From: Anne salzmann
To: Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683

Date: Thursday, October 16, 2025 12:53:11 PM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

It is critical that we strengthen the financial assurance rules for oil and gas operators in New Mexico.

As a matter of fact, the rules should go even further to protect New Mexico taxpayers against bad operators. The rule should include: triggering at a lower percent of inactive wells; financial insurance based on average plugging and remediation costs from previous years, and financial assurance for remediation based on specifics of the site as determined by an independent evaluator and paid by operator.

Sincerely, Anne salzmann santa fe, NM 87508 From: <u>Barbara Wisoff</u>

To: Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683

Date: Friday, October 17, 2025 8:43:46 AM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

I am almost 69. I have indoor and outdoor allergies and bad asthma.

The corruption in New Mexico is pervasive and infuriating.

Taxpayers and ratepayers should never have to bear the cost of the oil and gas companies clean up costs.

These companies are extremely profitable and greedy and corrupt.

If it takes using NM's sovereign wealth funds to pay for clean up of the polluters, use this money.

I get that year after year for decades you would prefer to grift no matter how low you are on the food chain of taking money from these lobbyists and pay to play entities. I support at the very least this important first step to hold O&G accountable for cleanup.

Please ensure that the new financial assurance rules will apply to O&G operators before they have already passed the point of potential or de facto bankruptcy.

Sincerely, Barbara Wisoff 922 Adams St NE Albuquerque, NM 87110 From: Beth Herschman

To: Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683

Date: Friday, October 17, 2025 8:43:36 AM

You don't often get email from bethherschman@gmail.com. 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 lower the percentage of inactive wells needed to reach the point when cleanup obligations are required. 15% of operating wells is too high a percentage; 5% or less would be more useful. Operators simply go into bankruptcy, and we the taxpayers are stuck with the mess. In addition, there are no reasonable amounts required from operators to cover plugging AND REMEDIATION! That needs to change.

Sincerely, Beth Herschman 10480 Calle Acanta NW Albuquerque, NM 87114 From: E. Amba Caldwell

To: Hearings, OCC, EMNRD

Subject: [EXTERNAL] oil and gas

Date: Friday, October 17, 2025 12:22:33 PM

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Dear Sheila Apodaca,

Here in New Mexico, we have held oil and gas corporations accountable for their pollution before, and we desperately need to do it again. State Land Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richard's Accountability and Enforcement Program has held oil corporations accountable for cleaning up over 681 wells, saving at least \$68 million in public funds. I am joining together again to demand that regulators enforce existing rules and create new ones that protect our air and water and ensure oil and gas corporations clean up their mess. Sincerely,

Betty Futrell 241 Bosque Acres Rd Corrales, NM 87048 505-890-3446 From: <u>Catherine Lindberg</u>
To: <u>Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683

Date: Friday, October 17, 2025 8:43:47 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 current rules are astonishingly inadequate. Drillers/owners should be required to have a portion of the plugging cost(s) held in escrow. Ditto for remediation, which needs to be added to current requirements.

Sincerely, Catherine Lindberg Santa Fe, NM 87505 From: <u>Deborah van Hecke</u>
To: <u>Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683

Date: Friday, October 17, 2025 8:43:39 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.

- 1. The rule should be triggered at a lower percentage of inactive wells to prevent increased rates of abandonment:
- 2. The amount should be set based on average plugging and remediation costs for a given well type in the prior fiscal year; and
- 3. 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.

Sincerely, Deborah van Hecke Santa Fe, NM 87505 From: <u>Elizabeth Romero</u>
To: <u>Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683

Date: Friday, October 17, 2025 8:43:44 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 targeted to capture revenue from companies before they are insolvent. The amounts of financial assurance should be set based on average plugging and remediation costs for the given will type in the prior fiscal year. Also the rule needs to allow for the cost of remediation of the site determined by an independent third party evaluator, and those costs must be paid by the operator.

For too long New Mexico taxpayers have been paying for this cleanup.

Sincerely, Elizabeth Romero 34 Calle El Gancho Santa Fe, NM 87507 From: E. Amba Caldwell

To: Hearings, OCC, EMNRD

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oil and gas

Date: Friday, October 17, 2025 12:20:13 PM

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Dear Sheila Apodaca,

Here in New Mexico, we have held oil and gas corporations accountable for their pollution before, and we desperately need to do it again. State Land Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richard's Accountability and Enforcement Program has held oil corporations accountable for cleaning up over 681 wells, saving at least \$68 million in public funds. I am joining together again to demand that regulators enforce existing rules and create new ones that protect our air and water and ensure oil and gas corporations clean up their mess. Sincerely,

Ellen and David Caldwell 241 Bosque Acres Rd Corrales, NM 87048 505-890-3446 From: Ellen Lee

To: Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683

Date: Friday, October 17, 2025 8:43:42 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:

Reject well transfers that will result in orphaned wells.

Not allow operators to abandon wells via bankruptcy!

Increase the assurance amount to reflect the actual costs of plugging AND remediation.

Remediation costs should be determined by an independent third party evaluator, paid by the operator.

New Mexicans should not have to suffer the results of low-producing wells that emit climate altering and toxic gases, threaten our water, and diminish property values!

New Mexico taxpayers should not be left holding the bag for cleanup costs of orphaned wells!

Sincerely, Ellen Lee 808 W Manhattan Ave Apt A Santa Fe, NM 87501 From: George Greer

To: Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683

Date: Friday, October 17, 2025 8:43:38 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 triggered at a lower percentage of inactive wells to prevent increased rates of abandonment.

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

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.

Sincerely, George Greer Santa Fe, NM 87508 From: <u>Lucy Smith</u>

To: Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683

Date: Friday, October 17, 2025 8:43:45 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 close this loophole that allows oil and gas operators to sell their wells and thus end their obligation to cap and seal the wells that are barely performing. The citizens of NM should not be forced to pay for abandoned well treatment and we shouldn't have to live for years with methane emissions from these wells. Make the polluters pay! That is the only logical, fair way forward whether it is contaminated fracking water, leaking methane or uranium tailings that need remediation.

Sincerely, Lucy Smith 4315 Lost Feather Lane Santa Fe, NM 87507 From: <u>Michael Miller</u>

To: Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683

Date: Friday, October 17, 2025 8:43:42 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, Michael Miller santa cruz, NM 87567 From: Mimi Forsyth

To: Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683

Date: Friday, October 17, 2025 8:43:41 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, Mimi Forsyth Santa Fe, NM 87502 From: <u>Miriam Vaughn</u>

To: <u>Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683

Date: Friday, October 17, 2025 8:43:40 AM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

Having lived in and observed Texas management of oil production, I know in addition to strong rules, it takes enforcement for change to happen. Wells need to be monitored for compliance and the rules enforced. There are even old wells there that were sloppily capped and leak years later. Please make a strong and well enforced set of rules.

Sincerely, Miriam Vaughn Santa Fe, NM 87505 From: <u>Miriam Vaughn</u>

To: <u>Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683

Date: Friday, October 17, 2025 8:43:37 AM

You don't often get email from vaughnmiriam@gmail.com. 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 be enforced or they will be deemed as financially optional. I have lived in Texas and know the companies will do as little as is required and enforced.

Miriam Vaughn Santa Fe, NM 87505

Sincerely, Miriam Vaughn Santa Fe, NM 87505 From: E. Amba Caldwell

To: Hearings, OCC, EMNRD

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oil and Gas

Date: Friday, October 17, 2025 12:28:26 PM

You don't often get email from eacald1@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

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Dear Sheila Apodaca,

Here in New Mexico, we have held oil and gas corporations accountable for their pollution before, and we desperately need to do it again. State Land Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richard's Accountability and Enforcement Program has held oil corporations accountable for cleaning up over 681 wells, saving at least \$68 million in public funds. I am joining together again to demand that regulators enforce existing rules and create new ones that protect our air and water and ensure oil and gas corporations clean up their mess. Sincerely,

Patricia Flasch Santa Fe, NM 87505 505-890-3446 From: <u>Patricia Foschi</u>

To: Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683

Date: Friday, October 17, 2025 8:43:43 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 operators to plug and remediate wells at the end of their usefulness.

Sincerely, Patricia Foschi Santa Fe, NM 87505