

## OCC Hearing Exhibit 40

**From:** [Gabrielle ontiveros](#)  
**To:** [Davidson, Florene, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Produced Water Rule Making Public Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 29, 2020 5:26:05 PM

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Hello, my name is Gabrielle. I wanted to write a public comment for tomorrow's hearing regarding the proposed rules de-regulating produced water. My comment is below, thank you.

"I am writing to advocate that the proposed NM Oil Conservation Division amendments to rules regulating produced water should not be passed. If passed, it will endanger lives at a time when so many of us are already endangered; endangered by a change in financial stability and unintended health issues. Produced water is toxic and has a negative effect on human health. There are high levels of both ammonium and iodide in produced water. I quote "Even treated wastewater had levels of ammonium up to 50 times higher than the maximum levels found to be safe by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency". Negative effects include respiratory issues, cancer, and birth defects. Anyone on this call who has experienced health issues knows this can rock someone's world or take it all away entirely. Please, do not deregulate how produced water is handled or transported. Already everyday there are reports of spills and leaks; this directly affects the surrounding communities and environment. If you have the power to protect people from a toxic waste that shortens and takes away lives, why wouldn't you do it? Please do not deregulate produced water. Your choice will have a real life effect on people who are subjected to so many stressors already. Do not support the proposed rules. Thank you."