

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION
PRE-HEARING DOCKET 24-21

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF VIRTUAL PROCEEDINGS
PRE-HEARING TRANSCRIPT

JULY 15, 2021

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

BEFORE: WILLIAM BRANCARD, HEARING EXAMINER
TECHNICAL EXAMINER DEAN McCLURE

This matter came on for hearing before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division, HEARING EXAMINER WILLIAM BRANCARD and TECHNICAL EXAMINER DEAN McCLURE on Thursday, July 15, 2021, via Webex Virtual Platform.

Reported by: Irene Delgado, NMCCR 253
PAUL BACA PROFESSIONAL COURT REPORTERS
500 Fourth Street, NW, Suite 105
Albuquerque, NM 87102
505-843-9241

1 HEARING EXAMINER BRANCARD: Good morning, this is
2 hearings of the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division. It is
3 July 15, 2021. I'm William Brancard, the hearing examiner
4 for today. With me is our technical examiner, Dean McClure.
5 Dean, are you on?

6 TECHNICAL EXAMINER McCLURE: Yes, sir, I am. Can
7 you hear me?

8 HEARING EXAMINER BRANCARD: We can, thank you.
9 And through the course of today's hearing we may have some
10 special guest examiners for particular hearings.

11 As always, this hearing is being recorded, so
12 please speak clearly and slowly so that your words can be
13 recorded properly. I know we use lots of jargon and
14 initials, here so it gets kind of confusing.

15 The agenda for today is posted on our website.
16 There are 50 cases listed, although we have a lot of status
17 conferences so we may go through a lot of this quickly.

18 Also I just wanted to update everyone that as of
19 Monday our agency is going back to sort of kind of partial
20 in-the-office working. The building will be -- Wendell
21 Chino building will be sort of kind of open on Monday, that
22 is, if you want to meet with someone, you need to make an
23 appointment.

24 And that's particularly important because, as of
25 Monday, most of the employees will be probably on some sort

1 of hybrid schedule where they will be in the office a few
2 days a week and then not. So never assume that the person
3 you are looking for is going to be physically in the
4 building that day.

5 People are on regular schedules, so they should
6 be there certain specific days of the week if they are in
7 the building. Some folks, Ms. Marlene, for instance, will
8 be home all the time because she has done a fabulous job at
9 home working and would prefer to stay that way. So don't go
10 looking for Marlene in the building.

11 Which brings up the question, what are we going
12 to do with these hearings. There is no plan at this point.
13 We are going to continue as we are for the short term, but
14 we are starting to have discussions, and I would like to
15 invite all of the many esteemed counsel on the meeting today
16 that, if you have opinions about where you think we should
17 go in the future or near future, please send me an e-mail.

18 We can stay with these remote hearings, we are
19 not subject to the Open Meetings Act which the attorney
20 general's office is threatening to use on the Oil
21 Conservation Commission. We can do these meetings remotely.
22 We can go back to live hearings. Right now Porter Hall is
23 available but it will not be at some point in the future
24 because the front of the building does need to be renovated.
25 So that's partly why this is sort of kind of open is because

1 our building is still under construction at this point. It
2 will be for some period of time.

3 We could, you know, one option to consider is
4 whether to split the hearings. Oklahoma is doing that right
5 now. They are doing uncontested hearings via video, and
6 then they are doing contested hearings in person.

7 So do you have thoughts on this matter, send me
8 an e-mail, I would appreciate it and we will let you know
9 where we are going to go in the future. Don't expect a
10 decision in the next day or two, but at some point we will
11 find a path forward here. So thank you.

12 (Prehearing concluded.)

13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO
2 COUNTY OF BERNALILLO

3

4 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

5

6 I, IRENE DELGADO, New Mexico Certified Court
7 Reporter, CCR 253, do hereby certify that I reported the
8 foregoing virtual proceedings in stenographic shorthand and
9 that the foregoing pages are a true and correct transcript
10 of those proceedings to the best of my ability.

11 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither employed by
12 nor related to any of the parties or attorneys in this case
13 and that I have no interest in the final disposition of this
14 case.

15 I FURTHER CERTIFY that the Virtual Proceeding was
16 of poor to good quality.

17 Dated this 15th day of July 2021.

18

/s/ Irene Delgado

19

Irene Delgado, NMCCR 253
License Expires: 12-31-21

20

21

22

23

24

25