

From: [Oracio Sanchez](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 6:52:42 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 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,

Oracio Sanchez
3912 turtle Creek ave las cruces nm
Las Cruces, NM 88005-3693
obsanchez1949@gmail.com
575-800-4665

From: [Robin Hudson Walters](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Saturday, October 25, 2025 8:29:41 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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Robin Hudson Walters
418 Mustang Lane
Bloomfield, NM 87413-7216
cubbo11@msn.com
505-320-0130

From: [Ron Fellabaum](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Thursday, October 30, 2025 10:41:13 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,

Ron Fellabaum
6510 Big Cedar ave
Farmington, NM 87402-5226
fellaba@aol.com
505-320-1334

From: [Ron Gordon](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 11:19:14 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.

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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Ron Gordon
10431 Toledo St NW
Albuquerque, NM 87114-5512
gordo505@me.com
505-977-8773

From: [Ronald Teske](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Thursday, October 30, 2025 9:17:16 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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Ronald Teske
425 Dee Ann Avenue
Gallup, NM 87301-5723
ranteske@hotmail.com
505-544-3909

From: [Parker Kimbley](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Thursday, October 30, 2025 7:10:19 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,

Parker Kimbley
78 N Roberson rd
Carlsbad, NM 88220-8530
parkermmx@gmail.com
575-236-6600

From: [Oracio Sanchez](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 6:50:40 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,

Oracio Sanchez
3912 turtle Creek ave las cruces nm
Las Cruces, NM 88005-3693
obsanchez1949@gmail.com
575-800-4665

From: [Oscar Jones](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Thursday, October 30, 2025 4:11:59 AM

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Dear OCD Hearings,

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Oscar Jones
34B Yatahey Loop
Yatahey, NM 87375-8042
navabeau@gmail.com
505-567-4351

From: [Pamela Jurkowski](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Friday, October 31, 2025 1:47:00 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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Pamela Jurkowski
6480 Camino Seguro #17
La Mesa, NM 88044-9535
hajewelrydesigns@gmail.com
575-642-0196

From: [Pamela Sundeen](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Sunday, November 2, 2025 8:29:18 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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Pamela Sundeen
2500 N Valley
Las Cruces, NM 88007-5165
psundeen@hotmail.com
915-588-0547

From: [Rosemary Smith](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Friday, October 31, 2025 6:51:45 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.

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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Rosemary Smith
2202 Baylor
Roswell, NM 88203-2430
rosemarysmith7@gmail.com
575-910-7701

From: [Pat Krakauskas](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 8:38:42 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.

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Sincerely,

Pat Krakauskas
42 north sky loop
Roswell, NM 88201-8305
patkrakauskas@gmail.com
575-208-0153

From: [Rudolph Serrano](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 5:31:24 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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Rudolph Serrano
9686 Asbury Ln
Albuquerque, NM 87114-4345
shrinerspuppetscircus@gmail.com
505-627-8674

From: [Ruth Butler](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Thursday, October 30, 2025 10:32:39 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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Ruth Butler
12 Garbosa rd
Santa Fe, NM 87508-8719
ruth702@ail.com
505-577-1489

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

Patty Collins
PO Box 358, Hobbs
Hobbs, NM 88231-0358
pattycvan@ail.com
575-318-9525

From: [Paul Thompson](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 4:59:15 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,

Paul Thompson
5423 Foothills Dr
Farmington, NM 87402-8280
paul@walsheng.net
505-320-3194

From: [Paula Vance](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Friday, October 31, 2025 3:06:15 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,

Paula Vance
110 North Guadalupe Street, Suite 1
Santa Fe, NM 87501-1849
pmvance@hollandhart.com
505-954-7286

From: [Penny Schinagel](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Saturday, November 1, 2025 11:08:40 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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Penny Schinagel
PO Box 619
Garfield, NM 88021-0619
Penny@assetre.com
575-497-0050

From: [Pete Turner](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Thursday, October 30, 2025 6:24:26 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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Pete Turner
320 west Clearfork dr.
Hobbs, NM 88240-1943
peteturner@icloud.com
575-631-7808

From: [Peter Padoven](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 5:32:18 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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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,

Peter Padoven
105 Archuleta Lane
Taos, NM 87571-4317
wirepadoven@gmail.com
575-751-7752

From: [Phil Hawes](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 7:03:14 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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Phil Hawes
78 Elk Drive. Chama, NM
Chama, NM 87520-0827
hawes.lyndasue@gmail.com
575-756-2777

From: [Philip Mathews](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 4:42:18 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.

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,

Philip Mathews
1607 Camino Del Arco
Hobbs, NM 88240-0956
pkm@pkmcm.com
575-691-5060

From: [Rebecca Parks](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Friday, October 31, 2025 10:44:43 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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Rebecca Parks
2209 Walker Rd
Roswell, NM 88201-8985
bparks1960@yahoo.com
575-840-0476

From: [Refugia Rodriguez](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 7:25:18 PM

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Sincerely,

Refugia Rodriguez
145 Marquita lane
El Paso, TX 79915-3549
rodriguez.refugia14@gmail.com
915-861-0122

From: [Reid Edwards](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 6:57:16 AM

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Thank you for your leadership and attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Reid Edwards
2409 W Cerro Road, Artesia, NM
Artesia, NM 88210-9465
raedwards4@gmail.com
575-703-7403

From: [Reid Reid](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Thursday, October 30, 2025 6:24:26 PM

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Reid Reid
80 wanda rd
Maljamar, NM 88264
Barheartx ranch@gmail.com
806-632-7728

From: [Rhoda Winters](#)
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.

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

Rhoda Winters
4205 Hoffmann Drive Trlr 1
Las Cruces, NM 88005-1071
rhodarenee@comcast.net
575-640-1365

From: [Rhonda Van Dran](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Sunday, November 2, 2025 6:13:16 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 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,

Rhonda Van Dran
54 Old Ranch Road Silver City, NM
Silver City, NM 88061-9185
rkfnra@yahoo.com
575-654-2828

From: [Richard Collins](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Friday, October 24, 2025 9:16:22 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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Richard Collins
P. O. Box 2281
Farmington, NM 87499-2281
sousa12@outlook.com
505-486-0256

From: [Richard Corley](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 1:36:15 PM

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Richard Corley
4719 zeno pl
Las Cruces, NM 88012-8007
Rcor54@gmail.com
575-636-3398

From: [Richard Marshall](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 5:07:38 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.

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Sincerely,

Richard Marshall
8414 Molinar Rd
Carlsbad, NM 88220-8718
ramjomarshall@yahoo.com
575-361-0897

From: [Richard Williams](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Thursday, October 30, 2025 5:30:19 PM

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Dear OCD Hearings,

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Richard Williams
1105 west mathews
Roswell, NM 88203-2929
riccriver55@yahoo.com
575-208-9028

From: [Richard Williams](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Sunday, October 26, 2025 7:03:25 PM

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Dear OCD Hearings,

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Richard Williams
1105 west mathews
Roswell, NM 88203-2929
riccriver55@yahoo.com
575-208-9028

From: [Robert Brown](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Sunday, October 26, 2025 1:56:24 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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Robert Brown
410 Cimarron Trail
Carlsbad, NM 88220-6602
rlandvelmabrown@gmail.com
575-361-4847

From: [Robert Donnelly](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 8:27:23 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,

Robert Donnelly
P.O. Box 3488
Midland, TX 79702-3488
rrdonnelly@hotmail.com
432-683-6293

From: [Robert Ortiz](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Saturday, November 1, 2025 3:12:14 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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Robert Ortiz
1110 Calle del Cielo
Santa Fe, NM 87507-5029
rwosko@comcast.net
505-501-1136

From: [Robert Ortiz](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 12:21:19 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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Robert Ortiz
1110 Calle del Cielo
Santa Fe, NM 87507-5029
rwosko@comcast.net
505-501-1136

From: [Robin Crosno](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Saturday, October 25, 2025 4:24:26 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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Robin Crosno
2 pikes peke av
Belen, NM 87002
shotgundadm42@gmail.com
505-489-0664

From: [Patricia Sheely](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683
Date: Sunday, November 2, 2025 11:09:26 AM

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

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

I support the rulemaking to modernize New Mexico's bonding and cleanup rules for oil and gas wells.

It is critical that oil and gas wells be properly plugged and that any contamination be cleaned up. It is unacceptable to contaminate our land, water, and air. It endangers the health of our children, makes our water unsafe to drink, and degrades the soil for agriculture. It further spoils the beauty of the land which is important for tourism and recreation. Our main concern should be the health and welfare of the people who live next to the wells. They are impacted daily by poisonous and noxious fumes which affect their health.

It is just common sense that the private companies that have profited from our public resources should be responsible for cleaning up the inevitable spills and plugging wells that are no longer producing.

I applaud the companies that have properly plugged 95% of the wells. But the remaining 5% are still producing a vast amount of pollution.

New Mexico has a huge number of orphaned, abandoned, and low producing wells that no one is taking responsibility for cleaning up.

Corporations are gaming the system and using loopholes to get rid of high risk, marginally producing wells by selling them to poorly funded companies. The present deposit system does not provide enough money to clean up and plug these wells. The average cost to clean-up one well is \$163,000. The state is left on the hook for a huge clean up bill. The Legislative Finance Council estimates the state's liability for abandoned wells to be \$700 million to \$1.6 billion. This is a lot of money.

All of us, including corporations, like to believe that we are performing in an ethical manner. But the truth is, cost and the desire to make a bigger profit get in the way. This is why rules and regulations are necessary to ensure that everyone pays the actual cost of doing business and cleans up any mess that occurs.

New Mexico is not a rich state, and we need to make sure that our money is spent on social programs and education rather than oil and gas well clean-up. I for one think that corporations should leave the land like they found it. New oil and gas bonding rules are the morally right thing to do. We owe it to our great-great-great-grandchildren and to the Earth.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Patricia Sheely
604 Jeff King Street

Gallup, NM 87301
(505) 722-7564
patsheely@gmail.com

Good morning/afternoon Chair, Commissioners. My name is Ava Curtis, and I'm speaking on behalf of the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club in strong support of the proposed bonding rule changes.

Right now, oil and gas corporations can drill dozens or even hundreds of wells in New Mexico while posting bonds that cover only a fraction of the cost. The Legislative Finance Committee found plugging to cost an average of \$163,000 per well, and some cost over \$700,000.

Because of outdated bonding rules, the public is left paying to plug wells to prevent them from releasing toxins into the air and water. In the last five years, over \$100 million in public funds—state and federal—has been spent to clean up abandoned wells. Simply put this is not the responsibility of New Mexico tax payers. We still face up to \$1.6 billion in future cleanup costs. Consider what New Mexico could provide to its residents with \$1.6 billion dollars.

These abandoned wells don't just create financial risk, they're dangerous. The methane and toxins leak into the air and our groundwater, harming wildlife and public health, especially in rural and Tribal communities. Air quality is critical to our health. Air pollution harms us all, not just leading to respiratory problems but other issues less commonly associated with air pollution including neurological disease.

New Mexicans deserve safe clean air, and we don't deserve to be left with a massive \$1.6 billion dollar clean up bill when these oil and gas companies have more than enough resources to pay for plugging these wells.

These rule updates are a chance to finally align policy with common sense. Please vote to adopt stronger bonding rules. Let's protect our air, water, and wallets and make sure no one gets to profit while leaving the rest of us with the mess.

From: [Patty Cannedy](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 8:49:17 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.

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,

Patty Cannedy
P.O. Box 1662
Elephant Butte, NM 87935-1662
partybcannedy@aol.com
575-497-0166

New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission

Att: Sheila Apodaca

Commission Clerk

October 31, 2025

Public Comment to Oil Conservation Commission

Case No. 24683

Paul Biderman, Attorney at Law, on his own behalf and as legal counsel for 350 Santa Fe, Inc. (referred to as “commentors”), files this comment in the commission’s rulemaking proceeding regarding the plugging of oil wells in New Mexico.

Commentors

Commentor Paul Biderman has been a licensed New Mexico attorney since 1971. He served a four-year term as New Mexico’s Secretary of Energy and Minerals from 1983—1986.

Commentor 350 Santa Fe, Inc. is a 501 C(4) non-profit corporation incorporated in New Mexico. The mission of this all-volunteer group is “to promote rapid and just reductions in greenhouse gas emissions through education and advocacy in Santa Fe and New Mexico, as we work to secure a healthy planet.”

Commentors’ position and argument

Commentors support the position and arguments of petitioners Western Environmental Law Center, *et al* [petitioners]. This comment is filed to stress that the climate crisis urgently requires the granting of their petition in its entirety.

Climate change, which has worldwide impacts, derives from countless sources of greenhouse gases [GHG’s] around the world. Recent reports indicate that despite growth in renewable energy sources, GHG emissions from human-caused sources continue to rise. But some sources emit more GHG’s than others. Among the larger emitters are oil wells, which are particularly large sources of methane gas. This GHG is among the most powerful of such gases, trapping solar radiation with dozens of times the efficiency of carbon dioxide. Considered over the period of the next 100 years, methane’s impact per unit released is 28 times greater than that of carbon dioxide (<https://salatainstitute.harvard.edu/key-opportunities-for-reducing-methane-emissions-even-during-challenging-times/>). And New Mexico, especially through hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) within its share of the Permian Basin, is one of the largest producers of oil in the world. Our State’s contribution to GHG’s is, therefore, correspondingly large.

The rule proposed by petitioners would significantly reduce these methane emissions during the period after the well's economical productivity has ended. Plugging all exhausted wells promptly and completely— if they are plugged at all—is crucial to avoid methane leakage from such dormant wells. The proposed requirements for adequate bonding are essential to ensure that, from the time the operating permit is issued, funds are available to cover the costs for adequately and expeditiously plugging these wells. Since many such wells have been abandoned, especially by smaller, undercapitalized producers, the state is forced to pay the costs of plugging them, estimated at roughly \$160,000 each. Adequately priced bonding protects the state from incurring such expenses and avoids unnecessary delays in plugging. These and similar safeguards have been explained in the petition and evidence presented by the petitioners.

As noted, when bonding requirements are insufficient to pay for plugging of depleted wells, the state must pick up the roughly \$160,000 per well expense. But this is not the only cost to the public. By trapping the sun's heat, GHG's heat the earth's surface, atmosphere and bodies of water. This heating has numerous costly impacts throughout the world, including strengthened hurricanes, glacial retreat, rising sea levels and destruction of vital coral reefs, to name just a few. Methane emissions also form ground level ozone. Based on the 2021 United Nations data, we estimate that cutting emissions from oil wells would annually prevent over 100,000 premature deaths worldwide, 250,000 asthma-related hospital visits, and 25 billion hours of lost labor from extreme heat.

But even disregarding impacts outside our State, global warming imposes significant costs on New Mexicans. It is well established that the extended drought afflicting our region is attributable in large part to climate change. Lower annual snow accumulations lead to lower spring runoffs, weakening river flows. Drought has dropped reservoir levels and caused forests to lose moisture, leading to catastrophic fires. Fires have created burn scars that have led to flooding, as burned foliage that could stem rain runoff is destroyed. Flooding has resulted from larger storms, because warmer air holds more moisture when it moves into the State. Trees have also become stressed, leading many that survive fire to be devastated by bark beetles or other infestations.

The results of these environmental impacts have already imposed very severe indirect costs on New Mexicans. The forest fires have caused deaths of people and animals, and destroyed homes and businesses. Property values are affected in communities at risk of damage. Floods have also caused deaths and destroyed property. All of this also raises insurance rates, especially in certain higher at-risk areas. Recreational usage of the State's parks, lakes, ski slopes and wilderness areas is affected. It is likely that we can add costs from the drying out of farm and grazing lands as average annual rainfall drops and aquifers go unreplenished. And the businesses serving all these areas and employees who will lose jobs will be impacted.

Since the full extent of each disaster is unpredictable, it is not possible to put a reliable cost on each of these effects of our warming climate. But all the indicators point to significant impacts on quality of life, preservation of property, and lives themselves.

How will adoption of the proposed rule help?

For each industry and business to point the fingers at other businesses or countries as the *real* bad actors, or to plead for hardship exemptions for themselves, all but guarantees unabated increases in average temperatures, with the full panoply of consequences. Especially for the oil industry, whose business is one of the most profitable in history, bonding requirements must be adequate to protect state taxpayers against expenses by producers seeking to avoid expenses they have caused.

Adoption of the proposed rule will reduce emissions from a highly significant source of GHG's, by simply ensuring that they will do their duty to clean up after themselves. It is a source that is within the current authority of this Commission to control. It will reduce emissions from a major source of GHG's that profits New Mexico immensely. Because this State benefits so greatly from the drilling permits we issue, we have a responsibility to our people and to the rest of the country to protect it against harmful consequences.

Conclusion

Methane emissions from abandoned wells are not alone responsible for global warming. No single source of GHG's, including delayed or inadequate plugging of abandoned wells, is so great that turning off a single spigot can return surface temperatures to safe, pre-industrial levels.

But it is specious to cite that as a justification for doing nothing. We cannot choose to wait for certainty before taking action; to do so guarantees that we will have waited too long. The very fact that multiple sources of GHG's each contribute relatively small amounts to climate change is all the more reason to take every opportunity to eliminate as many sources as completely as possible. No other approach can succeed.

Commentors therefore request that this Commission adopt strong rules to ensure prompt, complete and permanent plugging of oil wells, as proposed by the draft rules and enhanced by the submission of Western Environmental Law Center et al.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul L. Biderman". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Paul Biderman

Attorney at Law

On his own behalf and as legal counsel for 350 Santa Fe, Inc.

From: [Raymond Schumacher](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 5:31:29 PM

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Dear OCD Hearings,

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Raymond Schumacher
5708 Wales dr
Santa Teresa, NM 88008-9792
Rschu5829@yahoo.com
575-305-5044

From: [RoybalCaballero, Pat](#)
To: [Hearings_OCC_EMNRD](#)
Subject: RE: Case No. 24683
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 9:58:40 AM
Attachments: [Letterhead.png](#)

You don't often get email from pat.roybalcaballero@nmlegis.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)



PATRICIA ROYBAL CABALLERO

D - Bernalillo
District 13

P. O. Box 72574
Albuquerque, NM 87195

E-mail: patriciaform@gmail.com
E-mail: pat.roybalcaballero@nmlegis.gov

State of New Mexico
House of Representatives
Santa Fe

COMMITTEES:

CHAIR: Labor, Veterans' & Military Affairs
Education

INTERIM COMMITTEES:

VICE CHAIR: Investments & Pensions Oversight
Legislative Council
Indian Affairs
New Mexico Finance Authority Oversight

Advisory Member:

Legislative Education Study
Economic & Rural Development & Policy
Legislative Health & Human Services
Mortgage Finance Authority Act Oversight
Water & Natural Resources

Patricia Roybal Caballero
New Mexico State Representative, District 13
Public Comment to New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission
Case No. 24683

Chair and Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed updates to New Mexico's oil and gas bonding and cleanup rules. As a state representative with a background in community economic development, I understand firsthand how strong, fair policies can create jobs, protect public health, and strengthen local economies. This rulemaking offers a critical opportunity to do all three.

For decades, oil and gas corporations have made billions from New Mexico's resources. Yet when wells stop producing, too many companies walk away, leaving aging, leaking infrastructure behind. Those abandoned wells don't just scar the landscape – they leak methane and toxins, threaten groundwater, and endanger nearby families – and often our rural and Tribal communities. When companies don't clean up after themselves, it's New Mexico taxpayers who pay the price.

Our current bonding system is badly outdated. Some operators are only required to put up as little as \$105 per well, or just \$250,000 statewide, no matter how many wells they own. Meanwhile, the average cost to plug a well is \$163,000, and some cost far more. With over 700 abandoned wells already identified and thousands more at risk, the total cleanup liability for our state is estimated at \$700 million to \$1.6 billion. That's neither fair nor sustainable.

We can fix this with common-sense reforms that put responsibility where it belongs, including requiring \$150,000 per inactive or high-risk wells and bonding for every well if 15% or more of an operator's wells are idle, preventing companies from taking over wells they can't afford to address, and ending the "temporary abandonment" loophole by limiting it to 8 years.

These updates protect taxpayers, strengthen accountability, and support good-paying jobs in well plugging and land restoration. These are jobs that can sustain families and communities long after the drilling boom fades.

New Mexicans believe in fairness: If you make a mess, you clean it up. It's time our bonding laws reflect that shared value. I strongly urge the Oil Conservation Commission to modernize bonding rules so that polluters, not my constituents, bear the true cost of cleanup, and New Mexico's people, land, and water are protected for generations to come.

Thank you for your time on this issue.

--

Patricia Roybal Caballero, **Working With Community**
State Representative, Bernalillo District 13, New Mexico
Current, National Treasurer, National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators
Member, Native American Caucus, New Mexico House of Representatives
House Democratic Caucus Chair (2015-2017)
LULAC National Treasurer (2015-2018)
P.O. Box 72574
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87195
(505) 710-5996 District 13 Message Number: (505) 585-1849

MCRP, Masters of Community and Regional Planning
MPA, Masters of Public Administration, University of New Mexico
Ph.D., Chicana and Chicano Studies (in progress)

"Let us not lead by the example of power but by the power of example." Barack Obama

"We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community... Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own." Cesar Chavez

From: [Ron Mittan](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re. Case No. 24683
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 9:52:52 AM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

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

The obligation to properly decommission a well must apply to all parties who have held an interest in that well, and they must be held jointly and severally liable.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Ron Mittan
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Albuquerque, NM 87120