Mexico, and believe that rules should go even further to protect New Mexico taxpayers against bad operators. The rule should include financial assurance for remediation based on the particularities of the remediation site and determined by an independent third party evaluator to be paid for by the operator. Remediation costs can run from \$35,000 into the millions, depending on the environmental damage. i

We cannot afford to ignore environmental degradation--the health of the planet depends on it.

Sincerely,
nancy king
santa fe, NM 87501

From: [AJ cho](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:07:02 AM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

I support strengthening the financial assurance rules for oil and gas operators in New Mexico, and believe that rules should go even further to protect New Mexico taxpayers against bad operators. The rule should:

Sincerely,
AJ cho
159 Santa Teresa
San Leandro, CA 94579

From: [ROBERT MEYER](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:07:01 AM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

I support strengthening the financial assurance rules for oil and gas operators in New Mexico, and believe that rules should go even further to protect New Mexico taxpayers against bad operators. The rule should: hold these greedy oil and gas criminals responsible for the pollution they cause. Too often, we are stuck with their crap after they have extracted millions (billions?) of dollars from our land and then vanish.

Sincerely,
ROBERT MEYER
128 Mateo Cir N
Santa Fe, NM 87505

From: [PAUL YODER](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:07:01 AM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

I support strengthening the financial assurance rules for oil and gas operators in New Mexico, and believe that rules should go even further to protect New Mexico taxpayers against bad operators.

Sincerely,
PAUL YODER
CUBA, NM 87013

From: [PAUL YODER](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:07:08 AM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

Implement up front payment of AROs (Asset Retirement Obligation). Don't worry, they may squeal, whine, threaten & bribe; but, if you are steadfast, they'll pay. US production peaked in the 70s. New Mexico's deposits are one of their few and diminishing paths to continue extravagant profiteering.

Support strengthening the financial assurance rules for oil and gas operators in New Mexico. Protect New Mexico taxpayers against bad operators.

The impending Orphan Well crisis could end up costing New Mexicans more than \$6000 per taxpayer, if you do not implement stronger laws and enforcement.

Have you clandestinely visited a well? I was an O&G geologist in Texas. It was shameful to see firms shirk responsibility for the enormous mess EVERY well created. They were quick to grab the profits & quicker to abandon responsibility.

Raise the operator's financial bond to as low as \$175,000 (e.g. - average oil well plugging cost) to as high as \$350,000 (e.g. - gas well plugging) for each well. Make bond due no later than onset of production.

Prevent worsening rates of abandonment. This rule should be triggered when an operator exceeds 3% inactive wells.

Require operators to provide additional bond to cover \$1+ million depending on individual circumstances. Otherwise we New Mexicans will have to pay for water and land remediation in addition to the plugging costs.

Thank You for standing up to the privileged few that plan from the onset to shirk their responsibilities and dump them onto the rest of us.

Sincerely,
PAUL YODER
CUBA, NM 87013

From: [Saroj Heidi Baxter](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:07:00 AM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

I support strengthening the financial assurance rules for oil and gas operators in New Mexico, and believe that rules should go even further to protect New Mexico taxpayers against bad operators. The rule should: Assure that producers don't shirk their responsibility to plug and remediate wells by transferring ownership.

Sincerely,
Saroj Heidi Baxter
Santa Fe, NM 87505

From: [Saroj Heidi Baxter](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:07:05 AM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

I support strengthening the financial assurance rules for oil and gas operators in New Mexico, and believe that rules should go even further to protect New Mexico taxpayers against bad operators. The rule should: Protect New Mexico lands and New Mexico tax payers.

Sincerely,
Saroj Heidi Baxter
Santa Fe, NM 87505

From: [Rachel Coleman](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:06:58 AM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

Please act to enable New Mexico to hold the oil and gas industry accountable for the true costs of its business, including by supporting the improvements advocated by New Energy Economy.

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Rachel Coleman
Albuquerque, NM 87108

From: [Lynn Allen](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:06:57 AM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

I support strengthening the financial assurance rules for oil and gas operators in New Mexico, and believe that rules should go even further to protect New Mexico taxpayers against bad operators. The rule should:

Be appraised for each well on actual costs as of 2025 for each well site that are the projected costs by an independent third party at the time of operation. It must adjust for inflation each 2 years before closing the well. They made profits, their costs must be theirs and not the State of NM.

Increase the surety bonds to cover 120 % of anticipated costs. Trump is willfully increasing costs and reducing protections so the additional 20% is an attempt to react to increase costs. Eliminate the transfer of and sale of oil and gas wells to entities unable to prove their financial ability and surety bonds to completely cover 120% of the costs of closing & remediation the wells. Build in an inflation clause updated every 2 years.

Make all sale and transfers be approved by the State of New Mexico prior to sale or transfer.

Increase the New Mexico royalty fees to align with Texas and Oklahoma rates.

I would like to see an annual press release of the state of oil and gas wells in New Mexico for public information. Our legislature needs this information for budgeting.

Thank you for your time. Protecting New Mexico from financial loss is imperative.

Sincerely,
Lynn Allen
Cerrillos, NM 87010

From: [Sandra Jackson](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:06:57 AM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

I support strengthening the financial assurance rules for oil and gas operators in New Mexico, and believe that rules should go even further to protect New Mexico taxpayers against bad operators. The rule should:

Sincerely,
Sandra Jackson
7 Cuesta Ln
Santa Fe, NM 87508

From: [Steven and Susan Mayes](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:06:55 AM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

I support strengthening the financial assurance rules for oil and gas operators in New Mexico, and believe that rules should go even further to protect New Mexico taxpayers against bad operators. The rule should:

Sincerely,
Steven and Susan Mayes
16 Mesa Pino
SANTA FE, NM 87508

From: [Lorna dyer](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:06:54 AM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

I support strengthening the financial assurance rules for oil and gas operators in New Mexico, and believe that rules should go even further to protect New Mexico taxpayers against bad operators. The rule should: require old or new owners of wells to shoulder the cost of plugging old wells.

Sincerely,
Lorna dyer
Santa Fe, NM 87506

From: [Lorna dyer](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:06:56 AM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

I support strengthening the financial assurance rules for oil and gas operators in New Mexico, and believe that rules should go even further to protect New Mexico taxpayers against bad operators. The rule should: require all old actors and new in the oil business to clean up their messes...their leaking oil wells etc. They make money and then require us to clean up after them.

Shame on them and on legislators who don't require responsible behavior. I am shocked.

Sincerely,
Lorna dyer
Santa Fe, NM 87506

From: [denise johnson](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:06:52 AM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

I support strengthening the financial assurance rules for oil and gas operators in New Mexico. Given the information I just read, it seems that we, the public, should not be paying the bill for plugging and remediation .Thank you, DM Johnson

Sincerely,
denise johnson
Santa Fe, NM 87501

From: [denise johnson](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:07:05 AM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

I support strengthening the financial assurance rules for oil and gas operators in New Mexico. We, the public should not pay for the plugging and remediation of said wells. Thank you , DM Johnson

Sincerely,
denise johnson
Santa Fe, NM 87501

From: [Christine Stump](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:06:52 AM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

I support strengthening the financial assurance rules for oil and gas operators in New Mexico. I believe that the rules should go even further to protect New Mexico taxpayers against bad operators. The rule should:

1. go into effect at a low percentage of inoperative wells so that they have to "clean as they go" instead of claiming insolvency after de facto abandoning wells while profit-taking.
2. Reflect the actual cost of plugging a well, up to \$303,000.
3. Include financial resources for remediation of resources in an amount determined by an independent 3rd party, but paid for by the operator. These "hidden" costs can run into the millions and are too often borne by us, the tax payers.

Accountability is the bedrock of trust and it should be written into the rules. The backdoor practices of selling low producing wells to smaller companies who then abandon the wells in (a not unexpected) bankruptcy must be stopped. This is a matter of our water, air and health.

Sincerely,
Christine Stump
Cedar Crest, NM 87008

From: [Christine Stump](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:06:55 AM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

I support strengthening the financial assurance rules for oil and gas operators in New Mexico, and believe that rules should go even further to protect New Mexico taxpayers against bad operators. The rule should:

Ensure that wells are owned by operators who can pay for their retirement, prevent them from being sold to linger and then be abandoned by companies who strategically declare bankruptcy; ensure the assurance amount is sufficient, perhaps a bond of \$303,000 the balance of which the company can receive back if not used; be sufficient for the actual site and its needs to be returned to health and usability and for the people downstream, metaphorically and literally, to remain whole.

Sincerely,
Christine Stump
Cedar Crest, NM 87008

From: [Virginia Clark](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:06:51 AM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

I absolutely support a strong financial assurance rule(s) to hold New Mexico oil and gas operators accountable.

I also believe rules should do more to protect New Mexico taxpayers against bad operators. The rule should not allow low-producing well owners to sell to smaller companies that will not be able to pay for plugging or remediation so end up declaring bankruptcy and leaving us taxpayers to pay for it all.

The proposed financial assurance rules should be triggered when 5% of an operator's well are inactive.

The proposed rule should be based on on average plugging and remediation costs for a given well type in the prior fiscal year.

The proposed rule should require operators to provide financial assurance for plugging AND remediation of the land and water – as determined by an independent third-party evaluator, paid for by the operator.

Thank you for considering and acting on this as requested.

Sincerely,
Virginia L. Clark

Sincerely,
Virginia Clark
Valdez, NM 87580

From: [Nodiah Brent Brent](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 10:21:29 AM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

I support strengthening the financial assurance rules for oil and gas operators in New Mexico and believe they should go even further to protect New Mexico taxpayers against bad operators. Financial assurance bonds MUST be increased; well transfers must be banned or closely monitored; a third-party evaluator should determine financial assurance fees on a case-by-case basis. Otherwise, you are abdicating your responsibility to protect taxpayers from reckless, irresponsible behavior on the part of oil and gas operators.

Sincerely,

Nodiah Brent

Sincerely,
Nodiah Brent Brent
Santa Fe, NM 87505

From: [Nodiah Brent Brent](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 10:29:09 AM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

I support strengthening the financial assurance rules for oil and gas operators in New Mexico, and believe that the rules should go even further to protect New Mexico taxpayers against bad operators. Make these rules truly consequential! Get third-party experts to assess financial assurance for each well; a blanket 150K fee doesn't cut it. Stop big oil operators from passing off their unremediated assets to new, small operations that won't assume responsibility for cleanup. Trigger the rules at a lower percentage of inactive wells to prevent increased rates of abandonment. Exercise your authority to stand up for NM citizens so we don't bear the brunt of dirty practices. If you don't, who will?

It's a shame that our state fails to be a leader in sustainability despite its abundant sunshine and wind. Our dependence on oil and gas for state revenue continues to cripple us. Especially when we give it away at bargain basement prices.

Thank you,

Nodiah Brent

Sincerely,
Nodiah Brent Brent
Santa Fe, NM 87505

From: [Rita Gentry](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 8:27:20 AM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

I support strengthening the financial assurance rules for oil and gas operators in New Mexico, and believe that rules should go even further to protect New Mexico taxpayers against bad operators. The public should not be left to clean up water and soil that is in danger of being contaminated for centuries to come by owners of wells that will never be able to pay. The rules for cleanup must be triggered earlier in the owner transfer process. It must be paid by the seller. The rule should reflect the average cost for plugging AND remediation of a well type and the land conditions in the year prior to sale as determined by an independent inspector.

Sincerely,
Rita Gentry
3466 Cerrillos Rd Apt B1
Santa Fe, NM 87507