

From: [Amy Calderon](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 2:15:15 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 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,

Amy Calderon
6300 Riverside Plaza Ln NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120-2617
acalderon@titan-development.com
505-917-5303

From: [Stacey Gregg](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 8:46:14 AM

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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,

Stacey Gregg
3945 CR 140
Stephenville, TX 76401-9176
sgregg@dgoc.com
940-445-9016

From: [Steven Thurston](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 7:58:17 AM

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

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

As 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,

Steven Thurston
10602 Beaufort Ave
Lubbock, TX 79424-2464
sthurston@dgoc.com
432-266-0067

From: [Terrence Gant](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 4:03:39 PM

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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,

Terrence Gant
3208 Fairfield Land
Midland, TX 79705-1827
gant.tjk@sbcglobal.net
432-528-1121

From: [Tyler Adams](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 7:08:23 AM

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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,

Tyler Adams
310 W Wall Street, Ste 816, Midland, TX
Midland, TX 79701-5124
tyler@redriverep.com
985-630-3047

From: [Wendelyn Young](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 8:25:19 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,

Wendelyn Young
20 Plaza Olas Altos
Albuquerque, NM 87109-3633
wendelynyoung@gmail.com
505-205-9220

From: [Cindy Mocm](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 7:22:16 AM

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

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

As 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,

Cindy Mocm
2174 Acapulco Rd NE
Rio Rancho, NM 87144-5639
cmock73@gmail.com
248-872-5852

From: [Adonya Dryden](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 7:28:16 AM

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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,

Adonya Dryden
10100 Woolworth Rd
Keithville, LA 71047-7566
adryden@dgoc.com
318-751-3917

From: [Allison Ardel](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 5:45:17 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,

Allison Ardel
PO Box 2184
Fruitland, NM 87416-2184
Allisonardel@gmail.com
505-446-0014

From: [Corliss Thrower](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 5:05:17 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.

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,

Corliss Thrower
613 Meseta St
Farmington, NM 87401-3935
corthrower@gmail.com
505-330-6772

From: [Anthony Aton](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 7:38:39 AM

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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.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Anthony Aton
P.O. Box 104 Hardesty OK
Hardesty, OK 73944-0104
TATON@DGOC.COM
580-651-4902

From: [Arbaz Hussain](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 8:07:23 AM

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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,

Arbaz Hussain
1000 main st
Houston, TX 77002-6336
Ahussain@dgoc.com
832-589-5181

From: [Austin Adkins](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 7:01:18 AM

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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 Adkins
5519 53rd St, Lubbock, TX
Lubbock, TX 79414-1677
austin@maskedrider.com
806-239-5810

From: [Austin Humphrey-Hernandez](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 3:10:18 PM

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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,

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

From: [Carol Sims](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 3:46:42 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.

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,

Carol Sims
3109 N Pontiac Dr Farmington NM
Farmington, NM 87401-4141
casquilt@yahoo.com
505-330-7976

From: [Wendelyn Young](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 12:38:14 AM

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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,

Wendelyn Young
20 Plaza Olas altos
Albuquerque, NM 87109-3633
wendelynyoung@gmail.com
505-205-9220

From: [Chee Benallie](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 3:20:40 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.

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

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

From: [COLBY WHITLOCK](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 7:40:47 AM

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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,

COLBY WHITLOCK
1677 HWY 792
Heflin, LA 71039-3582
cwhitlock@dgoc.com
318-455-5393

From: [William Kornemann](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 9:37:47 AM

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Sincerely,

William Kornemann
1724 Chacoma pl see
Albuquerque, NM 87104-1109
shylo15771@icloud.com
505-504-1172

From: [Dorothy Berry](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 8:28:25 AM

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Dear OCD Hearings,

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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

Dorothy Berry
1094 Chaco Ave
Farmington, NM 87401-2420
doz.54@hotmail.com
505-360-3057

From: [Dustin Frank](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 3:08:16 PM

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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,

Dustin Frank
1504 N 19th St
Eunice, NM 88231-3408
dfrank92@aol.com
575-631-9103

From: [Dustin Frank](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 3:08:16 PM

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Sincerely,

Dustin Frank
1504 N 19th St
Eunice, NM 88231-3408
dfrank92@aol.com
575-631-9103

From: [Elizabeth Price](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 1:00:37 PM

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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,

Elizabeth Price
1318 Sycamore St
Weatherford, OK 73096-2746
eprice@dgoc.com
580-330-0726

From: [Fernanda Mendoza](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 7:28:15 AM

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Dear OCD Hearings,

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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

Fernanda Mendoza
2405 Ave C
Carlsbad, NM 88220-3148
fmendoza@133gmail.com
575-361-5999

From: [Fernando Barrera](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 11:11:15 AM

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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,

Fernando Barrera
4721 W. Grey Ghost Rd
Hobbs, NM 88240-0891
FBARRERA@DGOC.COM
575-631-8369

From: [Frederick Schwering](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 10:08:16 AM

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Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

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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,

Frederick Schwering
5836 SUNSET CT
Athens, TX 75752-6500
fredas1981@icloud.com
903-681-4530

From: [George PATE](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 8:37:14 PM

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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,

George PATE
5731 Greer Loop Southwest
Albuquerque, NM 87105-6759
bpate5731@comcast.net
505-220-8788

From: [Gordon Hebert](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 10:15:25 AM

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Gordon Hebert
386 Buffalo Circle SE
Portland, OR 97211-2930
savyaw@gmail.com
503-261-8543

From: [Guy Oliphint](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 3:14:16 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,

Guy Oliphint
300 N Marienfeld St
Midland, TX 79701-4334
guy.oliphint@gmail.com
281-221-6171

From: [Hadley Smith](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 8:03:15 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 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,

Hadley Smith
624 N 10th St
Wolfforth, TX 79382-3230
hsmith@dgo.com
806-323-3178

From: [Hays Mabry](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 3:14:16 PM

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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,

Hays Mabry
300 N. Marienfeld St., Ste. 1000, Midland, TX
Midland, TX 79701-4688
hays.mabry@permianres.com
832-240-3265

From: [Jack Stowers](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 7:44:14 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 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,

Jack Stowers
127 Clubhouse Ct.
Elk City, OK 73644-9773
JSTOWERS@DGOC.COM
405-203-4935

From: [James McDaniel Jr](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 8:07:23 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,

James McDaniel Jr
PO Box 264 Kirvin, TX
Kirvin, TX 75848-0264
jmcdaniel@dgoc.com
903-390-7462

From: [Janet Adrienne Griffin](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 8:14:39 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.

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

Janet Adrienne Griffin
640 grace st. ne
Albuquerque, NM 87123-1319
abusdev@aol.com
505-710-1017

From: [Jay Jenkins](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 3:33:21 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,

Jay Jenkins
202 W. Stevens
Carlsbad, NM 88220-5837
jay.jenkins@ourcnb.com
575-706-2873

From: [JEANI "JP" POWELL](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 7:34:21 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 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,

JEANI "JP" POWELL
211 N. Robinson Ave, STE N-1000
Oklahoma City, OK 73102-7195
jppowell@dgoc.com
405-702-4386

From: [Jennifer Rohwer](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 5:55:15 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,

Jennifer Rohwer
PO Box 1409
Eunice, NM 88231-1409
jennifer.rohwer@gmail.com
575-441-1036

From: [Jess Scappaticci](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 7:31:14 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,

Jess Scappaticci
907 N. Thomas
Carlsbad, NM 88220-4573
voidstardark@gmail.com
303-621-6147

From: [Joe Burton](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 7:38:38 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 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,

Joe Burton
po box 335
Seiling, OK 73663-0335
jburton@dgoc.com
580-571-2395

From: [John Townsend](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 1:18:19 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.

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

John Townsend
5092 Calle Pastura
Las Cruces, NM 88012-7102
johntownsand@gmail.com
575-496-3659

From: [Jonny Heins](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment - Permian Resources Operating, LLC
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 9:33:32 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Permian Resources Comment Letter - Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking \(11-4-25\) \[Final\].pdf](#)

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

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

Attached please find written comments submitted by Permian Resources Operating, LLC in relation to Case No. 24683.

Thank you,

Jonny Heins



Jonny Heins | Vice President of Corporate Affairs
P: 713.829.3581 | jonny.heins@permianres.com
300 N. Marienfeld Street, Suite 1000 | Midland, TX 79701
permianres.com

From: [Josh Canter](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 9:54:39 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,

Josh Canter
123 W Booth St
Santa Fe, NM 87505-8864
jcanter@mwellc.com
714-673-2626

From: [Karen Bica](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 10:29:14 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,

Karen Bica
5601 Dustin court NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120-3374
karenpbica@gmail.com
612-819-1147

From: [Karen Karabin](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 7:13:43 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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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

Karen Karabin
805 shady lane
Farmington, NM 87401-5456
b04151958@gmail.com
505-860-4056

From: [Karen Lloyd](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 5:28:41 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.

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,

Karen Lloyd
4 Blue Mule Dr
Edgewood, NM 87015-7046
karen.lloyd57@gmail.com
505-553-0505

From: [Kathleen Hastings](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 3:14:16 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.

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,

Kathleen Hastings
7355 La Fleche Pl, Las Cruces NM
Las Cruces, NM 88007-6058
kat.hastings111@gmail.com
214-552-9082

From: [Larry Hagelberg](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 8:38:39 AM

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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,

Larry Hagelberg
1051 8th St
Alva, OK 73717-3119
lhagelberg@dgoc.com
405-839-5525

From: [Leasa Jo Hale](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 3:02:39 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,

Leasa Jo Hale
1607 N Midland Dr Apt U-202
Midland, TX 79703-4747
lhale@swrpermian.com
432-661-1611

From: [Lee Livingston](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 7:28:16 AM

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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,

Lee Livingston
1308 Lewis Rd
Artesia, NM 88210-9686
leel@mec.com
575-703-5987

From: [Mark Trimmer](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 1:35:15 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,

Mark Trimmer
10211 Montgomery Boulevard Northeast
Albuquerque, NM 87111-3608
mark.trimmer@raymondjames.com
505-263-7846

From: [Martin Wise](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 7:46:14 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 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,

Martin Wise
19200 West County road 72
Crescent, OK 73028-9746
mwise@dgoc.com
405-714-4569

From: [Lee, Matt](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 4:00:44 PM

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

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PUBLIC COMMENT – Case No. 24683

Matt Lee, 25-year Oil & Gas insurance expert

Commissioners,

WELC's \$150,000 single-well bonds and blanket bond elimination will increase orphaned wells. Many operators will face insurmountable costs, triggering asset sales, bankruptcy, or abandonment. Colorado's recent rules prove it: similar overreach spiked orphaned wells, leaving taxpayers with the cleanup bill.

Oil & gas funds most of NM's budget. These rules will orphan more wells, not fewer, and shift costs to the State.

Fix – Two Proven Steps:

1. Require cash-backed ARO contracts at spud and for existing wells: fully funded, institutionally guaranteed, and available at plugging. This solution already exists.
2. Deploy the \$60M OCD Reclamation Fund to plug legacy orphans now.

This protects taxpayers, operators, and the environment without breaking the industry or crashing the State's budget.

Thank you.

Matt Lee
Lockton Companies

From: [Matthew Leachman](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 7:34:19 AM

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Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

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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,

Matthew Leachman
99 N Timber Falls Dr
Longview, TX 75605-8389
MLEACHMAN@DGOC.COM
724-366-9362

From: [Melba Wilcox](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 3:19:54 PM

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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.

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

Melba Wilcox
PO Box 1117
Aztec, NM 87410-1117
omaha_high@msn.com
505-793-1411

From: [Michael McNamara](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 3:14:15 PM

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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,

Michael McNamara
2504 Shell Ave
Midland, TX 79705-8420
michael.mcnamara@permian.com
806-773-1551

From: [Nathan Yocom](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 8:53:23 AM

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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,

Nathan Yocom
501 Eagle Drive
Hobbs, NM 88240-5324
NYOCOM@DGOC.COM
575-390-7406

From: [Pamela Sundeen](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 7:13:40 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.

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

Pamela Sundeen
2500 N Valley
Las Cruces, NM 88007-5165
psundeen@hotmail.com
915-588-0547

From: [Preston Miles](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 8:05:39 AM

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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,

Preston Miles
2092 Avenida De Las Alturas Santa Fe, NM
Santa Fe, NM 87505-5475
preston@federalabstractco.com
575-840-7782

From: [Rhonda Pettus](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 8:45:34 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 Pettus
2004 Municipal Drive, Farmington NM 87401
Farmington, NM 87401-3903
rhonda.pettus@icloud.com
505-419-9715

From: [richard.stewart](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 7:37:38 AM

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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,

richard stewart
205659 E CR 43
Woodward, OK 73801-5992
rstewart@dgoc.com
580-737-0077

From: [Rita Pachitu](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 11:03:42 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.

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

Sincerely,

Rita Pachitu
2215 Leonard St SE
Rio Rancho, NM 87124-1643
newmexicosmile@yahoo.com
505-401-2523

From: [Robert Shannon](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 - WELC Rulemaking Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 3:16:22 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 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,

Robert Shannon
300 N Marienfeld St, STE 1000
Midland, TX 79701-4688
robert.shannon@permianres.com
214-738-9744

From: [Liliana Castillo](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case No. 24683 public comment
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 9:36:33 AM

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

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Good morning Sheila! Thanks for your work.

I write to submit public comment on [Case No. 24683 in front of the Oil Conservation Commission.](#)

Good morning Commissioners, thank you for your service, and for the opportunity to give public comment.

My name is Liliana Castillo, and I'm one of the many New Mexicans who believe oil and gas operators regardless of size should be held responsible for cleaning up after themselves.

Some small operators claim that if bonding is increased, they'll walk away from their wells. Does that mean that they never intended to clean up after themselves to begin with, despite that responsibility being part of what they agreed to when they bought a well or drilled a new well? That argument is quite concerning — and it's exactly why these reforms are urgently needed.

Bonding is about prevention. It's how we make sure wells don't get abandoned in the first place — because once they do, the cleanup cost skyrockets, and the risk to our health and water grows.

We keep hearing that the Reclamation Fund is enough. But here's the truth: it's only part of the solution. We need both a robust Reclamation Fund and right-sized bonding. Right-sized bonding ensures the state has sufficient funds — funded by oil and gas corporations — when corporations walk away from their plugging responsibilities. The Reclamation Fund is a back up if the state doesn't have enough funding for plugging and cleanup. We need both.

A broken plugging system makes it even more important to get bonding right now. A broken system only amplifies the risk when bonds are insufficient. We cannot afford to underfund risk, especially when the cost of inaction falls on our communities.

If we wanted to scale up the Reclamation Fund, it would require a completely new, significant fee on industry, rather than just shuffling around tax revenues. That would result in pulling dollars away from other public needs like schools and healthcare — just to clean up oil and gas wells that corporations should be responsible for.

Bottom line is - if you drill it, you plug it - 100% of the time - at your own expense. Regulators should not need to chase companies down to fulfill this responsibility.

Please adopt these reforms and make sure the people who profit from drilling also pay for the cleanup.

Thank you.

Liliana Castillo
Cedar Crest, NM

--

Liliana Castillo

She/her
Director of Communications Accounts
575.219.9619



visit us online: www.singlespacestrategies.com

From: candiwendler@aol.com
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Charles Wendler written statement
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 3:38:18 PM

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

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My name is Charles Wendler. I received my BA and Masters in School Administration at Western NM University in Silver City N.M. I taught science and math and have seen the effects in our technology over the years. I am married to an Hispanic, a naturalized citizen. She also was an educator, a public school counselor. We have three children and six grandchildren: our oldest is an Air Force Academy graduate, Lt. Col., daughter, a Dr of Optometry and youngest son a chemical engineer. I have been in NM for many years since 1963.

We are very blessed with gas and oil in our state that has provided a large financial revenue source as well as high-paying jobs. It has also created a large permanent fund through our severance tax. This permanent fund had been used for various purposes including early childhood education.

I am a common-sense person and have lived long enough to realize the value of the natural resources of our state, copper, gold, silver, uranium, coal, timber to name a few. In today's economy, gas and oil is vital for us being energy independent - thus leading to economic development. Without energy we and our children cannot really prosper and to not fully support this sector will be like "killing the goose that killed the laid the golden egg."

I urge you to consider my perspective when voting on these regulations. Thank you very much for listening to my testimony today.

From: [Steve](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Cc: [Sydney Delambo](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Financial Assurance Increase
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 4:23:17 PM

You don't often get email from steveps2@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Oil Conservation Commision,

This purpose of this correspondence is to voice my opposition to the financial assurance increase.

I am a long time resident of Albuquerque. I graduated from New Mexico Highlands University and have served the citizens of New Mexico in state government for 26 years as a mental health professional.

In my retirement, I take advantage of the recreational activities New Mexico has to offer.

I frequent New Mexico ski resorts and looking forward to a great snow year. I recently purchased a state trust land permit and hiked to inscription rock near Los Lunas. Last month, I hiked the City of Rocks state park and the Gila Wilderness catwalk near Silver City.

On my modest pension and Social Security, I rely on gas powered vehicles to visit the above mentioned locations.

It is important that gas be reliable and affordable. New Mexico depends on royalties and taxes on the extraction industries to fund state government in order to maintain our parks, recreational destinations, roads, and education.

Rule making changes that are detrimental to the oil and gas industry would impede the production of these energy sources thus lowering state revenues, decrease employment opportunities, and making gas more expensive that would constrain my ability to visit the many natural wonders in the land of enchantment.

I encourage you not to approve an increase in financial assurance imposed upon the oil and gas industry.

Steven Epstein
5515 Kettle NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120

From: [Mary Ingham](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hearing public comment
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 4:11:28 PM

You don't often get email from marykmoon123@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Commissioners:

I appreciate the chance to share my thoughts with you on the upcoming, proposed rule changes. I spent my early years in South Dakota on the Sioux Reservation and moved to Crownpoint, NM on the Navajo Reservation in 1968.

I attended high school there and later received my Physical Therapy degree at the University of New Mexico. I have spent most of my career working with children affected by injuries and disabilities and their families through the Indian Children's Program and Carrie Tingley Hospital.

I have a grandson whose mother is Navajo and his grandfather and other family members were devastated by the closure of the coal fired electric San Juan Generating Station in 2022. This closure in the energy sector cost many good paying and stable jobs for Navajo people and many others in Northwest New Mexico. Many now depend on the Oil and Gas industry in that area. Decreases in those jobs would cause another very negative social and economic impact on many of my Navajo classmates and family members in Northwest NM as well as other small and large family businesses in that area.

Much of the funding for children's services and education comes from the Oil and Gas industry. Children with disabilities and special needs require many of these resources, and they are some of the most vulnerable citizens to these losses. The across-the-board losses would be felt in every sector of the communities that provide the oil and gas that fuels our economy and good quality of life in NM. Loss of any of the funding and community support provided by the Oil and Gas industry would be felt way downstream in the lives of the citizens in other geographic areas of the state and especially with special needs children and families that I love so much.

I have 5 children and 5 1/2 grandchildren who are dearly loved. I want them to grow up and thrive in our beautiful state. Keeping our bountiful oil, gas, and energy industry providing well-paying jobs, supporting small businesses and communities and funding many of our essential community needs across all 33 NM counties is essential.

In conclusion, I ask that you please do not support these rule changes for the sake of our children and families in NM.

Sincerely,

Mary Ingham, PT, MA
Pediatric Physical Therapist
2516 Chanate Ave. SW
Albuquerque, NM 87105

From: [Kate Trujillo](#)
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Kate Trujillo written statement
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 12:24:55 PM

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

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Hello, my name is Kathleen Trujillo, I have lived my entire life in New Mexico. I attended Rio Grande High school in the south Vally. Currently I reside on the Isleta Indian Reservation with my children and Grandchildren. We have farmed and ranched for over 40 years in Bernalillo County. My son graduated from UNM and currently works at Sandia National Labs. My late Husband retired from Sandia Labs after 40 years of service.

As a farmer and Rancher our small business is reliant upon economical oil and gas production. We will not be able to continue our operation going forward due to the steadily increasing oil and gas prices. It is not only a small business but a lifestyle. that we have cultivated for several years hoping to pass on to our grandchildren.

Increased regulation will only create more difficulty for the state of New Mexico gas and oil production. Negatively affecting my small business and all small businesses across New Mexico. These regulations and forced increased operations costs would systematically be passed on to the consumers. Adversely affecting the members of my community.

I would encourage you to please take into consideration my family and all the other small business persons struggle to operate within New Mexico as you vote on these regulations

Thank You
Kate Trujillo
Isleta NM

From: rodkehorse@cybermesa.com
To: [Hearings, OCC, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rusty Rodke 11-5-2025 Comment OCC hearing
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 12:37:51 PM

[You don't often get email from rodkehorse@cybermesa.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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This is Rusty Rodke. A graduate of both NMSU and UNM, I am a professional engineer with 28 years of experience as a state employee at the Office of the State Engineer (13 years), NM Environment Department (9 years) NM Department of Transportation (5 years) and 5 legislative sessions as an assistant Sergeant at Arms for the House. I currently teach at the Santa Fe Community College (7 years). My wife and I live in Santa Fe. My wife has been a professional horse trainer for over 25 years, and we traveled the state obtaining hay, horses and ribbons from horse shows.

Between my education and my careers in government service and education, I appreciate the vital funding that the oil and gas industry has provided to the state budget. I also appreciate your difficult decisions in balancing the health of the industry and the state's economy with protecting the citizens from orphan wells.

Doubling or tripling the current financial assurance on operators all at once could put them out of business. Oil and Gas is the goose that is laying the golden eggs. Killing the goose is not a good solution. Every regulation is a tax and never just affects the initial impacted party. We, the taxpayers, pay. Are we getting our money's worth? I urge you to consider my thoughts when you are voting on these regulations. Thank you for allowing my statement.

Rusty Rodke, Santa Fe, New Mexico



November 5, 2025

To: New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission
Re: Support for Proposed Bonding Rule Updates – [Case No. 24683](#)

Dear Members of the Oil Conservation Commission,

As local elected officials from communities across New Mexico, we write to express our strong support for the proposed rule changes to modernize oil and gas bonding requirements in Case No. 24683.

Our communities live with the legacy of thousands of oil and gas wells, many of which sit idle or are already abandoned. When wells are not properly plugged and restored, they pose real risks to our air, water, and public health. They also leave taxpayers and public funds vulnerable to billions in cleanup costs that should have been covered by the corporations that profited from the land.

We believe the proposed rule is a necessary and responsible update that will:

- Ensure the oil and gas industry—not the public—covers the true cost of cleanup
- Encourage responsible well management and discourage speculative leasing or low-capitalized operators
- Protect local air and water from the risks of long-idled or abandoned wells
- Strengthen financial assurances and rules so that cleanup actually happens—when it’s needed, not decades later

This is not about punishing good actors. It is about restoring the balance of responsibility and accountability—so that no New Mexican community is left with unsafe infrastructure and no funds to fix it.

We also believe these updates help preserve the long-term viability of our public lands and energy future. Clear, modern rules support predictability and fairness—for communities and corporations alike.

As local leaders, we are on the front lines when things go wrong—whether it’s a leaky well near a school, polluted groundwater affecting livestock, or a community struggling to recover from boom-and-bust cycles. We urge you to adopt these rules to help ensure New Mexicans are not left behind when the industry moves on.

Thank you for your service and for considering this important action.

Sincerely,

Angel Charley
State Senator, District 30

Carrie Hamblen
State Senator, District 38

Cindy Nava
State Senator, District 9

Micaelita Debbie O'Malley
State Senator, District 13

Harold Pope Jr.
State Senator, District 23

Antoinette Sedillo Lopez
State Senator, District 16

Liz Stefanics
State Senator, District 39

Mimi Stewart
State Senate President Pro Tem, District 17

Eleanor Chavez
State House Representative, District 26

Matthew McQueen
State House Representative, District 50

Kristina Ortez
State House Representative, District 42

Andrea Romero
State House Representative, District 46

Patricia Roybal Caballero
State House Representative, District 13

Diane Torres-Velasquez
State House Representative, District 30

Tammy Fiebelkorn
Albuquerque City Councilor

Eric Olivas
Bernalillo County Commissioner

Becky Corran
Las Cruces City Councilor

GloJean Todacheene
San Juan County Commissioner

Max Trujillo
San Miguel County Commissioner

Hank Hughes
Santa Fe County Commissioner

Alma Castro
Santa Fe City Councilor

Albert Jaramillo
Sunland Park City Councilor

Anjanette Brush
Taos County Commissioner

Darien Fernandez
Taos Town Councilor

Genevieve Oswald
Taos Town Councilor

Hello, my name is Frank Collette. In 1990 I moved from a big town of Austin, Texas to a smaller town of Aztec, New Mexico to raise my family. I started off in the oil field as a swamper and then went to work as a water hauler for several years. When the oil field collapsed, people in my community started moving out to move to different states where oil field work was available. When covid struck, the oilfield was shut down completely. Thousands of jobs around my area were lost and I watched people I had worked with for years have to make hard decisions to take care of their families. Then in 2025, the oil field picked back up and I'm seeing things starting to come around again.

The oilfield companies do a lot to help out the small towns. They sponsor sports teams and events. One of the biggest events in San Juan County is the Connie Mack World Series. The oil field companies sponsor not only the games, but the families that come in to compete. They also help during the holidays when most people need a little extra help.

We need to keep the oil fields open and running. They are crucial to communities and families that live in this state. If oilfields were to shut down, a lot of people will lose jobs and the economy will go in the wrong direction. It would devastate smaller towns and communities. I feel it would be detrimental to our state. We need the oilfields to keep small towns such as Aztec going. It's a future for our children and our communities. If you could just take ten minutes out of your busy day and see how much of an impact the oil field has on the people in the community and how they love this area, you will see just how important oil fields are us, our communities and our state.

November 5th, 2025

Dear Oil Conservation Commissioners,

I am a family physician and live in Taos. I am also a Board member of Healthy Climate New Mexico, an organization of over 300 medical and public health professionals who are concerned about the health impacts of climate change.

I am in strong support of modernizing the oil and gas bonding and clean-up rules.

Orphan and abandoned wells leak methane and a complex soup of toxic gases and volatile organic compounds, including benzene and hydrogen sulfide. These gases worsen asthma and cardiovascular disease, can impair childhood brain development, increase the risk of miscarriage, cause cancer, can damage neurological and immune systems, and contribute to premature deaths. Patients are directly impacted. Contaminants from these wells leach into the surrounding soil and water.

Additionally, we know methane is a potent greenhouse gas. It worsens air pollution. It contributes to the warming of the Earth and is a driver of climate change. In New Mexico, we are already experiencing the impacts of climate change through extreme weather events, drought, and devastating wildfires that harm health, economies, and livelihoods. Making sure oil and gas companies clean up their wells would lessen the amount of methane escaping into the air.

Updating the antiquated rules would hold oil and gas companies accountable – if you drill it, you are responsible for cleaning it up, protect our air, land, and water, and support the health of New Mexicans and our communities. I urge you to take this step.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kristin Graziano, DO, MPH, FAAFP
Family Physician
Board Member, Healthy Climate New Mexico

Good morning commissioners. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak to you.

My name is Lynnette Roller and I am an instructor at a small, regional university here in New Mexico. I was born in Roswell and spent my childhood in New Mexico and Europe as the child of an airman. As an adult, I traveled even more extensively as the spouse of a soldier (and NMMI graduate). In retirement, we returned to the state we hold dear. I love the variety of wonderful places to enjoy in the vast outdoors of New Mexico.

While working in education, I am daily confronted with state of our educational system. My students are underprepared, exhausted and often poorly nourished. They are good people being stretched to the limit with circumstances outside of their control. Jobs, family and emergencies make getting an education more challenging for them than many realize. Education gives my students hope for a rewarding future. Without the money from oil and gas, many of our students would not have the opportunity to pursue an education.

From the skills my students bring to the classroom, it is obvious that they are not getting the support they need in K-12 education. We need to properly fund K-12 education so that our students can compete in a very technical environment.

The oil and gas industry plays a vital role in our New Mexico economy. No other industry in New Mexico can bring in the much-needed funding for our state. Please consider the irreplaceable role oil and gas plays in our state when considering any new regulations such as financial assurance requirements.

New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission
1220 S. Saint Francis Drive
Pecos Hall
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

November 4, 2025

Good morning, Chair and Commissioners. My name is Melissa Troutman, and I represent the Permian Basin Coalition, which is a group of over 20 organizations dedicated to reducing pollution and other harms from intensified oil and gas production in the Permian region. Our organizations include staff, members, and volunteers who live, work, and recreate in the Permian. I'm here today to strongly support the proposed bonding and cleanup rule changes on behalf of the coalition.

Those of us who have lived in oil country know what this industry means to communities. But we also see the mess that some companies are leaving behind—abandoned wells, leaking equipment, and pollution creeping closer to homes and water sources.

Right now, oil and gas companies are making billions off the land, but when the wells deteriorate or stop producing, too many just walk away. And they can, because even where there are protective laws in place, like the Spill Rule (19.15.29 NMAC), penalties and fines are so rarely issued, it costs companies nothing to pollute and walk away. They leave behind aging, leaking infrastructure—and New Mexicans are left paying for it and assuming the risk.

Members of our coalition have been monitoring well sites in Loco Hills and other parts of the Permian Basin for years, and often the same, older, non- or low-producing wells are leaking. Equipment is so corroded that tanks and joints have collapsed, and we've witnessed many recurring spills. Some are never cleaned up.

For example, a company named PoCo Resources has several aging, dilapidated sites in Loco Hills that were observed leaking in 2023, 2024, and again, just a few weeks ago, on October 9th. Oil and waste fluids pooled inside the unlined containment of two tank batteries, around a spurting leak in a flow line, and around the well head of a partially dismantled pump jack that clearly hasn't operated in years.

I've included photos and GPS coordinates below:

32°44'38"N 104°11'50"W

PoCo Resources sites in Loco Hills outside Artesia, Lea County, NM

Spills photographed October 9, 2025; also documented Sept. 2024



Over 700 wells have already been flagged for public cleanup in New Mexico, but more than 4,000 are at risk of being abandoned and orphaned soon, and we are concerned that these spill sites of PoCo Resources are among them.

Oil and gas lobbyists want us to believe the Reclamation Fund can replace corporate responsibility. But the fund holds just \$66 million – while state data shows that New Mexico’s cleanup liability ranges between \$700 million and \$1.6 billion. That means the public could be on the hook for over a billion dollars in cleanup costs, while oil and gas corporations walk away with profits off of natural resources owned by all of us.

Moreover, the number of abandoned wells will increase as oil and gas production slows. We need to be prepared for that inevitability.

Families in Loving and across southeastern New Mexico are surrounded—pipelines in backyards, frack sites down the road. They have been left to live in a toxic cloud, whether they know it or not, while corporations walk away with profits.

We can’t let this continue. These rule updates are a common-sense fix to an unfair system:

- They require bonding of \$150,000 per high-risk or inactive well—still less than the total cleanup cost.
- They stop bad actors from inheriting wells they can’t afford to clean up.
- They close the loophole that lets companies call wells “temporarily abandoned” for eight years or more—with no action and no cleanup.

This is about fairness. It’s about protecting our land, our health, and our ability to live in the places meaningful to ourselves and to our families. And it’s about good-paying oil and gas cleanup jobs for New Mexicans—not kicking the can down the road for our children and grandchildren to deal with.

If you drill it, you clean it. That’s the promise we need these rules to enforce. Please vote to adopt these long-overdue bonding reforms. Our communities are watching, and we’re counting on you.

Thank you,

The Permian Basin Climate Justice Coalition

PERMIAN

RESOURCES

November 4, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission
occ.hearings@emnrd.nm.gov

Re: Case No. 24683; Western Environmental Law Center (“WELC”) Rulemaking Hearing regarding changes to statewide bonding requirements

Dear Commissioners:

Permian Resources Operating, LLC (“**Permian Resources**”) opposes WELC’s rulemaking petition to the Oil Conservation Commission demanding various changes to the Oil Conservation Division’s (“**OCD**”) statewide bonding requirements. Permian Resources is the seventh largest oil and gas operator in New Mexico based on barrels of oil equivalent produced per day, paying nearly half a billion dollars annually in state taxes and royalties with approximately 1,250 producing wells operated by our company in the State of New Mexico, all of which are in Eddy and Lea Counties. As one of the state’s top oil and gas operators and benefactors to the state’s economy, for the reasons outlined below, we are extremely concerned about the near-term and long-term impacts these unprecedented changes would create.

First, as noted in NMOGA and IPANM’s Motion to Dismiss, the proper avenue for such reforms is through legislation, not a regulatory rulemaking proceeding. Simply put, substantive changes to the Oil and Gas Act should not be made without legislative input. Various bills have been proposed at the Legislature over the past several years seeking to increase bonding requirements and restrict well transfers, and each has failed. This rulemaking is a transparent attempt by WELC to circumvent the legislative process where they and other environmental organizations have previously failed to find traction for their initiatives.

Second, Permian Resources and other New Mexico operators already pay substantial taxes each year that go into the Oil and Gas Reclamation Fund, which was established by the Legislature for the explicit purpose of plugging and reclaiming orphaned wells. The OCD currently has over \$60,000,000 in the Reclamation Fund and should deploy these funds for their intended purpose.

Third, the considerable and unnecessary increases to statewide bonding requirements will have the unintended consequence of creating more orphaned wells in the state. \$150,000 bonds on individual wells will drive smaller independent operators out of business, thereby increasing the number of orphaned wells throughout the state, eliminating quality jobs, and reducing taxes and royalties that would otherwise be paid to the state.

Last, and perhaps most importantly to our company, the proposed rulemaking changes would grant OCD the extraordinary authority to deny well transfers in the event an applicant is out of compliance with federal and state oil and gas laws and regulations. While we are confident that current OCD staff will not abuse this new authority, the language as currently proposed in WELC's petition could be broadly interpreted by future OCD staff to deny almost any proposed well transfer. Regulatory certainty is critical for all businesses and creating a new subjective framework for denying well transfers is untenable, especially when applied to the industry that is most critical for New Mexico's economy.

For these reasons, we urge you to deny WELC's petition. WELC and other environmental organizations are free to pursue their sweeping reforms through the legislative process. Allowing them to implement drastic policy changes through the back door of a rulemaking proceeding is a dangerous precedent and would be catastrophic for the state's economy.

Sincerely,

Permian Resources Operating, LLC