

CURRICULUM VITAE

BRANDON POWELL

SUMMARY

Mr. Powell is the Oil Conservation Division's (OCD) Deputy Director overseeing the Engineering and Environmental bureaus. He has served with OCD for more than seventeen 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. In 2020 he was promoted to the Engineering Bureau Chief and then in 2023 was promoted to Deputy Director. 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), the release rule (19.15.29 NMAC) and the natural gas waste rules (19.15.27 and 19.15.28 NMAC).

EMPLOYMENT

May 2023- Current

New Mexico Oil Conservation Division

Deputy Director

- As Deputy Director, I provide oversight and management for the OCD's Engineering Bureau and Environmental Bureau. In my position I have 2 direct reports which are the Environmental Bureau Chief and Engineering Bureau Chief. I also have ~48 additional indirect reports in those groups.
 - The Engineering bureau currently has 34 employees and is in the process of filling additional positions. The Engineering bureau is made up of 4 major groups Inspection Compliance Program, Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program, Administrative Permitting Program, Engineering Projects and Hearings group.
 - The Environmental bureau is currently has 16 employees and is currently in the process of filling additional positions. The environmental program contains 3 major groups, Permitting, Environmental Special Projects and Incident/Inspections.

November 2020 – May 2023

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 thru April 2011 New Mexico Oil Conservation Division

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

- I Supervised industries operations to ensured proper remediation of releases.
- I would respond to urgent releases which endangered the environment or the public.
- Reviewed permits for work requested to be performed, and subsequent reports for work already performed.
- I would draft environmental compliance and enforcement documents
- Testify in environmental compliance and enforcement cases.
- Work with other governmental agencies to find solutions to problems that arise
- Prepare and give environmental training to industry and other agencies.
- Work with Companies to ensure their continual compliance.
- Track District internal injuries and incidents and prepare yearly OSHA forms.

- Respond to citizen complaints.

June 2004-April 2006 Envirotech, Inc.

Sr. Environmental Technician, Soil Remediation Facility Manager, and Mold Inspector.

- Prepared reports for various agencies for the on-site documentation for various types of releases.
- Managed the soil remediation facility and subsequent personnel which averaged 1-3 people. I categorized waste to determine if wastes were acceptable pursuant to the facility permits.
- Performed hazardous waste characterization and disposal of oil field and non-oilfield waste.
- Project manager and field supervisor which included supervising multiple people.
- Prepared job quotes and project summaries.

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*

19.15.27 NMAC – *Venting and Flaring of Natural Gas, 2021*

19.15.28 NMAC – *Natural Gas Gathering Systems, 2021*

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