

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**IN THE MATTER OF PROPOSED
AMENDMENTS TO 19.15.2, 19.15.5, 19.15.8,
19.15.9, and 19.15.25 NMAC**

Case No. 24683

ORDER DENYING WELC'S MOTION FOR REHEARING

THIS MATTER came before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission (“Commission”) pursuant to Western Environmental Law Center’s (“WELC” or “Applicants”) Motion for Rehearing. The Commission hereby FINDS and ORDERS as follows:

Procedural History:

1. A rule-making hearing on a 2024 petition submitted by the Western Environmental Law Center, et al. (“WELC” or “Applicants”) was held over the course of October and November 2025.
2. The parties submitted written closing briefings and made closing arguments.
3. On June 3, 5, 11 and July 1, 2026, the Commission deliberated on the matter in open session.
4. On July 16, 2026, the Commission entered its “Rule Making Order and Reasons for the Action Taken” (“Rule Making Order”).
5. On July 16, 2026, the Commission staff prepared a finalized copy of “Proposed Final Rule Amendments.”
6. Section 70-2-25(A) of the New Mexico Oil and Gas Act states: “A. Within twenty days after entry of an order or decision of the commission, a party of record adversely affected may file with the commission an application for rehearing in respect of any matter

determined by the order or decision, setting forth the respect in which the order or decision is believed to be erroneous. The commission shall grant or refuse the application in whole or in part within ten days after the application is filed, and failure to act on the application within that period shall be deemed a refusal and final disposition of that application.”

Motion for Rehearing:

7. On July 24, 2026, WELC filed “Motion for Rehearing.”
8. On August 5, 2026, the Independent Petroleum Association of New Mexico (“IPANM”) filed “Response to Applicant’s Motion for Rehearing.”
9. On August 5, 2026, WELC filed “Reply in Support Applicants’ Motion for Rehearing.”
10. On August 6, 2026, the Commission heard oral arguments on the Motion.
11. The Commission did not take action on the motion because the language adopted in the final rules in 19.15.8.9 NMAC was sufficiently clear.
12. Typographical errors pointed out in the Motion for Rehearing will be addressed by the Commission clerk as scrivener corrections to the final rule language.

THEREFORE, WELC’s Application for Rehearing is deemed DENIED.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: 8/31/2026



Albert Chang, Chairman
New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission