

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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Oil Conservation Division



BY CERTIFIED MAIL AND ELECTRONIC MAIL

April 9, 2026

DAVID G HAMMOND
P.O. Box 1538
Artestia, New Mexico 88211

David G. Hammond, Owner/Operator
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FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF VIOLATION

The Director of the Oil Conservation Division (“OCD”) issues this Notice of Violation (“NOV”) pursuant to 19.15.5.10 NMAC.

1. **Alleged Violator:** DAVID G HAMMOND, OGRID # 156206 (“Operator”).
2. **Factual and Legal Basis for Alleged Violation(s):**

Operator is the registered operator of two (2) wells. The two (2) wells identified in **Exhibit A** have been continuously inactive since at least June 2011, and therefore out of compliance with 19.15.25.8 NMAC and are not already subject to an agreed compliance or final order.

These alleged facts constitute violations of the following:

19.15.25.8 NMAC:

- A. *The operator of wells drilled for oil or gas or services wells including seismic, core, exploration or injection wells, whether cased or uncased, shall plug the wells as Subsection B of 19.15.25.8 NMAC requires.*
- B. *The operator shall either properly plug and abandon a well or place the well in approved temporary abandonment in accordance with 19.15.25 NMAC within 90 days after:*
 1. *a 60 day period following suspension of drilling operations;*
 2. *a determination that a well is no longer usable for beneficial purposes; or*
 3. *a period of one year in which a well has been continuously inactive.*

19.15.5.9(A) NMAC:

An operator is in compliance with Subsection A of 19.15.5.9 NMAC if the operator...

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

4. *has no more than the following number of wells out of compliance with 19.15.25.8 NMAC that are not subject to an agreed compliance or final order setting a schedule for bringing the wells into compliance with 19.15.25.8 NMAC and imposing sanctions if the schedule is not met:*
 - (a) *two wells or fifty percent of the wells the operator operates, whichever is less, if the operator operates 100 wells or less;*
 - (b) *five wells if the operator operates between 101 and 500 wells;*
 - (c) *seven wells if the operator operates between 501 and 1000 wells;*
and
 - (d) *10 wells if the operator operates more than 1000 wells.*
3. **Compliance:** No later than thirty (30) days after receipt of this NOV, Operator shall:
 - a. plug and abandon the two (2) wells listed in **Exhibit A**.
4. **Sanction(s):** OCD may impose one or more of the following sanctions:
 - a. civil penalty;
 - b. modification, suspension, cancellation, or termination of a permit or authorization;
 - c. plugging and abandonment of well(s);
 - d. remediation and restoration of well location(s) and associated facilities, including the removal of surface and subsurface equipment and other materials;
 - e. remediation and restoration of location(s) affected by a spill or release;
 - f. forfeiture of financial assurance;
 - g. shutting in well(s); and
 - h. any other remedy authorized by law.

For the alleged violations described above, OCD proposes the following sanctions:

- a. **Plug and Abandon Wells:** OCD will request an order requiring Operator to plug and abandon wells listed in **Exhibit A**, and/or an order authorizing OCD to plug and abandon those wells.
- b. **Termination of Authorization to Transport:** OCD will request an order terminating Operator's authority to transport from all wells listed in **Exhibit A**.
- c. **Civil Penalties:** OCD proposes to assess civil penalties as specified below. The civil penalty calculations are attached. OCD has taken into consideration the alleged violator's good faith effort (or lack thereof) to comply with the applicable requirements. Copies of the civil penalty calculations are attached as **Exhibit B**.

Civil Penalty: \$900.00

5. **Informal resolution:** A process is available to informally discuss and resolve the NOV. This process will run for 30 days from the date of your receipt of this letter. To initiate this process, contact the OCD employee identified at the end of this letter.

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

6. **Hearing**: OCD will docket this matter for June 25, 2026, at which time this case will move forward to a formal hearing should informal resolution be unsuccessful. Please see 19.15.5.10 NMAC for more information regarding the hearing.

For more information regarding this NOV, contact Michael Hall at (505) 479-1137
or Michael.Hall@emnrd.nm.gov

Regards,

Albert Chang

Albert C.S. Chang
Director, Oil Conservation Division

cc: Office of General Counsel, EMNRD