

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Regular Meeting - January 15, 2026**

The Oil Conservation Commission meeting was a hybrid meeting with both in person and virtual participation options. The meeting was held in the Pecos Hall Hearing Room at the Wendell Chino Building, First Floor, 1220 South St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Albert Chang	Director, Oil Conservation Division (OCD) and Commission Chair
Greg Bloom	Designee, New Mexico State Land Office [remote attendance <i>via</i> Teams Meeting on previously noticed meeting link]
William Ampomah	Designee, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sheila Apodaca	Commission Clerk
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The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chang at 9:00 a.m.

Item 1. Roll Call.

Action: Roll was taken; a quorum was present.

Item 2. Approval of the Agenda.

Action: Commissioner Bloom moved to approve the Agenda. Commissioner Ampomah seconded the motion. Without objection the motion to approve the Agenda was unanimously approved.

Item 3. Approval of the Meeting Minutes for the OCC Meeting on November 13-14, 2025 and December 17, 2025.

Action: Commissioner Bloom motioned for approval of the meeting minutes. Commissioner Ampomah seconded the motion. Without objection the meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Item 4: Discussion on a potential pilot project to offer alternative dispute resolution (voluntary mediation) to parties seeking an adjudicatory hearing in front of the OCC.

Action: Commission Chair Chang had previously distributed a letter to the commissioners discussing the proposition of voluntary mediation in certain cases before the OCC, to encourage early dispute resolution. The Chair will look into whether the mediator's fees can be paid through the Fee Fund or the Hearings Fund created under the Oil and Gas Act.

After discussion between the commissioners, all agreed that plan was well thought out and that the OCC should give it a try.

Item 5. Pending cases:

Case No. 25603:

Adam Rankin appeared on behalf of Applicant, Matador Production Company; Dana Hardy and Jackie McLean appeared on behalf of Permian Resources; Matthias Sayer appeared on behalf of COG Resources.

Action: The parties notified the Commission that the parties continue to engage in discussions and believe they are close to reaching an agreement, however, they will be prepared for a hearing on February 12, 2026 if they are unable to reach an agreement. Chair Chang informed the parties that if they are unable to reach an agreement, the Commission would greatly appreciate receiving prehearing statements and exhibits as early as possible, due to the upcoming legislative session. The parties will inform the Commission of any settlement as early as possible.

Case Nos. 24683

Morgan O'Grady, Tannis Fox and Matt Nykiel appeared on behalf of the Applicants; Andrew Cloutier and Ann Tripp appeared on behalf of the Independent Petroleum Association of New Mexico; Jesse Tremaine appeared on behalf of the Oil Conservation Division. Adam Rankin appeared on behalf of OXY USA, Inc. Miguel Suazo appeared on behalf of the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association.

Action: The parties have been meeting regularly twice a week for a total of nine meetings. They have exchanged many proposals and analyses and have been negotiating in good faith and have made substantial progress.

On Part 5, the parties have largely completed negotiations. They have reached agreement on some and have agreed to disagree on others. On Part 9, some agreements have been made and discussions are ongoing. On Part 25, the parties have reached substantial agreement, but are still in negotiations. On Part 8 the parties have agreed on certain changes regarding terminology and timing for requirements, their next focus will be on financial assurance categories and amounts. On Part 2 definitions, they are going to revisit those at the end of negotiations.

The parties anticipate negotiations continuing through the first week of February. They are considering filing a joint stipulation setting forth their agreements.

Case No. 25700:

Action:

The Commission has already heard oral arguments on the summary judgment motion at the last OCC meeting. The Commission has deliberated and provided instructions and broad outline of a decision to commission counsel. Commission counsel provided a draft order and the Chair provided a few editorial edits. There are no concerns or suggested changes by the commissioners to the last version of the Order.

Commissioner Bloom moved for the approval of the Order. Commissioner Ampomah seconded the motion. Without objection the Order is approved. The Commission entered the Order Granting Alpha Energy Partner's Motion for Summary Judgment and dismissing the Andersons' application for de novo hearing.

Case Nos. 25694-25696: Announcement of Commission's decision.

Action:

Deliberations were already held during the last Commission meeting. The Commission similarly received a draft order from commission counsel. There were some edits distributed to the commissioners. Commissioners Ampomah and Bloom are comfortable with the changes made to the draft order. Commissioner Bloom moved to adopt the proposed order. Commissioner Ampomah seconded the motion. The Order is entered dismissing the applications without prejudice for lack of standing, the Applicant is welcome to refile assuming they can meet other statutory deadlines and demonstrate that they have sufficient property interest to demonstrating standing in this case. All other motions are denied as moot at this time.

Applicant American Energy Resources objected to the Order. The objection is noted and the record for this case was closed at the conclusion of the last hearing.

Afternoon session called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairman Albert Chang.

Case No. 25875:

Jesse Tremaine appeared on behalf of the Oil Conservation Division; Morgan O'Grady and Rose Rushing appeared on behalf of the Western Environmental Law Center; Zach Pavlik appeared on behalf of the Center for Biological Diversity; Adam Rankin appeared on behalf of Oxy, USA.

Jesse Tremaine provided a summary description of the application for rulemaking. OCD expects to present 5-7 witnesses to support the petition and expects OCD's case to last 3-4 days. WELC is still in the process of locating expert witnesses and would like to ask for a hearing date in early summer. Oxy requests a hearing date in late spring, early summer. The Center for Biological Diversity is also lining up expert witnesses and request a hearing date in June or July.

Public comments were received from: Alicia Corbell, Jonathan Samaniego, Ennedith Lopez Arambula, and Representative Meredith Dixon.

Commissioner Bloom moved to accept the petition for a hearing. Commissioner Ampomah seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion to accept the petition for rulemaking was unanimously approved.

Item 6: Rescheduling date of March meeting.

Action: Commissioner Ampomah will not be available for the scheduled date of the March meeting. Commission Clerk will circulate alternative dates and reschedule the meeting.

Item 7: Commissioner Bloom moved to adjourn the meeting. Chair Chang seconded the motion. Without objection, the motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 1:32 p.m.



Albert Chang

Albert Chang, Commission Chairman