

From: [Donna Swanson](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 24683 case number
Date: Thursday, October 30, 2025 8:43:17 PM

You don't often get email from swansjd@msn.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

They drill, they pay. I recommend changing the rules about those who drill to also clean up their messes instead of taxpayers. I agree to these proposed rules:

-
- Require corporations to fully cover the cost of plugging high-risk wells, not pass that huge financial burden on to the public.
- Require oil and gas operators to promptly plug their wells when the wells are no longer producing.
- Ensure transparency and enforceability, so responsible operators can thrive and bad actors are held accountable.

Sincerely,
Donna Swanson
Otero County

146 San Pedro Drive
Alamogordo, NM. 88310
505-250-6107

From: [April Flores](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Sunday, November 2, 2025 5:38:18 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

Millions are sitting idly, and I request that the red tape be cut and the dollars deployed. The problem isn't funding—it's oversight and execution.

Instead of imposing blanket mandates that could harm smaller operators and local economies, we should be asking why the current system isn't working and why the State isn't using the tools and funds it already has.

New Mexicans deserve clean air, safe water, and a strong economy, and the state must do its part to plug the wells with the funds the Legislature has designated

April Flores
900 continental loop s.e
Albuquerque, NM 87108-5011
aflores11710@gmail.com
505-504-9890

From: [JULIE HOGAN](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 2:02:43 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

As a New Mexican who cares deeply about our environment and economy, I urge you to direct the Oil Conservation Division to utilize the Reclamation Fund and stop allowing millions to sit idly in the state's coffers.

This fund was created to safeguard our land and water, not to be absorbed into the general budget. There's enough money to do the job, and it should be utilized to as expeditiously as possible.

We don't need new mandates that hurt small businesses—we need accountability and responsible stewardship of public resources. Let's make sure the tools we already have are being used effectively.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

JULIE HOGAN
514 Amherst Dr SE
Albuquerque, NM 87106-1502
zipperyt@gmail.com
505-268-8304

From: [Julie Moss](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 5:01:26 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to share feedback on the proposed bonding rule and the ongoing conversation around orphaned well cleanup.

The Reclamation Fund—paid for by industry—is the only dedicated state source for plugging wells. It was created for this purpose, yet the State continues to redirect those funds to the general budget. That's not just a misuse of taxpayer dollars—it's a failure of oversight.

There is no shortage of funding. What's missing is action. Operators who follow the rules shouldn't be penalized by blanket mandates that make it harder to do business in New Mexico. Instead, we should demand that tax dollars be utilized for their intended purpose.

We can protect our environment and support responsible development—but only if we focus on practical solutions and responsible governance.

Sincerely,

Julie Moss
1513 W Alameda
Santa Fe, NM 87501-1746
seajelly66@yahoo.com
505-920-9613

From: [June Marie Avery](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Saturday, November 1, 2025 10:07:39 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

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New Mexicans deserve clean air, safe water, and a strong economy, and the state must do its part to plug the wells with the funds the Legislature has designated

June Marie Avery
501 W. Centre Ave
Artesia, NM 88210-2716
jmcissy@hotmail.com
575-703-8699

From: [Alberta Maldonado](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Monday, November 3, 2025 6:49:13 AM

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Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

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Alberta Maldonado
410 Railroad Ave (POB 235)
Watrous, NM 87753-0120
albertad1@yahoo.com
505-652-0173

From: [Alex Campbell](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 8:16:16 PM

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Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

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Sincerely,

Alex Campbell
P.O. Box 871
Denver, CO 80201-0871
acampbell@enduringresources.com
303-929-8429

From: [Alice Stine](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Thursday, October 30, 2025 6:14:14 AM

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Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

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Alice Stine
506 e kansas
Hobbs, NM 88242-8058
stinealiceavon@yahoo.com
575-631-0500

From: [Alicia Corbell](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 4:29:44 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

As a New Mexican who cares deeply about our environment and economy, I urge you to direct the Oil Conservation Division to utilize the Reclamation Fund and stop allowing millions to sit idly in the state's coffers.

This fund was created to safeguard our land and water, not to be absorbed into the general budget. There's enough money to do the job, and it should be utilized to as expeditiously as possible.

We don't need new mandates that hurt small businesses—we need accountability and responsible stewardship of public resources. Let's make sure the tools we already have are being used effectively.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Alicia Corbell
PO Box 1139
Farmington, NM 87499-1139
acorbell@att.net
505-566-4034

From: [Amanda Ryan](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Friday, October 31, 2025 3:35:17 PM

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Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

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Sincerely,

Amanda Ryan
1619 Skyline Circle, Suite A
Carlsbad, NM 88220-9842
a.ryan@advancedheartnm.com
321-289-7515

From: [Amy Calderon](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Thursday, October 30, 2025 12:37:16 PM

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Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

As a New Mexican who cares deeply about our environment and economy, I urge you to direct the Oil Conservation Division to utilize the Reclamation Fund and stop allowing millions to sit idly in the state's coffers.

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We don't need new mandates that hurt small businesses—we need accountability and responsible stewardship of public resources. Let's make sure the tools we already have are being used effectively.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Amy Calderon
8300 Wyoming Blvd NE Unit 1023
Albuquerque, NM 87113-2167
ms.amycalderon@gmail.com
505-917-5303

From: [Andrea McGarrah](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 2:55:38 PM

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Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

As a New Mexican who cares deeply about our environment and economy, I urge you to direct the Oil Conservation Division to utilize the Reclamation Fund and stop allowing millions to sit idly in the state's coffers.

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We don't need new mandates that hurt small businesses—we need accountability and responsible stewardship of public resources. Let's make sure the tools we already have are being used effectively.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Andrea McGarrah
39 Lake Van Dr
Dexter, NM 88230-9643
andreawenner@hotmail.com
817-845-1702

From: [Angela Reece](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Monday, November 3, 2025 8:51:24 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

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Instead of imposing blanket mandates that could harm smaller operators and local economies, we should be asking why the current system isn't working and why the State isn't using the tools and funds it already has.

New Mexicans deserve clean air, safe water, and a strong economy, and the state must do its part to plug the wells with the funds the Legislature has designated

Angela Reece
49 Archer Ln
Belen, NM 87002-7819
sun4wer@yahoo.com
505-507-7474

From: [Ann Maes](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 9:05:19 PM

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Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

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Ann Maes
56 Verano Loop
Santa Fe, NM 87508-8827
amaesnm@gmail.com
505-466-2021

From: [Anna Whitmire](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Friday, October 31, 2025 4:41:38 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

As a New Mexican who cares deeply about our environment and economy, I urge you to direct the Oil Conservation Division to utilize the Reclamation Fund and stop allowing millions to sit idly in the state's coffers.

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Thank you for your leadership and attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Anna Whitmire
101 South 4th Street, Artesia, NM
Artesia, NM 88210-2139
annab@jswardandson.com
575-746-2796

From: [Annie Scroggs](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Monday, November 3, 2025 8:57:39 AM

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Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

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Sincerely,

Annie Scroggs
300 Colorado st Austin Texas
Austin, TX 78701-4889
ascroggs@mwellc.com
512-809-5417

From: [Anthony Simplicio](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Friday, October 31, 2025 7:35:42 AM

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Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

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Anthony Simplicio
P.O.Box 690
Zuni Pueblo, NM 87327-0690
anthony.simplicio@gmail.com
505-457-0245

From: [Brenda Gamblin](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Sunday, November 2, 2025 11:26:13 AM

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Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

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Brenda Gamblin
34 rd 5476
Farmington, NM 87401
bncgamblin@gmail.com
303-507-2117

From: [Armando Gutierrez](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 6:06:17 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to share feedback on the proposed bonding rule and the ongoing conversation around orphaned well cleanup.

The Reclamation Fund—paid for by industry—is the only dedicated state source for plugging wells. It was created for this purpose, yet the State continues to redirect those funds to the general budget. That's not just a misuse of taxpayer dollars—it's a failure of oversight.

There is no shortage of funding. What's missing is action. Operators who follow the rules shouldn't be penalized by blanket mandates that make it harder to do business in New Mexico. Instead, we should demand that tax dollars be utilized for their intended purpose.

We can protect our environment and support responsible development—but only if we focus on practical solutions and responsible governance.

Sincerely,

Armando Gutierrez
7400 CASA BONITA
Hobbs, NM 88242-0618
kingcity269@gmail.com
646-856-6333

From: [Arthur Martinez](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 11:33:43 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

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Arthur Martinez
2916 Blanford ave SW
Albuquerque, NM 87121-4305
candipie_4@hotmail.com
505-462-3989

From: [Austin Humphrey-Hernandez](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Thursday, October 30, 2025 1:50:32 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

As someone who works in the oil and gas sector, I urge you to consider the long-term consequences of the proposed WELC rule. While I support efforts to remediate our lands and protect our environment, the current proposal risks punishing responsible operators who are already working hard to do the right thing.

We need regulations that are smart and fair—not one-size-fits-all mandates that jeopardize jobs and discourage investment. Let's ensure that New Mexico remains a place where energy development and environmental protection go hand in hand.

Thank you for your leadership and for listening to those of us on the ground.

Sincerely,

Austin Humphrey-Hernandez
5007 W Grey Ghost Rd
Hobbs, NM 88240-0898
ahernandez@swrpermian.com
806-662-6849

From: [Becky Baca](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Saturday, November 1, 2025 12:09:41 PM

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Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

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Becky Baca
9708 Mather Ave NE
Albuquerque, NM 87112-4064
beckybaca1965@yahoo.com
150-548-5455

From: [Ben Egan](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Saturday, November 1, 2025 7:04:40 AM

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Dear OCD Hearings,

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Ben Egan
19 wild rose
Cloudcroft, NM 88317-9428
alphaknightomega@gmail.com
575-551-1761

From: [Bess Rusk](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 9:34:16 AM

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Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to share feedback on the proposed bonding rule and the ongoing conversation around orphaned well cleanup.

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We can protect our environment and support responsible development—but only if we focus on practical solutions and responsible governance.

Sincerely,

Bess Rusk
3907 Billy the Kid Ct
Carlsbad, NM 88220-9819
bess86ls68@hotmail.com
575-302-9187

From: [Beth Dowling](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 4:51:14 PM

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Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

As a New Mexican who cares deeply about our environment and economy, I urge you to direct the Oil Conservation Division to utilize the Reclamation Fund and stop allowing millions to sit idly in the state's coffers.

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We don't need new mandates that hurt small businesses—we need accountability and responsible stewardship of public resources. Let's make sure the tools we already have are being used effectively.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Beth Dowling
7200 Sunlight Peak Rd. NE
Rio Rancho, NM 87144-7506
bethdowling616@gmail.com
505-780-0873

From: [Beth Yvonne Flores](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 11:08:17 PM

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Dear OCD Hearings,

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Beth Yvonne Flores
940 E Williams Field Rd
Gilbert, AZ 85295-5700
beth?yvon@yahoo.com
852-95-

From: [Bev Benson](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 8:09:43 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

Millions are sitting idly, and I request that the red tape be cut and the dollars deployed. The problem isn't funding—it's oversight and execution.

Instead of imposing blanket mandates that could harm smaller operators and local economies, we should be asking why the current system isn't working and why the State isn't using the tools and funds it already has.

New Mexicans deserve clean air, safe water, and a strong economy, and the state must do its part to plug the wells with the funds the Legislature has designated

Bev Benson
1009 W WASHINGTON AVE
Artesia, NM 88210-1811
bevbenson@live.com
575-736-2464

From: [Bill Davis](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Saturday, November 1, 2025 3:12:13 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

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Bill Davis
709 W Broadway St. Tatum NM
Tatum, NM 88267-9228
hornswagglednhobbs1@gmail.com
575-605-0138

From: [Bill Fortner](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Monday, November 3, 2025 11:48:14 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

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Bill Fortner
6405 Putter Place
Farmington, NM 87402-5079
bfortner@autoinsplus.com
505-327-4441

From: [Blaine Rennie](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Monday, November 3, 2025 11:55:45 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

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Blaine Rennie
1501 Verdel
Carlsbad, NM 88220-9233
b.rennie@yahoo.com
575-941-3311

From: [Bradley Weber](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 2:07:15 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to share feedback on the proposed bonding rule and the ongoing conversation around orphaned well cleanup.

The Reclamation Fund—paid for by industry—is the only dedicated state source for plugging wells. It was created for this purpose, yet the State continues to redirect those funds to the general budget. That's not just a misuse of taxpayer dollars—it's a failure of oversight.

There is no shortage of funding. What's missing is action. Operators who follow the rules shouldn't be penalized by blanket mandates that make it harder to do business in New Mexico. Instead, we should demand that tax dollars be utilized for their intended purpose.

We can protect our environment and support responsible development—but only if we focus on practical solutions and responsible governance.

Sincerely,

Bradley Weber
7401 North Dal Paso
Hobbs, NM 88242-8559
bweberlcr@yahoo.com
575-392-3223

From: [Bradley Weber](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 2:07:15 PM

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Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to share feedback on the proposed bonding rule and the ongoing conversation around orphaned well cleanup.

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Sincerely,

Bradley Weber
7401 North Dal Paso
Hobbs, NM 88242-8559
bweberlcr@yahoo.com
575-392-3223

From: [Lee White](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 4:35:20 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

As a New Mexican who cares deeply about our environment and economy, I urge you to direct the Oil Conservation Division to utilize the Reclamation Fund and stop allowing millions to sit idly in the state's coffers.

This fund was created to safeguard our land and water, not to be absorbed into the general budget. There's enough money to do the job, and it should be utilized to as expeditiously as possible.

We don't need new mandates that hurt small businesses—we need accountability and responsible stewardship of public resources. Let's make sure the tools we already have are being used effectively.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Lee White
401 Pima Dr.
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6092
lee-michelle@live.com
575-499-3154

From: [Bret Barrett](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 10:49:18 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

Millions are sitting idly, and I request that the red tape be cut and the dollars deployed. The problem isn't funding—it's oversight and execution.

Instead of imposing blanket mandates that could harm smaller operators and local economies, we should be asking why the current system isn't working and why the State isn't using the tools and funds it already has.

New Mexicans deserve clean air, safe water, and a strong economy, and the State must do its part to plug the wells with the funds the Legislature has designated.

Sincerely,

Bret Barrett
302 Sandalwood Ln
Levelland, TX 79336-6818
bretbarrett@outlook.com
575-703-0044

From: [Brian Everett Sr.](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 6:40:38 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to share feedback on the proposed bonding rule and the ongoing conversation around orphaned well cleanup.

The Reclamation Fund—paid for by industry—is the only dedicated state source for plugging wells. It was created for this purpose, yet the State continues to redirect those funds to the general budget. That's not just a misuse of taxpayer dollars—it's a failure of oversight.

There is no shortage of funding. What's missing is action. Operators who follow the rules shouldn't be penalized by blanket mandates that make it harder to do business in New Mexico. Instead, we should demand that tax dollars be utilized for their intended purpose.

We can protect our environment and support responsible development—but only if we focus on practical solutions and responsible governance.

Sincerely,

Brian Everett Sr.
3415 Highland View Dr.
Farmington, NM 87402-8322
brianusa61@gmail.com
505-801-0032

From: [Brian Kliesen](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 3:38:15 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

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Brian Kliesen
357 Grand Canyon Drive
White Rock, NM 87547-3648
bkliesen@hotmail.com
210-870-4952

From: [Bryan Edlund](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 4:41:15 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to share feedback on the proposed bonding rule and the ongoing conversation around orphaned well cleanup.

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Sincerely,

Bryan Edlund
Po box 42
Carson, NM 87517-0042
ulhrnm1@gmail.com
505-929-5607

From: [Carolyn McCurley](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Saturday, November 1, 2025 12:57:15 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

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Carolyn McCurley
1219 Zuni St
Hobbs, NM 88240-0920
carolynmccurley@yahoo.com
706-403-7040

From: [Cathy Parker](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 8:10:17 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

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Sincerely,

Cathy Parker
17 turquoise trail
Tijeras, NM 87059-7602
ccathgo@gmail.com
505-286-1412

From: [Chee Benallie](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 11:00:24 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear OCD Hearings,

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Chee Benallie
Lt Indian Village
Shiprock, NM 87420
sonniedenetsone@gmail.com
505-406-1350

From: [Chris Mcvay](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 6:24:48 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

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Sincerely,

Chris Mcvay
P.O. Box 924
Hobbs, NM 88241-0924
chris@mcvayservices.com
575-390-0617

From: [Chris Peterson](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 4:34:17 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

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Sincerely,

Chris Peterson
5008 Holmes Dr
Farmington, NM 87402-0942
chris@adkinsenvironmental.com
505-444-0292

From: [Chris West](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 6:17:43 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to share feedback on the proposed bonding rule and the ongoing conversation around orphaned well cleanup.

The Reclamation Fund—paid for by industry—is the only dedicated state source for plugging wells. It was created for this purpose, yet the State continues to redirect those funds to the general budget. That's not just a misuse of taxpayer dollars—it's a failure of oversight.

There is no shortage of funding. What's missing is action. Operators who follow the rules shouldn't be penalized by blanket mandates that make it harder to do business in New Mexico. Instead, we should demand that tax dollars be utilized for their intended purpose.

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Sincerely,

Chris West
2113 Tower dr
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6436
christopher.west@dvn.com
575-626-9405

From: [Christopher B](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 5:17:14 PM

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Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

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Sincerely,

Christopher B
1330 MCKINLEY AVE
Alamogordo, NM 88310-4255
ubrguy@yahoo.com
575-442-1880

From: [Christy Kost](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 8:45:16 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

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Sincerely,

Christy Kost
1199 Main Ave, Suite 101
Durango, CO 81301-5170
christy.kost@machnr.com
405-905-8672

From: [Chuck Smith](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 1:50:18 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

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Sincerely,

Chuck Smith
8100 foothill dr
Farmington, NM 87402-0973
Chucksmith777.cs@gmail.com
501-514-8174

From: [Cindia Garrett](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Monday, November 3, 2025 8:51:39 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

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Cindia Garrett
6201 South Gasper Street
Hobbs, NM 88240-8510
cindiagarrett@aol.com
575-408-0789

From: [Clay Arrington](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 5:51:23 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

Millions are sitting idly, and I request that the red tape be cut and the dollars deployed. The problem isn't funding—it's oversight and execution.

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Sincerely,

Clay Arrington
200 N Loraine, Suite 400, Midland TX
Midland, TX 79701-4735
carrington@swrpermian.com
806-786-9102

From: [Colton Fedell](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Monday, November 3, 2025 6:29:16 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing as someone who works in the oil and gas industry and lives in a community that depends on these jobs. The proposed WELC rule would make it harder for me—and many others—to keep our jobs.

This rule could force responsible companies to shut down wells that still have value. That's not just bad for business—it's bad for workers, families, and communities like mine. We encourage you to consider rules that are not overreaching and to better utilize the Reclamation Fund.

Please consider the real-world impact this rule would have on the people who make New Mexico's energy economy work.

Sincerely,

Colton Fedell
320 E Lake St
Cranberry Township, PA 16066-5720
colt.fedell@gmail.com
724-612-8256

From: [Corrina Smith](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 5:15:17 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

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Instead of imposing blanket mandates that could harm smaller operators and local economies, we should be asking why the current system isn't working and why the State isn't using the tools and funds it already has.

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Sincerely,

Corrina Smith
4484 Ojo Caliente Circle Las Cruces, NM
Las Cruces, NM 88011-4304
corrinasmith@outlook.com
505-250-2906

From: [Craig Duran](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Thursday, October 30, 2025 10:44:15 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

Millions are sitting idly, and I request that the red tape be cut and the dollars deployed. The problem isn't funding—it's oversight and execution.

Instead of imposing blanket mandates that could harm smaller operators and local economies, we should be asking why the current system isn't working and why the State isn't using the tools and funds it already has.

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Sincerely,

Craig Duran
3301 N. Main, Roswell, NM 88201
Roswell, NM 88201-9726
craig.duran@lpins.net
575-291-3359

From: [Curtis David](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Monday, November 3, 2025 10:47:43 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

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Curtis David
214 N.Locke Ave.
Farmington, NM 87401-8435
cudeiidave20@gmail.com
505-592-9811

From: [Cynthia Chapman](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 4:57:16 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

As a New Mexican who cares deeply about our environment and economy, I urge you to direct the Oil Conservation Division to utilize the Reclamation Fund and stop allowing millions to sit idly in the state's coffers.

This fund was created to safeguard our land and water, not to be absorbed into the general budget. There's enough money to do the job, and it should be utilized to as expeditiously as possible.

We don't need new mandates that hurt small businesses—we need accountability and responsible stewardship of public resources. Let's make sure the tools we already have are being used effectively.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Chapman
8101 Beverly Hills Ave NE, Albuquerque, NM, USA
Albuquerque, NM 87122-3610
cchap8101@aol.com
505-681-6967

From: [Dale Hughes](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 10:47:17 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

Millions are sitting idly, and I request that the red tape be cut and the dollars deployed. The problem isn't funding—it's oversight and execution.

Instead of imposing blanket mandates that could harm smaller operators and local economies, we should be asking why the current system isn't working and why the State isn't using the tools and funds it already has.

New Mexicans deserve clean air, safe water, and a strong economy, and the state must do its part to plug the wells with the funds the Legislature has designated

Dale Hughes
901 1/2 bullock court
Artesia, NM 88210-2340
dalehughes1954@yahoo.com
575-365-6180

From: [Dan Snow](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Thursday, October 30, 2025 2:21:18 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm concerned that the proposed WELC rule may unintentionally increase the number of orphaned wells in New Mexico. If the cost of operating or transferring wells becomes too high, companies may walk away leaving behind wells that could have been responsibly managed or plugged. We saw this happen with Colorado's recent overreaching rules.

We all want to protect our land and water, but blanket mandates that don't account for the realities of field operations could do more harm than good. Let's work together to create rules that encourage responsible stewardship, not abandonment.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dan Snow
PO BOX 1277
Andrews, TX 79714-1277
dan@soxgi.com
432-661-5828

From: [Daniel Manus](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Friday, October 31, 2025 9:02:16 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

As someone who works in the oil and gas sector, I urge you to consider the long-term consequences of the proposed WELC rule. While I support efforts to remediate our lands and protect our environment, the current proposal risks punishing responsible operators who are already working hard to do the right thing.

We need regulations that are smart and fair—not one-size-fits-all mandates that jeopardize jobs and discourage investment. Let's ensure that New Mexico remains a place where energy development and environmental protection go hand in hand.

Thank you for your leadership and for listening to those of us on the ground.

Sincerely,

Daniel Manus
2177 Robin Ave
Farmington, NM 87401-4838
manus220@msn.com
505-860-9194

From: [Dante Caravaggio](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 10:30:38 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to share feedback on the proposed bonding rule and the ongoing conversation around orphaned well cleanup.

The Reclamation Fund—paid for by industry—is the only dedicated state source for plugging wells. It was created for this purpose, yet the State continues to redirect those funds to the general budget. That's not just a misuse of taxpayer dollars—it's a failure of oversight.

There is no shortage of funding. What's missing is action. Operators who follow the rules shouldn't be penalized by blanket mandates that make it harder to do business in New Mexico. Instead, we should demand that tax dollars be utilized for their intended purpose.

We can protect our environment and support responsible development—but only if we focus on practical solutions and responsible governance.

Sincerely,

Dante Caravaggio
22415 Keystone Trail
Katy, TX 77450-8723
dvcaravaggio321@gmail.com
626-244-4656

From: [Darrell Connelly](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 6:44:40 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

As a New Mexican who cares deeply about our environment and economy, I urge you to direct the Oil Conservation Division to utilize the Reclamation Fund and stop allowing millions to sit idly in the state's coffers.

This fund was created to safeguard our land and water, not to be absorbed into the general budget. There's enough money to do the job, and it should be utilized to as expeditiously as possible.

We don't need new mandates that hurt small businesses—we need accountability and responsible stewardship of public resources. Let's make sure the tools we already have are being used effectively.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Darrell Connelly
5 Eldorado Cir
Santa Fe, NM 87508-2210
darrell@infopipe.net
303-898-0047

From: [Dave Lindberg](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 5:06:41 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

As a New Mexican who cares deeply about our environment and economy, I urge you to direct the Oil Conservation Division to utilize the Reclamation Fund and stop allowing millions to sit idly in the state's coffers.

This fund was created to safeguard our land and water, not to be absorbed into the general budget. There's enough money to do the job, and it should be utilized to as expeditiously as possible.

We don't need new mandates that hurt small businesses—we need accountability and responsible stewardship of public resources. Let's make sure the tools we already have are being used effectively.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Dave Lindberg
1615 South Silver Avenue
Deming, NM 88030-5924
dave_lindberg@att.net
858-776-2342

From: [David Barrett](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 9:09:15 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to share feedback on the proposed bonding rule and the ongoing conversation around orphaned well cleanup.

The Reclamation Fund—paid for by industry—is the only dedicated state source for plugging wells. It was created for this purpose, yet the State continues to redirect those funds to the general budget. That's not just a misuse of taxpayer dollars—it's a failure of oversight.

There is no shortage of funding. What's missing is action. Operators who follow the rules shouldn't be penalized by blanket mandates that make it harder to do business in New Mexico. Instead, we should demand that tax dollars be utilized for their intended purpose.

We can protect our environment and support responsible development—but only if we focus on practical solutions and responsible governance.

Sincerely,

David Barrett
114 Flute Player Way
Alto, NM 88312-8015
dbarrett3@windstream.net
575-937-6780

From: [David Francis](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 7:37:40 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

Millions are sitting idly, and I request that the red tape be cut and the dollars deployed. The problem isn't funding—it's oversight and execution.

Instead of imposing blanket mandates that could harm smaller operators and local economies, we should be asking why the current system isn't working and why the State isn't using the tools and funds it already has.

New Mexicans deserve clean air, safe water, and a strong economy, and the State must do its part to plug the wells with the funds the Legislature has designated.

Sincerely,

David Francis
1012 W Deming St
Roswell, NM 88203-2920
northeastvikings79@gmail.com
575-244-5871

From: [DAVID HICKS](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 12:48:43 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

As a New Mexican who cares deeply about our environment and economy, I urge you to direct the Oil Conservation Division to utilize the Reclamation Fund and stop allowing millions to sit idly in the state's coffers.

This fund was created to safeguard our land and water, not to be absorbed into the general budget. There's enough money to do the job, and it should be utilized to as expeditiously as possible.

We don't need new mandates that hurt small businesses—we need accountability and responsible stewardship of public resources. Let's make sure the tools we already have are being used effectively.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

DAVID HICKS
1115 Northwest County Road
Hobbs, NM 88240-8003
david@tfhllimited.com
575-631-8517

From: [David Ramirez](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Thursday, October 30, 2025 10:48:25 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing as someone who works in the oil and gas industry and lives in a community that depends on these jobs. The proposed WELC rule would make it harder for me—and many others—to keep our jobs.

This rule could force responsible companies to shut down wells that still have value. That's not just bad for business—it's bad for workers, families, and communities like mine. We encourage you to consider rules that are not overreaching and to better utilize the Reclamation Fund.

Please consider the real-world impact this rule would have on the people who make New Mexico's energy economy work.

Sincerely,

David Ramirez
1501 W Mann Artesia NM
Artesia, NM 88210-3500
david.ramirez@victaulic.com
432-803-3636

From: [David Weathers](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 8:08:13 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to share feedback on the proposed bonding rule and the ongoing conversation around orphaned well cleanup.

The Reclamation Fund—paid for by industry—is the only dedicated state source for plugging wells. It was created for this purpose, yet the State continues to redirect those funds to the general budget. That's not just a misuse of taxpayer dollars—it's a failure of oversight.

There is no shortage of funding. What's missing is action. Operators who follow the rules shouldn't be penalized by blanket mandates that make it harder to do business in New Mexico. Instead, we should demand that tax dollars be utilized for their intended purpose.

We can protect our environment and support responsible development—but only if we focus on practical solutions and responsible governance.

Sincerely,

David Weathers
5614 N. Lovington Hwy.
Hobbs, NM 88240-9143
david@pimaoil.com
575-626-6469

From: [Dawna Rochelle](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 9:04:42 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to share feedback on the proposed bonding rule and the ongoing conversation around orphaned well cleanup.

The Reclamation Fund—paid for by industry—is the only dedicated state source for plugging wells. It was created for this purpose, yet the State continues to redirect those funds to the general budget. That's not just a misuse of taxpayer dollars—it's a failure of oversight.

There is no shortage of funding. What's missing is action. Operators who follow the rules shouldn't be penalized by blanket mandates that make it harder to do business in New Mexico. Instead, we should demand that tax dollars be utilized for their intended purpose.

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Sincerely,

Dawna Rochelle
P O Box 1767
Artesia, NM 88211-1767
dawnarochelle@mec.com
575-748-1288

From: [Deborah Samuell](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Thursday, October 30, 2025 11:34:15 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

Millions are sitting idly, and I request that the red tape be cut and the dollars deployed. The problem isn't funding—it's oversight and execution.

Instead of imposing blanket mandates that could harm smaller operators and local economies, we should be asking why the current system isn't working and why the State isn't using the tools and funds it already has.

New Mexicans deserve clean air, safe water, and a strong economy, and the state must do its part to plug the wells with the funds the Legislature has designated

Deborah Samuell
51 jim day lane tularosa nm
Tularosa, NM 88352-9401
debsluvtexas@gmail.com
575-290-6319

From: [Debra Darby](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 5:59:13 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

As a New Mexican who cares deeply about our environment and economy, I urge you to direct the Oil Conservation Division to utilize the Reclamation Fund and stop allowing millions to sit idly in the state's coffers.

This fund was created to safeguard our land and water, not to be absorbed into the general budget. There's enough money to do the job, and it should be utilized to as expeditiously as possible.

We don't need new mandates that hurt small businesses—we need accountability and responsible stewardship of public resources. Let's make sure the tools we already have are being used effectively.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Debra Darby
4108 Lara Dr Ne
Albuquerque, NM 87111-4124
debjdarby@gmail.com
505-488-4267

From: [DeeAnne Tarp](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Thursday, October 30, 2025 10:32:45 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

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Instead of imposing blanket mandates that could harm smaller operators and local economies, we should be asking why the current system isn't working and why the State isn't using the tools and funds it already has.

New Mexicans deserve clean air, safe water, and a strong economy, and the state must do its part to plug the wells with the funds the Legislature has designated

DeeAnne Tarp
874 LOMA PINON LOOP NE
Rio Rancho, NM 87144-0586
datd104d3@aol.com
505-404-0570

From: [DeeAnne Tarp](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 10:47:16 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

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DeeAnne Tarp
874 LOMA PINON LOOP NE
Rio Rancho, NM 87144-0586
datd104d3@aol.com
505-404-0570

From: [Delilah Flores](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 8:08:13 AM

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Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to share feedback on the proposed bonding rule and the ongoing conversation around orphaned well cleanup.

The Reclamation Fund—paid for by industry—is the only dedicated state source for plugging wells. It was created for this purpose, yet the State continues to redirect those funds to the general budget. That's not just a misuse of taxpayer dollars—it's a failure of oversight.

There is no shortage of funding. What's missing is action. Operators who follow the rules shouldn't be penalized by blanket mandates that make it harder to do business in New Mexico. Instead, we should demand that tax dollars be utilized for their intended purpose.

We can protect our environment and support responsible development—but only if we focus on practical solutions and responsible governance.

Sincerely,

Delilah Flores
303 W Centre Ave
Artesia, NM 88210-2815
delilah@mec.com
575-748-1288

From: [DelRae Geller](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 8:10:20 AM

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Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

Millions are sitting idly, and I request that the red tape be cut and the dollars deployed. The problem isn't funding—it's oversight and execution.

Instead of imposing blanket mandates that could harm smaller operators and local economies, we should be asking why the current system isn't working and why the State isn't using the tools and funds it already has.

New Mexicans deserve clean air, safe water, and a strong economy, and the State must do its part to plug the wells with the funds the Legislature has designated.

Sincerely,

DelRae Geller
5614 N. Lovington Hwy
Hobbs, NM 88240-9143
delrae@pimaoil.com
806-724-5391

From: [Denise Myrick](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 7:10:22 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to share feedback on the proposed bonding rule and the ongoing conversation around orphaned well cleanup.

The Reclamation Fund—paid for by industry—is the only dedicated state source for plugging wells. It was created for this purpose, yet the State continues to redirect those funds to the general budget. That's not just a misuse of taxpayer dollars—it's a failure of oversight.

There is no shortage of funding. What's missing is action. Operators who follow the rules shouldn't be penalized by blanket mandates that make it harder to do business in New Mexico. Instead, we should demand that tax dollars be utilized for their intended purpose.

We can protect our environment and support responsible development—but only if we focus on practical solutions and responsible governance.

Sincerely,

Denise Myrick
803 Hackberry St, Jal, NM
Jal, NM 88252-5284
deniseteague@msn.com
575-318-6792

From: [Derik Smith](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 7:14:14 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

As a New Mexican who cares deeply about our environment and economy, I urge you to direct the Oil Conservation Division to utilize the Reclamation Fund and stop allowing millions to sit idly in the state's coffers.

This fund was created to safeguard our land and water, not to be absorbed into the general budget. There's enough money to do the job, and it should be utilized to as expeditiously as possible.

We don't need new mandates that hurt small businesses—we need accountability and responsible stewardship of public resources. Let's make sure the tools we already have are being used effectively.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Derik Smith
3106 Circle Diamond Drive
Roswell, NM 88201-3480
derik.smith24@gmail.com
316-214-5299

From: [Diane Rock](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Thursday, October 30, 2025 5:26:46 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

As someone who works in the oil and gas sector, I urge you to consider the long-term consequences of the proposed WELC rule. While I support efforts to remediate our lands and protect our environment, the current proposal risks punishing responsible operators who are already working hard to do the right thing.

We need regulations that are smart and fair—not one-size-fits-all mandates that jeopardize jobs and discourage investment. Let's ensure that New Mexico remains a place where energy development and environmental protection go hand in hand.

Thank you for your leadership and for listening to those of us on the ground.

Sincerely,

Diane Rock
370 17th Street, Denver, CO 80202
Denver, CO 80202-1370
dbretti@comcast.net
303-229-0969

From: [Dirk Keeler](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 5:14:23 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to share feedback on the proposed bonding rule and the ongoing conversation around orphaned well cleanup.

The Reclamation Fund—paid for by industry—is the only dedicated state source for plugging wells. It was created for this purpose, yet the State continues to redirect those funds to the general budget. That's not just a misuse of taxpayer dollars—it's a failure of oversight.

There is no shortage of funding. What's missing is action. Operators who follow the rules shouldn't be penalized by blanket mandates that make it harder to do business in New Mexico. Instead, we should demand that tax dollars be utilized for their intended purpose.

We can protect our environment and support responsible development—but only if we focus on practical solutions and responsible governance.

Sincerely,

Dirk Keeler
3790 McCan Rd SE
Deming, NM 88030-7187
dirk@keeler.me
575-543-8620

From: [Dorothy Cole](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Friday, October 31, 2025 9:44:14 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

Millions are sitting idly, and I request that the red tape be cut and the dollars deployed. The problem isn't funding—it's oversight and execution.

Instead of imposing blanket mandates that could harm smaller operators and local economies, we should be asking why the current system isn't working and why the State isn't using the tools and funds it already has.

New Mexicans deserve clean air, safe water, and a strong economy, and the state must do its part to plug the wells with the funds the Legislature has designated

Dorothy Cole
4 McDonnell Drive
Alamogordo, NM 88310-9779
sassyksa@yahoo.com
575-415-7340

From: [E P](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 5:26:42 PM

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Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

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Sincerely,

E P
924 Raleigh Rd
Las Cruces, NM 88005-7717
philharveyjr@comcast.net
575-644-6925

From: [Edward Marquez](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 9:05:17 PM

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Dear OCD Hearings,

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Edward Marquez
7206 alpine Dr
El Paso, TX 79915-1327
edwardmarquez159@yahoo.com
775-432-9632

From: [Elaine Vigil](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 12:30:18 AM

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There is no shortage of funding. What's missing is action. Operators who follow the rules shouldn't be penalized by blanket mandates that make it harder to do business in New Mexico. Instead, we should demand that tax dollars be utilized for their intended purpose.

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Sincerely,

Elaine Vigil
826 West Tyler
Lovington, NM 88260-2632
elainevigil944@gmail.com
505-417-0003

From: [Elizabeth De Lira](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 3:06:14 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

Millions are sitting idly, and I request that the red tape be cut and the dollars deployed. The problem isn't funding—it's oversight and execution.

Instead of imposing blanket mandates that could harm smaller operators and local economies, we should be asking why the current system isn't working and why the State isn't using the tools and funds it already has.

New Mexicans deserve clean air, safe water, and a strong economy, and the state must do its part to plug the wells with the funds the Legislature has designated

Elizabeth De Lira
1801 Patrick Pl N W
Albuquerque, NM 87107-3376
edelira62@gmail.com
505-620-1456

From: [Elizabeth De Lira](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 3:06:14 PM

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Elizabeth De Lira
1801 Patrick Pl N W
Albuquerque, NM 87107-3376
edelira62@gmail.com
505-620-1456

From: [Ella Davis](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 5:41:44 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

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New Mexicans deserve clean air, safe water, and a strong economy, and the State must do its part to plug the wells with the funds the Legislature has designated.

Sincerely,

Ella Davis
6995 Clark Hills Dr NE
Rio Rancho, NM 87144-8672
ksmom_0@yahoo.com
505-417-5990

From: [Elvira Crockett](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Friday, October 31, 2025 4:43:39 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

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Elvira Crockett
1001 River circle
Bloomfield, NM 87413-6402
Elvira1_crockett@yahoo.com
505-419-2273

From: [Esteban Armendariz](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 12:25:44 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to share feedback on the proposed bonding rule and the ongoing conversation around orphaned well cleanup.

The Reclamation Fund—paid for by industry—is the only dedicated state source for plugging wells. It was created for this purpose, yet the State continues to redirect those funds to the general budget. That's not just a misuse of taxpayer dollars—it's a failure of oversight.

There is no shortage of funding. What's missing is action. Operators who follow the rules shouldn't be penalized by blanket mandates that make it harder to do business in New Mexico. Instead, we should demand that tax dollars be utilized for their intended purpose.

We can protect our environment and support responsible development—but only if we focus on practical solutions and responsible governance.

Sincerely,

Esteban Armendariz
6609 NATALIE AVE NE
Albuquerque, NM 87110-1311
stevdvm@hotmail.com
505-471-2888

From: [Estella Torrez](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 10:40:16 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

Millions are sitting idly, and I request that the red tape be cut and the dollars deployed. The problem isn't funding—it's oversight and execution.

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New Mexicans deserve clean air, safe water, and a strong economy, and the State must do its part to plug the wells with the funds the Legislature has designated.

Sincerely,

Estella Torrez
2775 Sandstone Ln
Las Cruces, NM 88007-4517
estellatorrez@gmail.com
575-644-7734

From: [Evangelena Benallie](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 5:00:22 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

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Sincerely,

Evangelena Benallie
804 Monarch Street
Farmington, NM 87401-4433
evangelena.benallie@duganproduction.com
505-860-2785

From: [FirehawkDesigns Striegel](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Saturday, November 1, 2025 4:04:18 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

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FirehawkDesigns Striegel
1219 WINTER PARK
Farmington, NM 87401-2095
rdjstriegel@gmail.com
298-111-1111

From: [Frank Dominguez](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 6:30:16 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to share feedback on the proposed bonding rule and the ongoing conversation around orphaned well cleanup.

The Reclamation Fund—paid for by industry—is the only dedicated state source for plugging wells. It was created for this purpose, yet the State continues to redirect those funds to the general budget. That's not just a misuse of taxpayer dollars—it's a failure of oversight.

There is no shortage of funding. What's missing is action. Operators who follow the rules shouldn't be penalized by blanket mandates that make it harder to do business in New Mexico. Instead, we should demand that tax dollars be utilized for their intended purpose.

We can protect our environment and support responsible development—but only if we focus on practical solutions and responsible governance.

Sincerely,

Frank Dominguez
9509 Calle Chamisa NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114
Albuquerque, NM 87114-2447
pacominguez@gmail.com
575-680-6649

From: [Fred Candelaria](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 7:37:44 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

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New Mexicans deserve clean air, safe water, and a strong economy, and the state must do its part to plug the wells with the funds the Legislature has designated

Fred Candelaria
316 N.Monterey Ave , Farmington NM 87401
Farmington, NM 87401-6958
fredcandelaria71@gmail.com
505-472-0274

From: [Gary Cooper](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 5:08:24 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

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Gary Cooper
3113 Nativitas Rd NE
Rio Rancho, NM 87144-3200
highnoonballoons@gmail.com
810-623-1273

From: [George Crosby](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Friday, October 31, 2025 7:45:40 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

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George Crosby
321 General Stilwell
Albuquerque, NM 87123-1025
oldtimer@aol.com
505-318-8022

From: [Gerard Wilson](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Friday, October 31, 2025 5:44:16 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

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Gerard Wilson
1226 east clarendon avenue
Shiprock, NM 87420
jonathanwilson297@gmail.com
505-556-5377

From: [Gilbert Lucero](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 2:50:45 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear OCD Hearings,

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Gilbert Lucero
615 Honeysuckle ave
Socorro, NM 87801-4230
gilucero800@gmail.com
575-517-5128

From: [Greg Alpers](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 5:00:26 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

As a New Mexican who cares deeply about our environment and economy, I urge you to direct the Oil Conservation Division to utilize the Reclamation Fund and stop allowing millions to sit idly in the state's coffers.

This fund was created to safeguard our land and water, not to be absorbed into the general budget. There's enough money to do the job, and it should be utilized to as expeditiously as possible.

We don't need new mandates that hurt small businesses—we need accountability and responsible stewardship of public resources. Let's make sure the tools we already have are being used effectively.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Greg Alpers
1909 W 27th St
Roswell, NM 88201-9737
alpersgreg@gmail.com
575-622-8473

From: [Harry Montoya](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 6:05:16 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

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Sincerely,

Harry Montoya
169 Camino Del Rincon
Santa Fe, NM 87506-8751
hmontoya@aol.com
505-920-0922

From: [Heather Wade](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 8:10:17 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to share feedback on the proposed bonding rule and the ongoing conversation around orphaned well cleanup.

The Reclamation Fund—paid for by industry—is the only dedicated state source for plugging wells. It was created for this purpose, yet the State continues to redirect those funds to the general budget. That's not just a misuse of taxpayer dollars—it's a failure of oversight.

There is no shortage of funding. What's missing is action. Operators who follow the rules shouldn't be penalized by blanket mandates that make it harder to do business in New Mexico. Instead, we should demand that tax dollars be utilized for their intended purpose.

We can protect our environment and support responsible development—but only if we focus on practical solutions and responsible governance.

Sincerely,

Heather Wade
9516 Haines Ave NE
Albuquerque, NM 87112-4033
hnwadenm@gmail.com
505-379-0802

From: [Helen Trujillo](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 4:29:42 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

As a New Mexican who cares deeply about our environment and economy, I urge you to direct the Oil Conservation Division to utilize the Reclamation Fund and stop allowing millions to sit idly in the state's coffers.

This fund was created to safeguard our land and water, not to be absorbed into the general budget. There's enough money to do the job, and it should be utilized to as expeditiously as possible.

We don't need new mandates that hurt small businesses—we need accountability and responsible stewardship of public resources. Let's make sure the tools we already have are being used effectively.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Helen Trujillo
702 Deer Dancer Dr
Aztec, NM 87410-2086
helentrujillo@hotmail.com
505-330-2593

From: [Henry Castaneda](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Sunday, November 2, 2025 7:32:41 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

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New Mexicans deserve clean air, safe water, and a strong economy, and the state must do its part to plug the wells with the funds the Legislature has designated

Henry Castaneda
6228 porter rd
Carlsbad, NM 88220-9592
Kathen@windstream.net
575-302-1545

From: [Hugo Gutierrez](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 4:33:13 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

As a New Mexican who cares deeply about our environment and economy, I urge you to direct the Oil Conservation Division to utilize the Reclamation Fund and stop allowing millions to sit idly in the state's coffers.

This fund was created to safeguard our land and water, not to be absorbed into the general budget. There's enough money to do the job, and it should be utilized to as expeditiously as possible.

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Thank you for your leadership and attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Hugo Gutierrez
10322 SUGAR HILL DR
Houston, TX 77042-1546
houston10322@gmail.com
713-502-6703

From: [Ila Martinez](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Thursday, October 30, 2025 7:20:39 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

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Millions are sitting idly, and I request that the red tape be cut and the dollars deployed. The problem isn't funding—it's oversight and execution.

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Ila Martinez
5703 Southfork Rd
Carlsbad, NM 88220-9161
iladmartinez@yahoo.com
575-302-3250

From: [J B Smith](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Thursday, October 30, 2025 1:50:30 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing as someone who works in the oil and gas industry and lives in a community that depends on these jobs. The proposed WELC rule would make it harder for me—and many others—to keep our jobs.

This rule could force responsible companies to shut down wells that still have value. That's not just bad for business—it's bad for workers, families, and communities like mine. We encourage you to consider rules that are not overreaching and to better utilize the Reclamation Fund.

Please consider the real-world impact this rule would have on the people who make New Mexico's energy economy work.

Sincerely,

J B Smith
6811 Inwood Road
Dallas, TX 75209-5317
jbsmith3ms@gmail.com
575-365-8517

From: [James Manatt](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 9:03:42 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to share feedback on the proposed bonding rule and the ongoing conversation around orphaned well cleanup.

The Reclamation Fund—paid for by industry—is the only dedicated state source for plugging wells. It was created for this purpose, yet the State continues to redirect those funds to the general budget. That's not just a misuse of taxpayer dollars—it's a failure of oversight.

There is no shortage of funding. What's missing is action. Operators who follow the rules shouldn't be penalized by blanket mandates that make it harder to do business in New Mexico. Instead, we should demand that tax dollars be utilized for their intended purpose.

We can protect our environment and support responsible development—but only if we focus on practical solutions and responsible governance.

Sincerely,

James Manatt
P O Box 392
Roswell, NM 88336-0392
jcmprov@provtech.com
575-623-1776

From: [Jason Lazich](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 4:54:13 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

Millions are sitting idly, and I request that the red tape be cut and the dollars deployed. The problem isn't funding—it's oversight and execution.

Instead of imposing blanket mandates that could harm smaller operators and local economies, we should be asking why the current system isn't working and why the State isn't using the tools and funds it already has.

New Mexicans deserve clean air, safe water, and a strong economy, and the State must do its part to plug the wells with the funds the Legislature has designated.

Sincerely,

Jason Lazich
3025 East Springs Road, Las Cruces
Las Cruces, NM 88011-5265
jlazich@mindspring.com
917-279-7643

From: [Jason Modglin](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 2:46:16 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

As someone who works in the oil and gas sector, I urge you to consider the long-term consequences of the proposed WELC rule. While I support efforts to remediate our lands and protect our environment, the current proposal risks punishing responsible operators who are already working hard to do the right thing.

We need regulations that are smart and fair—not one-size-fits-all mandates that jeopardize jobs and discourage investment. Let's ensure that New Mexico remains a place where energy development and environmental protection go hand in hand.

Thank you for your leadership and for listening to those of us on the ground.

Sincerely,

Jason Modglin
3305 Boyd Dr
Carlsbad, NM 88220-4786
jason.modglin@westernmidstream.com
346-786-5386

From: [Jay Block](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 7:42:17 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

As a New Mexican who cares deeply about our environment and economy, I urge you to direct the Oil Conservation Division to utilize the Reclamation Fund and stop allowing millions to sit idly in the state's coffers.

This fund was created to safeguard our land and water, not to be absorbed into the general budget. There's enough money to do the job, and it should be utilized to as expeditiously as possible.

We don't need new mandates that hurt small businesses—we need accountability and responsible stewardship of public resources. Let's make sure the tools we already have are being used effectively.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Jay Block
951 Turquesa Lp SE
Rio Rancho, NM 87124-5050
jayblock1970@gmail.com
505-415-6881

From: [Jerret Turner](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Thursday, October 30, 2025 6:21:18 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to share feedback on the proposed bonding rule and the ongoing conversation around orphaned well cleanup.

The Reclamation Fund—paid for by industry—is the only dedicated state source for plugging wells. It was created for this purpose, yet the State continues to redirect those funds to the general budget. That's not just a misuse of taxpayer dollars—it's a failure of oversight.

There is no shortage of funding. What's missing is action. Operators who follow the rules shouldn't be penalized by blanket mandates that make it harder to do business in New Mexico. Instead, we should demand that tax dollars be utilized for their intended purpose.

We can protect our environment and support responsible development—but only if we focus on practical solutions and responsible governance.

Sincerely,

Jerret Turner
3708 Estates Dr
Artesia, NM 88210-9466
jerret@hey.com
575-308-1843

From: [JERRY SHERRELL](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 10:25:38 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

As a New Mexican who cares deeply about our environment and economy, I urge you to direct the Oil Conservation Division to utilize the Reclamation Fund and stop allowing millions to sit idly in the state's coffers.

This fund was created to safeguard our land and water, not to be absorbed into the general budget. There's enough money to do the job, and it should be utilized to as expeditiously as possible.

We don't need new mandates that hurt small businesses—we need accountability and responsible stewardship of public resources. Let's make sure the tools we already have are being used effectively.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

JERRY SHERRELL
24 CRYSTAL DRIVE
Artesia, NM 88210-9339
JERRYYS@MEC.COM
575-703-7382

From: [Jim Standifer](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Friday, October 31, 2025 7:53:16 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

Millions are sitting idly, and I request that the red tape be cut and the dollars deployed. The problem isn't funding—it's oversight and execution.

Instead of imposing blanket mandates that could harm smaller operators and local economies, we should be asking why the current system isn't working and why the State isn't using the tools and funds it already has.

New Mexicans deserve clean air, safe water, and a strong economy, and the state must do its part to plug the wells with the funds the Legislature has designated

Jim Standifer
909 W 16th Lane,
Portales, NM 88130-6666
jimstandifer@gmail.com
575-200-7694

From: [Jimmie McKinney](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Friday, October 31, 2025 4:05:22 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

As someone who works in the oil and gas sector, I urge you to consider the long-term consequences of the proposed WELC rule. While I support efforts to remediate our lands and protect our environment, the current proposal risks punishing responsible operators who are already working hard to do the right thing.

We need regulations that are smart and fair—not one-size-fits-all mandates that jeopardize jobs and discourage investment. Let's ensure that New Mexico remains a place where energy development and environmental protection go hand in hand.

Thank you for your leadership and for listening to those of us on the ground.

Sincerely,

Jimmie McKinney
1550 W Blanco Blvd, Bloomfield New Mexico
Bloomfield, NM 87413-4803
jimmie@walsheng.net
505-320-5332

From: [Jimmy Mason](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Friday, October 31, 2025 8:35:22 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to share feedback on the proposed bonding rule and the ongoing conversation around orphaned well cleanup.

The Reclamation Fund—paid for by industry—is the only dedicated state source for plugging wells. It was created for this purpose, yet the State continues to redirect those funds to the general budget. That's not just a misuse of taxpayer dollars—it's a failure of oversight.

There is no shortage of funding. What's missing is action. Operators who follow the rules shouldn't be penalized by blanket mandates that make it harder to do business in New Mexico. Instead, we should demand that tax dollars be utilized for their intended purpose.

We can protect our environment and support responsible development—but only if we focus on practical solutions and responsible governance.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Mason
205 w main
Artesia, NM 88210-2131
jimmymason1950@gmail.com
575-365-7378

From: [Joan B Von Wolff](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 5:34:18 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

Millions are sitting idly, and I request that the red tape be cut and the dollars deployed. The problem isn't funding—it's oversight and execution.

Instead of imposing blanket mandates that could harm smaller operators and local economies, we should be asking why the current system isn't working and why the State isn't using the tools and funds it already has.

New Mexicans deserve clean air, safe water, and a strong economy, and the State must do its part to plug the wells with the funds the Legislature has designated.

Sincerely,

Joan B Von Wolff
2688 Bearcat Drive
Las Cruces, NM 88001-1599
joanbvon@aol.com
575-993-9234

From: [Joan Marine](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 5:17:14 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

As a New Mexican who cares deeply about our environment and economy, I urge you to direct the Oil Conservation Division to utilize the Reclamation Fund and stop allowing millions to sit idly in the state's coffers.

This fund was created to safeguard our land and water, not to be absorbed into the general budget. There's enough money to do the job, and it should be utilized to as expeditiously as possible.

We don't need new mandates that hurt small businesses—we need accountability and responsible stewardship of public resources. Let's make sure the tools we already have are being used effectively.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Joan Marine
1150 Ranchero Rd, Bosque Farms, NM, USA
Bosque Farms, NM 87068-9573
JMARINE@COMCAST.NET
505-955-9737

From: [Joann Marshall](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Thursday, October 30, 2025 3:28:15 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to share feedback on the proposed bonding rule and the ongoing conversation around orphaned well cleanup.

The Reclamation Fund—paid for by industry—is the only dedicated state source for plugging wells. It was created for this purpose, yet the State continues to redirect those funds to the general budget. That's not just a misuse of taxpayer dollars—it's a failure of oversight.

There is no shortage of funding. What's missing is action. Operators who follow the rules shouldn't be penalized by blanket mandates that make it harder to do business in New Mexico. Instead, we should demand that tax dollars be utilized for their intended purpose.

We can protect our environment and support responsible development—but only if we focus on practical solutions and responsible governance.

Sincerely,

Joann Marshall
8414 Molinar Rd
Carlsbad, NM 88220-8718
ramjo2@gmail.com
575-361-2220

From: [JoEllen Harrison](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Thursday, October 30, 2025 6:24:21 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

Millions are sitting idly, and I request that the red tape be cut and the dollars deployed. The problem isn't funding—it's oversight and execution.

Instead of imposing blanket mandates that could harm smaller operators and local economies, we should be asking why the current system isn't working and why the State isn't using the tools and funds it already has.

New Mexicans deserve clean air, safe water, and a strong economy, and the State must do its part to plug the wells with the funds the Legislature has designated.

Sincerely,

JoEllen Harrison
PO Box 1848
Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346-1848
Mice4all@gmail.com
575-973-7129

From: [john cochran](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 9:15:17 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

Millions are sitting idly, and I request that the red tape be cut and the dollars deployed. The problem isn't funding—it's oversight and execution.

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New Mexicans deserve clean air, safe water, and a strong economy, and the State must do its part to plug the wells with the funds the Legislature has designated.

Sincerely,

john cochran
3719 springhill lane
Sugar Land, TX 77479-2293
john.r.cochran@p66.com
281-772-2883

From: [John Edwards](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Thursday, October 30, 2025 2:28:17 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear OCD Hearings,

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I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

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New Mexicans deserve clean air, safe water, and a strong economy, and the state must do its part to plug the wells with the funds the Legislature has designated

John Edwards
2911 Sand Trap Rd
Deming, NM 88030-7387
dcedwards@verizon.net
863-221-8358

From: [John Scrocco](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Saturday, November 1, 2025 11:00:23 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

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John Scrocco
1111 Amherst Dr SE #43
Albuquerque, NM 87106-1638
2walk4water@gmail.com
505-460-7576

From: [John Stern](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 2:42:14 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

As a New Mexican who cares deeply about our environment and economy, I urge you to direct the Oil Conservation Division to utilize the Reclamation Fund and stop allowing millions to sit idly in the state's coffers.

This fund was created to safeguard our land and water, not to be absorbed into the general budget. There's enough money to do the job, and it should be utilized to as expeditiously as possible.

We don't need new mandates that hurt small businesses—we need accountability and responsible stewardship of public resources. Let's make sure the tools we already have are being used effectively.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

John Stern
1411 High Mesa Road
Alto, NM 88312-8000
jnrets@gmail.com
575-228-0124

From: [John Thompson](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 2:10:20 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

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We don't need new mandates that hurt small businesses—we need accountability and responsible stewardship of public resources. Let's make sure the tools we already have are being used effectively.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

John Thompson
2884 East Mescalero
Roswell, NM 88201-9226
john@manzanoenergy.com
575-840-5797

From: [John Watson](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 5:35:38 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

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Thank you for your leadership and attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

John Watson
3600 Cerrillos Road Suite 1107
Santa Fe, NM 87507-2687
john@ogbventures.com
505-918-2447

From: [Jolene Martin Hellekson](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 2:36:48 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

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Instead of imposing blanket mandates that could harm smaller operators and local economies, we should be asking why the current system isn't working and why the State isn't using the tools and funds it already has.

New Mexicans deserve clean air, safe water, and a strong economy, and the state must do its part to plug the wells with the funds the Legislature has designated

Jolene Martin Hellekson
23 Road 5222
Bloomfield, NM 87413
helleksonj@yahoo.com
505-320-0490

From: [Jonathan Chandler](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 5:00:21 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

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I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

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Sincerely,

Jonathan Chandler
1203 South Country Club Circle
Carlsbad, NM 88220-4619
chandlerbroadcasting@gmail.com
505-290-0625

From: [Jonny Heins](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Monday, November 3, 2025 10:59:40 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to share feedback on the proposed bonding rule and the ongoing conversation around orphaned well cleanup.

The Reclamation Fund—paid for by industry—is the only dedicated state source for plugging wells. It was created for this purpose, yet the State continues to redirect those funds to the general budget. That's not just a misuse of taxpayer dollars—it's a failure of oversight.

There is no shortage of funding. What's missing is action. Operators who follow the rules shouldn't be penalized by blanket mandates that make it harder to do business in New Mexico. Instead, we should demand that tax dollars be utilized for their intended purpose.

We can protect our environment and support responsible development—but only if we focus on practical solutions and responsible governance.

Sincerely,

Jonny Heins
300 N. Marienfeld, Suite 1000
Midland, TX 79701-4688
jonny.heins@permianres.com
713-829-3581

From: [Jose montoya](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 5:36:17 PM

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Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

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Thank you for your leadership and attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Jose montoya
511 summer winds dr se, 511 summer winds dr se
Rio Rancho, NM 87124-2362
Joecentury98@gmail.com
505-250-1621

From: [Joseph Pemberton](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Saturday, November 1, 2025 3:11:13 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

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Joseph Pemberton
410 S. 15th St
Artesia, NM 88210-1759
driveline@q.com
575-365-7554

From: [Joshua Barrett](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 5:18:41 AM

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Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I'm writing to share feedback on the proposed bonding rule and the ongoing conversation around orphaned well cleanup.

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We can protect our environment and support responsible development—but only if we focus on practical solutions and responsible governance.

Sincerely,

Joshua Barrett
1809 W Ray Ave
Artesia, NM 88210-2232
bluegremmy@gmail.com
575-308-7748

From: [JoVella Blinzler](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Thursday, October 30, 2025 7:20:52 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

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JoVella Blinzler
2700 Hutton Ave
Farmington, NM 87402-4572
totalglam@comcast.net
505-402-1096

From: [Judith Miller](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Saturday, November 1, 2025 10:18:40 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

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Judith Miller
PO Box 540
Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346-0540
jrmjudy07@gmail.com
575-378-4847

From: [Julia Gentry](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 9:35:19 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

As a New Mexican who cares deeply about our environment and economy, I urge you to direct the Oil Conservation Division to utilize the Reclamation Fund and stop allowing millions to sit idly in the state's coffers.

This fund was created to safeguard our land and water, not to be absorbed into the general budget. There's enough money to do the job, and it should be utilized to as expeditiously as possible.

We don't need new mandates that hurt small businesses—we need accountability and responsible stewardship of public resources. Let's make sure the tools we already have are being used effectively.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Julia Gentry
619 south turner st. Bloomfield NM
Bloomfield, NM 87413-6206
jmgentry420@gmail.com
505-635-6328

From: [Julia Reynolds](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 7:34:39 AM

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Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

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Sincerely,

Julia Reynolds
1614 Redwood Loop
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6616
smilelady23@yahoo.com
505-215-0828

From: [Alleyne, Julie](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Urgent Request for Proposed Amendments - comments due November 7th
Date: Friday, October 31, 2025 2:19:59 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

You don't often get email from jalleyne@surety.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission,

I am reaching out regarding the proposed amendments to the Commission rules at 19.15.2, 19.15.5, 19.15.8, 19.15.9, and 19.15.25 NMAC, which are proposed by Western Environmental Law Center, Citizens Concerned for the Future, Conservation Voters New Mexico Education Fund, Diné C.A.R.E., Earthworks, Naeva, New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light, San Juan Citizens Alliance, and Sierra Club. I am seeking the actual proposed amendments because I have been unable to find them on your website. Could you please send them to me as soon as possible? I understand comments are due by the end of next week.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Best,

Julie

Julie Alleyne
Senior Vice President and General Counsel
The Surety & Fidelity Association of America
Office: 202-778-3630 / Cell: 202-702-8865 / jalleyne@surety.org
www.surety.org



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From: [Angela Reece](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Monday, November 3, 2025 8:51:24 AM

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Dear OCD Hearings,

I'm writing to express concern about the proposed bonding rule and the broader issue of well cleanup in New Mexico.

I encourage the State to better utilize the Reclamation Fund. The funds come from a tax paid by the oil and gas industry specifically designed to support the plugging of orphaned wells.

Millions are sitting idly, and I request that the red tape be cut and the dollars deployed. The problem isn't funding—it's oversight and execution.

Instead of imposing blanket mandates that could harm smaller operators and local economies, we should be asking why the current system isn't working and why the State isn't using the tools and funds it already has.

New Mexicans deserve clean air, safe water, and a strong economy, and the state must do its part to plug the wells with the funds the Legislature has designated

Angela Reece
49 Archer Ln
Belen, NM 87002-7819
sun4wer@yahoo.com
505-507-7474

**Comments of Taxpayers for Common Sense on Case No. 24683
Before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission**

Re: Proposed Amendments to 19.15.2, 19.15.5, 19.15.8, 19.15.9, and 19.15.25 NMAC

Submitted by:

Taxpayers for Common Sense
651 Pennsylvania Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20003
www.taxpayer.net

Date: October 30, 2025

I. Introduction

Taxpayers for Common Sense (TCS) is a nonpartisan budget watchdog founded in 1995 to ensure taxpayer dollars are spent wisely and transparently. For three decades, TCS has supported policies that safeguard the public purse, prevent wasteful subsidies, and promote fiscal accountability in natural resource management.

We submit these comments in strong support of the Commission's proposed amendments to 19.15.2, 19.15.5, 19.15.8, 19.15.9, and 19.15.25 NMAC. Collectively, these changes modernize New Mexico's financial assurance and well-management framework—protecting both state and federal taxpayers from the escalating costs of orphaned and unreclaimed wells while improving transparency and public confidence in oversight.

II. Summary of the Proposed Rule

The proposed amendments strengthen financial assurance and reduce long-term fiscal risk by raising bond levels to reflect actual reclamation costs, better regulating inactive and marginal wells to ensure at-risk wells are adequately bonded *before* they can be orphaned, and requiring improved disclosure to identify bad actors and repeat offenders. Each reform fulfills the Legislature's directive to prevent cleanup costs from falling to the public when private operators default.

III. The Public Cost of Inadequate Bonding

When an operating company dissolves or goes bankrupt—as often happens in the oil and gas boom-and-bust cycle—New Mexico must rely on that company's bond to cover reclamation of its wells and well sites. If the bond is insufficient, taxpayers are forced to

cover the costs. Between 2015 and 2021, 256 oil and gas producers nationwide entered bankruptcy protection, carrying \$175 billion in debt.¹ When bond amounts are insufficient, it's cheaper for companies to delay reclamation indefinitely, transfer wells to smaller operators, or simply walk away, forfeiting their bonds instead of cleaning up their sites.

The exact number of orphaned wells in New Mexico is unknown. In December 2021, the state reported 1,741 documented orphaned well sites in its application to the Department of the Interior for Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding.² The Interstate Oil & Gas Compact Commission later reported 3,158 documented and undocumented orphaned wells in the state as of 2023.³

According to the New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee (LFC), the Oil Conservation Division (OCD) currently has plugging authority for 700 wells but “likely will need to plug an additional 1,400 inactive wells for which OCD has not yet pursued plugging authority.”⁴ As more wells on state and private land become inactive or abandoned, OCD—and by extension, New Mexico taxpayers—will bear the costs of reclamation.

A. Documented Financial Assurance Gaps

Current bonding requirements in New Mexico fail to cover reclamation costs. TCS estimates that unreclaimed wells on state and private land could carry \$3.5 billion in reclamation liabilities. This conservative figure assumes the 22,401 unplugged wells on state and private lands each have a \$7,000 bond, but will cost an average of \$163,000 to reclaim.

OCD reports 22,401 unplugged wells on state and private mineral estates—13,695 with state mineral ownership and 8,706 with private ownership.⁵ Although OCD does not have plugging authority for all of these wells, it may pursue such authority if wells are abandoned without sufficient bonds.

Reclamation costs vary by well depth, location, and age. The Bureau of Land Management estimates reclamation costs \$71,000 per well nationwide.⁶ In New Mexico, estimates range from \$160,000 to \$218,400 **per well**:

- \$160,000 - OCD average in 2023 (\$125,000 for plugging + \$35,000 for reclamation of the well site).⁷
- \$163,000 - LFC reporting of fiscal year (FY) 2024 OCD plugging costs.⁸
- \$166,922 - OCD estimate to plug 1,741 orphaned wells (2021)⁹
- \$168,900 - Center for Applied Research (CAR) estimate for gas wells on state trust land¹⁰

- \$180,000 – OCD recent average plugging costs, per its 2024 Phase 2 Work Plan Proposal¹¹
- \$218,400 - CAR estimate for oil wells on state trust land¹²

Recent reporting indicates that New Mexico holds a median bond value of \$7,000 per well. In 2021, the Center for Applied Research estimated oil wells on state land had an average of just \$3,518 in financial assurance, while gas wells averaged \$3,272.¹³ More recently, in 2025, the LFC reported the median financial assurance held by OCD for an individual operator with active wells was \$7,000 per well.¹⁴ However, both studies showed significant variation in coverage. The CAR found that operators with more than 100 wells (47 operators sampled) had an average coverage of just \$120 per well,¹⁵ and the LFC reported that the operator with the least bond coverage had only \$105 in financial assurance per well.¹⁶

TCS's \$3.5 billion estimate aligns with CAR's 2021 study, which found an \$8.2 billion bonding gap statewide for all oil and gas infrastructure, including \$3.2 billion for oil and gas wells on state land and \$2.2 billion for wells on private land.¹⁷

Bonding amounts under current law are plainly insufficient. These gaps are not just a state problem—they reverberate at the federal level.

B. The Role of Federal Taxpayers

When oil and gas companies don't post enough bond money to cover cleanup, taxpayers pay. When a well is abandoned or orphaned on state land (and some private land), OCD steps in to plug the well and restore the site. The work is paid for out of the state's Reclamation Fund—financed by fees and small operator payments—not by the companies whose wells often create the biggest cleanup costs. But that fund was never meant to cover widespread failures across the industry.

Even when OCD takes over a site, the company's financial assurance remains intact unless the agency formally pursues bond forfeiture, which it rarely does. From FY 2019 to FY 2024, OCD spent \$15.4 million plugging 193 wells, but it recovered only 1.6% of those costs.¹⁸ In FY 2020, 2021, and 2023, the agency reported no bond forfeitures or cost recoveries at all—leaving taxpayers, and increasingly federal programs, to pick up nearly the entire cleanup bill.¹⁹

Since 2022, New Mexico has received more than \$55.5 million in federal orphaned well grants under the IIJA, including initial, formula, and performance-based awards, and the LFC reports the state remains eligible for up to \$111.8 million more if funds allow.²⁰ These IIJA funds have underwritten crucial work such as methane testing, environmental compliance, and plugging hundreds of wells that operators abandoned.

Without stronger cost recovery from OCD, the IJA has become a federal backstop for insufficient state bonding—an emergency relief program turned structural subsidy. Unless bonding rules are strengthened, New Mexico’s shortfalls will continue to invite federal bailouts, shifting cleanup costs from the oil and gas industry to national taxpayers footing the bill for the state’s orphaned wells.

C. Industry Claims Understate Fiscal Risk

Industry groups assert that plugging averages \$40,000 to \$60,000 and that the orphaned well problem is overstated.²¹ We don’t doubt these are common well relocation costs for simple well closures, but the LFC and CAR reports directly contradict any notion that they represent statewide averages. The LFC found average plugging costs have quintupled since 2019, reaching \$163,000 per well in FY2024 and exceeding \$700,000 in some cases.²² These are not hypothetical—they reflect the actual costs for addressing the older, higher-risk wells most likely to be orphaned. Current blanket-bond minimums let operators with dozens of marginal wells post a single blanket bond, leaving taxpayers to cover the gap.

IV. Section-by-Section Comments

TCS supports the proposed amendments to 19.15.2, 19.15.5, 19.15.8, 19.15.9, and 19.15.25 NMAC.

19.15.5 NMAC – Enforcement and Compliance

TCS supports the proposed amendment to rightly require operators to “maximize the recovery of natural gas by minimizing the waste of natural gas through venting and flaring,” consistent with 19.15.27.A.8 NMAC. Venting and flaring controls protect royalty-bearing gas revenues—a direct benefit to both state and federal taxpayers. For too long, oil and gas operators have been allowed to regularly flare (burn), vent (release), and leak billions of cubic feet of natural gas each year. According to the Energy Information Administration, approximately 3,170 billion cubic feet of gas was vented or flared nationwide between FY2012 and FY2021.²³ This waste squanders a valuable resource, costs federal and state budgets royalty revenue, and exposes nearby communities to health and safety risks.

TCS also supports the proposed amendment to hold all operators to the requirement that they promptly plug their wells once they stop producing, as opposed to existing regulations that allow a specified number of wells to be out of compliance.

19.15.8 NMAC – Financial Assurance

TCS strongly supports raising bond minimums. As the Government Accountability Office has noted, “the oil and gas industry’s boom-and-bust cycles can lead operators to drill

wells when prices for oil and gas are high but can contribute to bankruptcies when prices are low.”²⁴ TCS supports the proposed \$150,000 single-well assurance, which is still conservative compared to the average plugging cost of \$163,000 per well. While TCS generally opposes blanket bonding, the proposed \$250,000 blanket operator bond—applied regardless of the number of wells—is a clear improvement over the current scaled system.

Bond requirements must cover extreme cases or grant administrators discretion to increase them, as high-cost wells are the most likely to be orphaned. The LFC found, “the gap between actual plugging costs and the required financial assurance weakens the incentive for operators to plug their own wells, especially older, low-value wells where cleanup costs are high. As a result, operators are more likely to walk away from those wells, leaving OCD to manage the most complex and least desirable sites.”²⁵

Requiring single-well financial assurance for marginal, inactive, and temporarily abandoned wells targets the highest-risk sites. Low-producing wells may soon fail to generate enough revenue to justify the costs of operation, leading to inactivity. Non-producing wells—by definition generating no revenue—are at even greater risk of being orphaned.²⁶ An L.A. Times/Center for Public Integrity analysis of 40 years of California data found that once a well is idle for 10 months, there’s only a 50% chance it will ever produce again.²⁷ After five years, the odds drop to 25%.²⁸ A separate study of New Mexico wells found that after eight years of inactivity, only 0.5% resume production.²⁹ With these high-risk wells on the verge of becoming uneconomical, they must be properly bonded so operators—not taxpayers—cover the inevitable cleanup costs. TCS supports mandating single-well assurance for marginal, inactive, and temporarily abandoned wells to protect taxpayers from near-certain reclamation liabilities.

Similarly, TCS supports the proposal to bar operators with 15% or more inactive or marginal wells from relying on blanket bonds and instead require single-well assurances. A single blanket bond can cover hundreds of wells, regardless of their condition or productivity. This change would better protect taxpayers from operators with the riskiest portfolios and create an incentive to address idle wells promptly—either by resuming production or completing reclamation.

TCS also supports annual inflation adjustments to preserve bond value over time. The New Mexico Oil and Gas Association (NMOGA) argues that indexing bond amounts to CPI “sounds like housekeeping, but it outsources Commission judgment to a consumer price series that has little to do with plugging cost drivers (depth, integrity, access, service availability). It also injects annual uncertainty into capital plans.”³⁰ But there is already annual uncertainty in the boom-and-bust cycle of oil and gas markets. Minor inflation shifts

pale beside price volatility. NMOGA argues instead for a periodic, evidence-based review every 2 to 3 years;³¹ TCS would support this approach as an addition—not a substitute—for CPI indexing.

19.15.9 NMAC – Well Operator Provisions

Developing taxpayer-owned resources is a privilege, not a right. TCS supports the proposed amendments to require certain disclosures and certifications prior to commencing operations or transferring wells, as well as giving OCD the authority to deny transfers based on this information.

In New Mexico, well transfers have historically been approved almost automatically, as long as the recipient company was in compliance with current rules and held a bond.³² Requiring financial disclosures and compliance certifications will help curb the practice of off-loading aging wells onto undercapitalized operators.

Oil and gas operators often transfer wells near the end of their productive life to smaller operators who can't afford reclamation.³³ A 2023 report on well transfers in California found that more than 96% of such transfers were either to smaller holding companies or operators, the result of bankruptcy, or intended to facilitate a company's exit from the California exploration and production market.³⁴ Monitoring well transfers is essential to ensuring smaller operators can properly reclaim wells after production ends, rather than leaving taxpayers to shoulder the costs.

The NMOGA argues that if transfers become too risky, existing operators may simply walk away from marginal wells instead of selling them to companies willing to operate them safely.³⁵ That's no justification for keeping the current system. Existing rules already do too little to protect taxpayers—operators are walking away from wells or transferring them to companies that later do the same. Requiring adequate bonding up front, and ensuring that coverage continues through transfers, is the best way to prevent operators from abandoning their responsibilities.

The case of Remnant illustrates how current policies can allow bad actors to evade their cleanup obligations while continuing to profit from oil and gas development in New Mexico. Remnant acquired several hundred wells in 2015 but filed for bankruptcy in 2019.³⁶ Acacia Resources LLC later purchased Remnant's remaining assets after a court-ordered liquidation. Yet, as Mark Olalde of *ProPublica* and Nick Bowlin of *Capital & Main* reported, the new company was run by familiar names—Remnant's former chief operating officer and president. The proposed rule would help prevent such bad actors—operators who can't afford to plug wells or who have a record of violating the rules—from inheriting wells and creating new liabilities for New Mexico taxpayers.

19.15.25 NMAC – Plugging and Abandonment of Wells

Inactive wells are liabilities waiting to surface. As of July 3, 2025, 3,234 inactive wells in New Mexico were out of compliance with Commission rules.³⁷ When companies postpone plugging, these wells often deteriorate without proper supervision or monitoring—creating health and safety risks for nearby communities and leaving taxpayers to shoulder reclamation costs.³⁸ Under current Commission rules, wells may stay in temporary abandonment indefinitely.

Prompt plugging and reclamation standards must be reinforced. TCS supports the proposed amendments to require operators demonstrate a well will be returned to beneficial use within a reasonable time, hold a hearing before the Commission to request an extension of approved temporary abandonment status beyond five years, and cap approved temporary abandonment at eight years.³⁹ Together, these changes would help ensure operators cannot keep wells in approved temporary abandonment status indefinitely to avoid plugging obligations.

V. Additional Actions

The Commission should urge OCD to strengthen its management of orphaned wells and improve its procurement practices. The LFC has identified several weaknesses contributing to significant cost overruns, including the lack of a systematic cost-tracking mechanism, a procurement process that limits price competition and cost control, and incomplete recordkeeping.⁴⁰ The Commission should also urge OCD to exercise its authority under § 70-2-14 NMSA 1978 to sue operators and recover reclamation costs paid from the state's reclamation fund.⁴¹

VI. Conclusion

The oil and gas industry plays a critical role in New Mexico's state economy. Its management, including bonding policies, has cascading effects for state taxpayers. This rulemaking will not hamper the industry—instead, it offers a chance to modernize a bonding framework that has failed taxpayers for decades. TCS strongly supports adoption of the proposed amendments to 19.15.2, 19.15.5, 19.15.8, 19.15.9, and 19.15.25 NMAC, as modified and advanced by the Western Environmental Law Center and aligned stakeholders.

The Oil and Gas Act already authorizes the Commission to set financial-assurance categories based on depth, production, and plugging costs. Modernizing these tiers is both lawful and fiscally responsible. No legislative change is needed to update obsolete bond

levels. Claims that reform will trigger mass abandonment ignore the greater fiscal risk of doing nothing. Adequate bonding ensures solvent, responsible operators remain in the field and protects the public from future bailouts.

Bonding reform keeps cleanup costs off the state and federal ledger. Every unreclaimed well that slips through today becomes a future claim on taxpayers. Without stronger bonding, the federal government effectively underwrites inadequate state requirements. Strengthening New Mexico's rules now will reduce dependence on state and federal remediation programs, align the state with emerging BLM standards, and demonstrate fiscal responsibility nationwide.

Respectfully submitted,

Taxpayers for Common Sense
Washington, DC

¹ Mark Olalde and Nick Bowlin, "Oil industry profits don't pay for cleanup," High Country News, February 26, 2024. <https://www.hcn.org/articles/oil-industry-profits-dont-pay-for-cleanup/>

² Department of the Interior (DOI), "Orphaned Wells Program Annual Report To Congress," November 2023. <https://www.doi.gov/sites/default/files/fy-2023-orphaned-wells-congressional-report.pdf>

³ Interstate Oil & Gas Compact Commission, "Idle and Orphan Oil And Gas Wells: State and Provincial Regulatory Strategies," 2024. <https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/iogcc/documents/publications/Orphan%20Wells%20Revised.pdf>

⁴ New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee (LFC), "Policy Spotlight: Orphaned Wells," June 24, 2025. <https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/ALFC%20062425%20Item%204%20Policy%20Spotlight%20Orphaned%20Wells.pdf>

⁵ Taxpayers for Common Sense (TCS) calculation using Oil Conservation Division (ODC) permitting data. Sum includes all permitted oil and gas wells with state and private mineral ownership, except wells with status of Cancelled APD, Never Drill, Plugged Site Released, Plugged Not Released, and Zones Permanently Plugged. Source: OCD, Well Search, accessed October 30, 2025. <https://wwwapps.emnrd.nm.gov/OCD/OCDPermitting/Data/Wells.aspx>

⁶ Bureau of Land Management (BLM), "Fluid Mineral Leases and Leasing Process," Federal Register, July 2023. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/07/24/2023-14287/fluid-mineral-leases-and-leasing-process#p-82>

⁷ New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, "Orphan Well Plugging & Site Remediation Update and Overview of Financial Assurance Requirements," December 1, 2023. <http://nmlegis.gov/handouts/RHMC%20120123%20Item%202%20EMNRD%20OCD%20-%20Orphan%20Well%20&%20Financial%20Assurance.pdf>

⁸ LFC, "Costs of Plugging & Abandonment of Wells," Fiscal Impact Report, House Bill 481, February 26, 2025. <https://www.nmlegis.gov/sessions/25%20Regular/firs/HB0481.PDF>

⁹ DOI, "Phase 1 State Formula Grant Guidance – July 2023," <https://www.doi.gov/sites/default/files/state-formula-grant-guidance-07.07.2023.pdf>

¹⁰ CAR, "An Analysis of the Adequacy Of Financial Assurance Requirements For Oil And Gas Infrastructure Located On State Trust and Private Lands In New Mexico," April 30, 2021. https://centerforappliedresearch.com/PubRep/NM_Assurance_Assessment.pdf

¹¹ "Direct Testimony Of Peter Morgan," pg. 322 https://ocdimage.emnrd.nm.gov/Imaging/FileStore/santafe/cf/20250811/24683_08_11_2025_10_11_12.pdf

¹² CAR, “An Analysis of the Adequacy Of Financial Assurance Requirements For Oil And Gas Infrastructure Located On State Trust and Private Lands In New Mexico,” April 30, 2021.

https://centerforappliedresearch.com/PubRep/NM_Assurance_Assessment.pdf

¹³ Center for Applied Research (CAR), “An Analysis of the Adequacy Of Financial Assurance Requirements For Oil And Gas Infrastructure Located On State Trust and Private Lands In New Mexico,” April 30, 2021.

https://centerforappliedresearch.com/PubRep/NM_Assurance_Assessment.pdf

¹⁴ LFC, “Policy Spotlight: Orphaned Wells,” June 24, 2025.

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/ALFC%20062425%20Item%204%20Policy%20Spotlight%20Orphaned%20Wells.pdf>

¹⁵ For all well types. Source: CAR, “An Analysis of the Adequacy Of Financial Assurance Requirements For Oil And Gas Infrastructure Located On State Trust and Private Lands In New Mexico,” April 30, 2021.

https://centerforappliedresearch.com/PubRep/NM_Assurance_Assessment.pdf

¹⁶ LFC, “Policy Spotlight: Orphaned Wells,” June 24, 2025.

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/ALFC%20062425%20Item%204%20Policy%20Spotlight%20Orphaned%20Wells.pdf>

¹⁷ CAR, “An Analysis of the Adequacy Of Financial Assurance Requirements For Oil And Gas Infrastructure Located On State Trust and Private Lands In New Mexico,” April 30, 2021.

https://centerforappliedresearch.com/PubRep/NM_Assurance_Assessment.pdf

¹⁸ “Direct Testimony Of Peter Morgan,” pg. 312

https://ocdimage.emnrd.nm.gov/Imaging/FileStore/santafe/cf/20250811/24683_08_11_2025_10_11_12.pdf

¹⁹ LFC, “Policy Spotlight: Orphaned Wells,” June 24, 2025.

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/ALFC%20062425%20Item%204%20Policy%20Spotlight%20Orphaned%20Wells.pdf>

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ “Rebuttal Testimony of Andrea Felix on Behalf Of New Mexico Oil And Gas Association,” September 19, 2025.

https://ocdimage.emnrd.nm.gov/Imaging/FileStore/santafe/cf/20250922/24683_09_22_2025_04_17_06.pdf

²² LFC, “Policy Spotlight: Orphaned Wells,” June 24, 2025.

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/ALFC%20062425%20Item%204%20Policy%20Spotlight%20Orphaned%20Wells.pdf>

²³ Energy Information Administration, “Natural Gas Gross Withdrawals and Production, Vented and Flared,” accessed February 21, 2025. https://www.eia.gov/dnav/ng/ng_prod_sum_a_EPG0_VGV_mmcf_m.htm

²⁴ Government Accountability Office, “Bureau of Land Management Should Address Risks from Insufficient Bonds to Reclaim Wells,” September 2019. <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-19-615.pdf>

²⁵ LFC, “Policy Spotlight: Orphaned Wells,” June 24, 2025.

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/ALFC%20062425%20Item%204%20Policy%20Spotlight%20Orphaned%20Wells.pdf>

²⁶ Colorado Energy & Carbon Management Commission, “142 low-producing oil and gas wells to be plugged,” accessed October 27, 2025. <https://ecmc.colorado.gov/press-release/142-low-producing-oil-and-gas-wells-to-be-plugged>

²⁷ Mark Olalde and Ryan Menezes “The toxic legacy of old oil wells: California’s multibillion-dollar problem,” Los Angeles Times, February 6, 2020. <https://www.latimes.com/projects/california-oil-well-drilling-idle-cleanup/>

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ “Direct Testimony Of Thomas M. Alexander,” Case No. 24683,

https://ocdimage.emnrd.nm.gov/Imaging/FileStore/santafe/cf/20250811/24683_08_11_2025_10_11_12.pdf

³⁰ “Rebuttal Testimony of Andrea Felix on Behalf Of New Mexico Oil And Gas Association,” September 19, 2025.

https://ocdimage.emnrd.nm.gov/Imaging/FileStore/santafe/cf/20250922/24683_09_22_2025_04_17_06.pdf

³¹ Ibid.

³² Mark Olalde and Nick Bowlin, “Oil industry profits don’t pay for cleanup,” High Country News, February 26, 2024. <https://www.hcn.org/articles/oil-industry-profits-dont-pay-for-cleanup/>

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Kyle Ferrar, “Assessment of Oil and Gas Well Ownership Transfers in California,” May 18, 2023.

<https://www.fractracker.org/2023/05/assessment-of-oil-and-gas-well-ownership-transfers-in-ca/>

³⁵ “Rebuttal Testimony of Andrea Felix on Behalf Of New Mexico Oil And Gas Association,” September 19, 2025.

https://ocdimage.emnrd.nm.gov/Imaging/FileStore/santafe/cf/20250922/24683_09_22_2025_04_17_06.pdf

³⁶ Mark Olalde and Nick Bowlin, “The Rising Cost of the Oil Industry’s Slow Death,” Feb. 22, 2024.

<https://www.propublica.org/article/the-rising-cost-of-the-oil-industrys-slow-death>

³⁷ “Direct Testimony Of Thomas M. Alexander,” Case No. 24683,

https://ocdimage.emnrd.nm.gov/Imaging/FileStore/santafe/cf/20250811/24683_08_11_2025_10_11_12.pdf

³⁸ Center for Biological Diversity and EarthRights International, “Re: Request to Enforce Law Against Operators for Failing to Properly Plug and Remediate Inactive Oil and Gas Wells,” August 21, 2024.

<https://biologicaldiversity.org/programs/energy-justice/pdfs/24-08-21-OCD-Request-for-Enforcement-Action.pdf>

³⁹ This includes one year of inactivity before being placed in temporary abandonment, five years for an initial administrative approval from OCD to be placed in temporary abandonment, and two years for a second approval from OCD after a public hearing to be placed in temporary abandonment.

⁴⁰ LFC, “Policy Spotlight: Orphaned Wells,” June 24, 2025.

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/ALFC%20062425%20Item%204%20Policy%20Spotlight%20Orphaned%20Wells.pdf>

⁴¹ Ibid.



State of New Mexico
House of Representatives
Santa Fe

COMMITTEES:

VICE CHAIR: Appropriations & Finance
Energy, Environment & Natural Resources

MEREDITH A. DIXON

D - Bernalillo
District 20

1412 Stagecoach Ln. SE
Albuquerque, NM 87123
Office: (505) 986-4316
Cell: (505) 401-8339

E-mail: meredith.dixon@nmlegis.gov

Commissioner William Ampomah
Commissioner Greg Bloom
Chairman Albert Chang
New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: Legislative Authority and Policy Considerations in Pending Rulemaking (Case No. 24683)

Dear Chairman Chang, Commissioner Bloom, and Commissioner Ampomah:

As a member of the New Mexico Legislature, I appreciate the Oil Conservation Commission's ("Commission") important work to ensure the responsible development of New Mexico's oil and gas resources. I believe I have a responsibility to safeguard the Legislature's constitutional role in establishing the policies that guide such regulation. And as such, I write to express concern that certain proposals in the pending rulemaking (Case No. 24683) would exceed the authority that the Legislature has delegated to the Commission and the Oil Conservation Division ("Division") under the New Mexico Oil and Gas Act, NMSA 1978, §§ 70-2-1 et seq.

Specifically, the Oil and Gas Act (the "Act") gives the Commission the power to administer and enforce the Act's provisions, not to redefine or expand them. Sections 70-2-6, -11, and -12 authorize the Commission to make rules "necessary to carry out the purposes of the Act," but that authority does not extend to creating new substantive rights or obligations that the Legislature has not enacted. Importantly, courts have consistently held that an agency may not adopt rules that alter the balance or limits established by statute. See *Marbob Energy Corp. v. N.M. Oil Conservation Comm'n*, 2009-NMSC-013; *Morningstar Water Users Ass'n v. N.M. PUC*, 1995-NMSC-062.

Several of the proposed amendments now before the Commission would do precisely that. They include:

1. **New financial-assurance categories** - such as the creation of "marginal well" bonding—that would effectively circumvent the Legislature's clear \$250,000 cap on blanket financial assurance under § 70-2-14(A);
2. **Expanded regulation of acquisitions and ownership transfers** - under proposed

3. 19.15.8.9(A) NMAC, which would extend the Division's reach beyond operations into private property transactions; and
4. **New definitional and enforcement presumptions** - that would re-write the Legislature's statutory structure for well status, abandonment, and beneficial use.

These proposals represent significant policy changes that the Legislature has not authorized and that should be debated and enacted through the legislative process. The Legislature has historically adjusted the financial-assurance framework itself—most recently in 2015 and 2018—and has not granted the Commission authority to create new categories or alter statutory limits through rulemaking.

Beyond the legal issues, the policy implications are substantial. The proposed changes could have major economic and operational effects on New Mexico's producing wells—particularly small and marginal wells that contribute to state revenues, rural employment, and energy stability. Such broad policy choices warrant full legislative deliberation, fiscal analysis, and public debate.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Commission to defer action on the portions of the proposed rule that exceed existing statutory authority and to allow the Legislature to consider whether additional changes to the Act are warranted. Doing so would ensure that any new policy direction is implemented through the constitutionally prescribed process and would maintain the clear separation between legislative policy-making and administrative execution.

I appreciate your service to the State of New.

Respectfully,



Meredith A. Dixon
House of Representatives, District 20

Proposed New Nature Gas Production Regulations.

Good Afternoon, I'm Ian Schultz, an Architect with over 45 years of professional experience in the design and construction of small and large facilities for governments and private corporations. I have resided in Albuquerque throughout my career while completing projects across the United States and overseas.

The growth of the New Mexico, the United States and world economies are highly dependent on the availability of abundant, affordable energy for domestic and industrial use. Every individual and industry requires some measure of energy for his or her survival and operations. Without an adequate supply of affordable energy, the world population will not have life sustaining supplies of food, clothing, housing, warmth, medicine and other essentials.

New Mexico is highly dependent on the revenues provided by the oil and gas industry. In fact, revenues from the oil and gas industry constitute 51% of our State's budget. 1/3 of the State budget is used to fund our educational systems.

The proposed additional regulations will prove to be an unsustainable burden for New Mexico's small oil & gas producers, driving them out of New Mexico. The loss of small producers will cause a significant decline in good high paying jobs, and a corresponding decline in State revenues. The resulting decline in production of oil and gas in New Mexico will result in higher energy costs. Higher energy costs will inflate the cost of everything, particularly the cost of housing. Currently, In New Mexico affordable housing is at a critical point.

I request that the proposed additional regulations and fee increases be rejected

Thank you for your attention in these matters.