

From: drumtalk@mac.com
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Every oil and gas corporation operating in N M should shoulder 100% of the costs
Date: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 7:27:02 PM

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To Sheila Apodaca, Commission Clerk
occ.hearings@emend.nm.gov

Every oil and gas corporation operating in New Mexico should shoulder 100% of the costs associated with plugging their wells. New Mexico communities pay for their oil and gas service. Why should they also have to foot a portion of these corporations' operating costs to eliminate pollution exposure.

Every oil and gas corporation operating in New Mexico should shoulder 100% of the costs associated with plugging their wells. New Mexico communities pay for their oil and gas service. Why should they also have to foot a portion of these corporations' operating costs to eliminate pollution exposure?

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From: [Heidi Brooks](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment on Case No. 24683, proposed new bonding and clean-up rules
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 3:25:18 PM

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Ms. Sheila Apodaca,
Oil Conservation Commission Clerk

Dear Ms. Apodaca,

I'm writing in to submit a comment regarding the proposed rule amendments concerning the financial assurance requirements for plugging disused gas wells.

The impetus for my comment is the premise that we should all be able to have a place to live, water to drink, and air to breathe that is not polluted. Gas wells left unplugged can emit toxins into the air and water that can have a wide variety of health effects on people and the environment. The State is aware of at least 600 wells that need to be plugged now, likely at public expense, with another 4,400 expected. The clean-up costs could run from \$700 million to \$1.6 billion.

Without effective leverage to make the well owners pay these costs, the public will bear this burden. And that's not fair to all of us citizens, since the clean-up expense will mean other needs could go unmet due to the lack of funding. It is perhaps even more unfair to allow this pollution to continue unabated.

What we need is a system for requiring clean-up by industry—a system that is sufficient to cover the costs and one that does not allow the well-owners to skip out on their obligation, sometimes done by transferring ownership of wells to entities inadequately capitalized to bear the cost to plug the wells.

The simple principle at issue is: If you drill it, you clean it.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Topp Brooks, J.D., M.P.H.
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505 220-3330

From: [Russell Woodward](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case no. 24683
Date: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 5:48:18 PM

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Dear Ms. Apodaca,

I request you transfer this message to the members of the Oil Conservation Commission.

To the Commission:

I am a resident of Tijeras, New Mexico. I am aware of the bounty that appears in the state of New Mexico in its portion of the Permian Basin and I am a constant user of fossil fuels in automobiles and in heating my house, and in the multiple of services that fossil fuels provide us. Our national society is bound to the production of fossil fuels as are societies globally. This condition is not a guarantee to individuals, communities or states of health.

I am also aware that the production of fossil fuels in this area involve notable production of wastes, most especially of methane. Other wastes, up through the inclusion of "dead wells" also result. There are competent, professional, studies that indicate the damages done by these wastes. The conclusions are that those without professional insight are left to their own devices. In addition to this lack of being informed, the rules established by the State of New Mexico, managing such wells, are from a century or more ago. This is mismanagement, such that the companies that bring the fossil fuels to society are not considerate of their remnant physical plants and byproducts. Throughout our nation, this ignorance of responsibility has hurt citizens. It should not be permitted by those who are elected to represent us. The astounding profits from finding, setting up machinery and logistics that bring fossil fuels to productive energy -- profits that citizens are weighed by far beyond the costs of such production -- should contain costs of preventing harm to our citizens. To do less is shoddy manufacture and representation by those we have set into such responsibility. This condition is widespread in our nation. Individuals can be turned away from such responsibility and achieve benefits.

I urge the Commission to establish for this state rules of access and of management of wells and other means of accessing the materials that are commonly known as "fossil fuels" that will protect citizens' health. This means that air pollution, ground pollution, water pollution and the handling of wastes from the presentation of "fossil fuels" should be kept to some standards that are a factual, intentional, protection of citizens on the part of their state, and that the costs of these protective measures are met by the returns the industrial figures capture from us. We are willing to pay the costs of our state's

management and trust it is a sufficient payment that our futures are not in doubt from those external threats. We petition you to assure these conditions.

Sincerely,

Russell Woodward