

# **CURRICULUM VITAE**

## **BRANDON POWELL**

### **SUMMARY**

Mr. Powell is the Oil Conservation Division's (OCD) Engineering Bureau Chief. He has served with OCD for more than fourteen years. He began his career in 2006 as an environmental specialist overseeing environmental releases and remediation. In 2011, he was promoted to inspection and enforcement supervisor for OCD's district office in Aztec. In that position, he supervised down-hole engineering and compliance with OCD rules. In 2019, he was promoted to District Supervisor, which involved oversight of day-to-day operations for the San Juan Basin. Most recently, he was promoted to the chief of the Engineering Bureau. Mr. Powell has extensive experience applying OCD rules to all aspects of oil and gas development and has testified as an expert in OCC rulemakings, including the pit rule (19.15.17 NMAC), the produced water rule (19.15.34 NMAC), and the release rule (19.15.29 NMAC).

### **EMPLOYMENT**

#### **November 2020 - Current**

##### **New Mexico Oil Conservation Division Chief, Engineering Bureau**

- Oversight and Management of the OCD's Engineering Bureau which includes
  - Administrative Compliance Program
  - Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program
  - Administrative Permitting Program.
- Ensures that OCD goals and objectives are met by assigning and directly supervising the work of the Administrative Compliance, UIC, and Administrative Permitting Programs.
- Conducts training and performance evaluations of personnel and acts upon leave requests. This position designs and develops programs to address new technical issues as they arise and as technical advances in the oil and gas industry are implemented.

#### **May 2019- November 2020**

##### **New Mexico Oil Conservation Division District Supervisor**

- Managed operations for OCD's Northern District, ensuring the proper management of more than 24,000 oil and gas wells and associated facilities to protect public health and the environment.
- Managed relations with four tribes and allottees, federal agencies including Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and Forest Service, and private landowners.
- Supervised seven staff members, including geologist, compliance officers, and environmental specialists.

- Managed office assignments, fleet repair and maintenance, and the District's Reclamation Fund (RFA) plugging program.
- Coordinated with the Engineering and Environmental Bureaus to ensure consistency in permitting and enforcement across the state.
- Supervised the District's UIC activities and coordinated with the UIC Program Manager to ensure consistency in testing and compliance.
- Conducted training for OCD and District staff.
- Assisted in the tasks described below when necessary for District operations, particularly in the absence of staff.
- Served as the District's representative on the New Mexico Oil and Gas Northwest Public Lands Committee.
- Assisted in development of standard operating procedures for wide range of OCD's business practices.
- Participated in strategic planning for OCD, including crisis management, electronic transition, enforcement, and rulemaking.

#### **April 2011 - May 2019**

##### **New Mexico Oil Conservation Division**

##### **Staff Manager & Inspection and Enforcement Supervisor**

- Supervised four district compliance officers and their activities regarding oil, gas, injection, brine and non-hazardous waste wells to protect public health, fresh water and other natural resources, including the review and approval of applications the conduct of investigations, and the recommendation of engineering solutions.
- Supervised environmental specialists, geologists, and data managers when the District Supervisor was not available and after he retired.
- Substituted for the geologist and environmental specialists during their absence and position vacancy for two years, including reviewing pools, logs and formation tops.
- Reviewed drilling, production, and closure of wells and other oil and gas facilities to ensure compliance with OCD rules, including:
  - Scheduled and conducted field inspections;
  - Initiated enforcement actions;
  - Reviewed applications for well work-overs, completion and plugging; and
  - Observed field activities.
- Provided technical assistance to OCD staff and operators.
- Coordinated office activities, including the review and approval of personnel documents and the conduct of other supervisory duties on behalf of the District Supervisor.
- Assisted in the development of rules.
- Served as the District's representative for the New Mexico Oil and Gas Northwest Public Lands Committee.

#### **April 2006 – April 2011**

##### **New Mexico Oil Conservation Division**

##### **Environmental Specialist, Deputy Oil and Gas Inspector, and Loss Control Officer**

- Supervised operators' remediation of releases.
- Responded to releases that endangered public health or the environment.

- Reviewed applications to perform and complete work.
- Drafted environmental compliance and enforcement documents.
- Testified in environmental compliance and enforcement cases.
- Coordinated work with other governmental agencies.
- Prepared and delivered environmental training to industry and other agencies.
- Worked with operators to ensure their compliance with OCD's rules.
- Tracked the district's occupational safety and prepared the annual OSHA reports.
- Responded to citizens' complaints.

**June 2004 – April 2006**

**Envirotech, Inc.**

**Senior Environmental Technician, Soil Remediation Facility Manager, and Mold Inspector**

- Prepared reports for various types of releases.
- Managed the soil remediation facility and personnel which averaged 1-3 people.
- Evaluated whether wastes could be disposed at different facilities.
- Increased the annual gross income of the soil remediation facility from \$400,000 to more than \$1,500,000 per year.
- Performed hazardous waste characterization and disposal of oil field and non-oilfield wastes.
- Prepared job quotes and project summaries.

**June 2003 – June 2004**

**San Juan County, Utah**

**Team Leader**

- Managed projects and supervised teams.
- Mapped oil & gas seismograph and mine roads.
- Determined the environmental impacts of the historic roads and operations.
- Advised regarding road closures.
- Logged GPS coordinates.
- My mentor was a retired minerals manager for the Bureau of Land Management.

**EXPERT TESTIMONY IN RULEMAKING PROCEEDINGS**

19.15.17 NMAC – *Pits, Close-Loop Systems, Below-Grade Tanks and Sumps*, 2008 and 2013

19.15.34 NMAC – *Produced Water, Drilling Fluids, and Liquid Oil Field Waste*, 2015

19.15.29 NMAC – *Releases*, 2018

**CERTIFICATIONS AND TRAINING**

Hazardous Waste Management Certification, Lion Technologies, September 2004

Hazmat Site Supervisor Training, High Desert Safety, 2005

Confined Space Certification, High Desert Safety, 2005

Hot Work Certification, High Desert Safety, 2005

OSHA Forty Hour Certification, 2005

Surveillance Detection Course for Commercial Operators, Department of Homeland Security, 2008

**OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

New Mexico Public Servant Leadership Program, 2013

Tribal Energy Management Seminar Series, San Juan College, 2018

OCD Employee of the Quarter, First Quarter 2013