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| 1 | STATE OF NEW MEXICO |
| 2 | ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION |
| 3 | IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING |
| 4 | THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING: |
| 5 | DE NOVO AMENDED APPLICATION OF ENERGEN Case No. 13957 RESOURCES CORPORATION TO AMEND THE COST RECOVERY |
| 6 | PROVISIONS OF COMPULSORY POOLING ORDER NO. R-1960, TO DETERMINE REASONABLE COSTS, AND FOR AUTHORIZATION TO |
| 7 | RECOVER COSTS FROM PRODUCTION OF POOLED MINERAL INTERESTS, RIO ARRIBA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO |
| 8 | REOPENED APPLICATION OF THE NEW Case No. 14255 MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION, THROUGH ITS |
| 10 | ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU CHIEF, FOR ADOPTION OF AN AMENDMENT TO 19.15.39 NMAC ADDING NEW SECTIONS TO BE CODIFIED AT |
| 11 | 19.15.39.9 AND 19.15.39.10 NMAC ADDRESSING SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR SANTA FE COUNTY AND THE GALISTEO BASIN, |
| 1.2 | SANTA FE, SANDOVAL AND SAN MIGUEL COUNTIES, NEW MEXICO |
| 1.3 | APPLICATION OF THE NEW MEXICO OIL Case No. 7142927 CONSERVATION DIVISION FOR ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO RULE 19.15.17 (THE "PIT RULE") STATEWIDE |
| 1.4 | |
| 15 | Case No. 14055; Case No. 14149; Case No; 14150: Continued to June 18, 2009 |
| | Case No. 14134; Case No. 14141; Case No. 14278 |
| 17 | DEDORTED IS TRANSCRIPT OF DESCRIPTIONS TO |
| 18 | REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS COMMISSIONER HEARING |
| 19 | BEFORE: MARK E. FESMIRE, Chairman |
| 20 | JAMI BAILEY, Commissioner NULLIAM C. OLSON, Commissioner |
| 21 | May 20 2000 |
| 22 | May 28, 2009 Santa Fe, New Mexico |
| 23 | This matter came on for hearing before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission, MARK E. FESMIRE, |
| 24 | Chairman, on Thursday, May 28, 2009, at the New Mexico |
| 25 | Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, 1220 South Saint Francis Drive, Room 102, Santa Fe, New Mexico. |
| | |

- with that, I believe our deliberations are complete on
- 2 this case, are they not?
- 3 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Yes.
- 4 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Counsel, do you have
- 5 enough information to draft the order? You and --
- 6 MR. SMITH: I certainly hope so.
- 7 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Is there anything else
- 8 before the Commission concerning Case Number 14255?
- 9 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: No.
- 10 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: With that we will
- 11 continue Case 14255 to the June 18th regularly-scheduled
- 12 Commission meeting where we will consider the border
- 13 adopting the Commission's decision on this matter at the
- 14 June meeting.
- 15 With that the Commission will proceed to the
- 16 next item on the agenda, which is Case Number 14292
- 17 concerning the application of the New Mexico Oil
- 18 Conservation Division for adoption of amendments to Rule
- 19 19.15.17 NMAC (the "Pit Rule"). The record should
- 20 reflect that Commissioners Bailey, Olson and Fesmire are
- 21 present. We, therefore, have a quorum and we will begin
- 22 the public deliberations on this proposal as presented by
- 23 the evidence in this case. Who wants to start?
- COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Should we go through
- 25 the rule as presented by the OCD and use that as the

- 1 foundation for our comments?
- 2 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Okay.
- 3 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I think that's OCD
- 4 Exhibit 2. This copy I have has the footnote with the
- 5 date January 16, 2009. Is that the same copy that you
- 6 all will be working from?
- 7 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I don't have any
- 8 footnote on mine. I've got the one that's got this big
- 9 thing that says, "OCD Exhibit 2."
- 10 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: On the first page?
- 11 COMMISSIONER OLSON: There's no footnote.
- 12 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Then I'll find that
- 13 exhibit.
- 14 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Before we continue, I
- 15 need to put on the record that we have received post
- 16 findings and conclusions from the New Mexico Citizens for
- 17 Clean Air and Water, from the Oil and Gas Accountability
- 18 Project, from the Oil Conservation Division, and the
- 19 Industry Committee and ConocoPhillips. The Industry
- 20 Committee and ConocoPhillips were one document. I need
- 21 to point out that the --
- 22 COMMISSIONER OLSON: What about the IPA?
- 23 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Yes. I didn't mention
- 24 it, but we did receive post findings and facts and
- 25 conclusions from the Independent Petroleum Association of

- 1 New Mexico. I do need to also point out that I don't
- 2 believe that that was timely filed.
- 3 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I think it was timely
- 4 filed, wasn't it? I think you're thinking it was things
- 5 they filed in their prehearing statement. Those -- I
- 6 think they filed that late.
- 7 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: What -- did they do
- 8 that on April 27th?
- 9 MS. DAVIDSON: I think maybe it was about
- 10 20 minutes after 5:00 when she filed it.
- 11 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Do we also work from
- 12 Exhibit A to the application for rule amendment that
- 13 shows where the proposed changes are?
- 14 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I thought that was
- 15 all on Exhibit 2, because that's what they presented at
- 16 the hearing. I think there was some changes, and I don't
- 17 know if there were but I thought there were, in the
- 18 exhibit --
- MR. SMITH: Oh, there are.
- 20 COMMISSIONER OLSON: -- to what was
- 21 prefiled. Is that -- Exhibit 2 was the one I used during
- 22 the hearing to follow along.
- 23 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: I have Exhibit 1
- 24 that has the proposed changes and Exhibit 2 that has the
- 25 rule.

- 1 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Right. Yeah, I think
- 2 it's easier to follow right from the rule itself. The
- 3 changes are put in strike and bold.
- 4 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Okay. We have also
- 5 received comments in this case. Ms. Davidson has
- 6 included them in the record and they've been scanned into
- 7 the record and they've been reviewed by the Chairman.
- 8 Who wants to start?
- 9 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Do we just want to
- 10 start kind of like we've done some others from -- page by
- 11 page and just go through it? That might be the easiest
- 12 way.
- 13 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Yeah.
- 14 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: I have no comment
- 15 until the first proposed change at 11.1 I on page 8.
- 16 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I think that's the
- 17 first proposed change that was put forward.
- 18 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Commissioner Bailey?
- 19 You have some comments.
- 20 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: I have no issues
- 21 with the first proposed change at 11 I(5) --
- 22 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Okay.
- COMMISSIONER BAILEY: -- or (6).
- 24 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I don't have any
- objections to those. I think there's a typo that the

- 1 Division had identified in their proposed findings in
- 2 I(6), where there's -- the third sentence that says,
- 3 "singled wall." It should be "single walled."
- 4 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Yes.
- 5 COMMISSIONER OLSON: That was the only
- 6 thing I noted.
- 7 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: The next proposed
- 8 change is Section 17.12 D(3).
- 9 MR. SMITH: So on I(5) and (6), have you
- 10 all considered and adopted those, or do we go through
- 11 those --
- 12 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: We'll adopt them at the
- 13 end. We'll go through and discuss the differences,
- 14 reconcile the differences and then vote on the --
- 15 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Those are acceptable
- 16 to me.
- 17 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: These are acceptable to
- 18 everyone. So we're at 12 D(3).
- 19 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: I do not agree with
- 20 the proposed change for the life of below-grade tanks
- 21 based on the fact that reports of failure are sent to the
- OCD as they are heard, and there is, on record with the
- OCD, the integrity history of a below-grade tank, and
- 24 continued recordkeeping for the life of the tank does not
- 25 foretell whether or not that tank will have continued

- 1 integrity, because we don't have any testimony on
- 2 predicted corrosion rates or failure rates for ages of
- 3 tanks. So I do not agree with the change that's
- 4 proposed.
- 5 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: The change was to
- 6 change it from a five-year --
- 7 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: To the life of the
- 8 below-grade tank.
- 9 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: And this would only
- 10 apply to the grandfather below-grade tanks; is that
- 11 correct?
- 12 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: That's correct.
- 13 Well, for all tanks, I don't see a reason to maintain
- 14 records for the life of a below-grade tank.
- 15 COMMISSIONER OLSON: This is for all
- 16 tanks, if I recall.
- 17 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Because failures are
- 18 reported and reports are sent to the OCD.
- 19 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Do you happen to have
- 20 where in the rule they're -- all failures are reported to
- 21 the OCD?
- 22 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Any failure that
- 23 results in a spill reportable under an additional OCD
- 24 rule.
- 25 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: So there would be the

- 1 minimus level where the tank failed -- catch it before
- 2 they've hit the -- what is it -- five-barrel requirement?
- 3 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Yes.
- 4 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: And that wouldn't be
- 5 reported to the OCD, would it?
- 6 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: No, it would not.
- 7 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Does that cause a
- 8 problem for you? You think a series of small, for
- 9 instance, seeps from a rusting patch that wouldn't
- 10 otherwise be reported -- but they would be on the record
- 11 but they wouldn't be reported to the OCD unless they are
- 12 at the minimus level; right?
- 13 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Right.
- 14 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Commissioner Olson, do
- 15 you have a thought on that?
- 16 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I'm just thinking
- 17 that the overall -- the reporting is -- I would agree is
- 18 really the important part, and this is not -- doesn't
- 19 have anything to do with reporting of leaks. It's just
- 20 maintaining written records of inspections. I don't know
- 21 that I necessarily have a problem with the current
- 22 five-year period, just because if something is happening
- 23 and it was not reported, it's coming about as a result of
- 24 a Division inspection, and at that point you ask for the
- 25 records for the last five years. And if they haven't

- 1 been doing it, that's -- I think it would be shown that
- they haven't been inspecting it, then, if there isn't a
- 3 leak. I guess I don't know what the reporting
- 4 requirement is. Is there a reporting requirement in
- 5 here? I can't remember.
- 6 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: I believe there is, but
- 7 I don't remember where it's at. It probably wouldn't be
- 8 under this rule. It would be -- there's an integrity
- 9 failure reporting requirement in this rule, but a leak
- 10 requirement would fall into the general --
- 11 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: And this is simply
- 12 for inspections, as Commissioner Olson pointed out.
- 13 COMMISSIONER OLSON: As long as they're
- 14 having to notify, based upon the integrity, or take an
- 15 action based upon the integrity --
- 16 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: The idea behind this
- 17 was that we're extending the lives and grandfathering in
- 18 these tanks. But maybe five years wasn't adequate. But
- 19 the Commissioners feel that the five years would be
- 20 adequate?
- 21 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: More than adequate.
- 22 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Commissioner Olson?
- 23 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I think so. I think
- 24 it comes back again to maybe the provision back in I(5)
- 25 again, where they're not required to retrofit it as long

- 1 as it demonstrates integrity. If they're doing a monthly
- 2 inspection, they're getting even de minimis leaks,
- 3 obviously, it doesn't have integrity and they're already
- 4 in violation of the rule if they don't replace it at that
- 5 point. So I don't know that it's actually necessary.
- 6 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: I would go along with
- 7 the five years, and then Commissioner Olson -- heaven
- 8 knows he's got more experience in this than I do.
- 9 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I've seen a lot of
- 10 those de minimis leaks.
- 11 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Okay. The next change
- 12 provision --
- 13 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: -- is Section 12
- 14 D(5). I have no issues with the proposed changes.
- 15 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Okay.
- 16 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I don't have any
- 17 issues with that, either.
- 18 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Nor do I. The next one
- 19 is 12 D(6)?
- 20 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: That's right, and I
- 21 have no issues.
- 22 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: 12 D(6) is acceptable?
- 23 COMMISSIONER OLSON: My only issue was --
- 24 and I brought this up during the testimony -- that that
- 25 language -- it looks like it starts about the fifth line

- 1 down when it talks about demonstrating to the Division
- 2 whether there is evidence of contamination. I quess I
- 3 was just kind of confused on how do you do that without
- 4 just going and sampling it? It seems kind of vague, the
- 5 way it's written, and I asked some questions about that
- 6 with Mr. Jones when he was testifying. I didn't guite
- 7 understand why they just didn't follow the procedures in
- 8 13, some of those closure requirements for sampling.
- 9 I think what his testimony was is that they
- 10 were trying to just make something rather
- 11 straightforward, that if you see wet, discolored soils,
- 12 you'll make some demonstration to the Division. So I'm
- 13 not sure. It just seems a little vague to me as to how
- 14 that actually occurs. I don't know that this really
- 15 gives real clarity to the operators, but at the same
- 16 time, I don't recall the operators really objecting to
- 17 that language that was in there. It just seemed to me
- 18 that it doesn't give real specific clarity to the
- 19 operators, but --
- 20 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Do you have a
- 21 suggestion to fix it?
- 22 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I think I may just
- 23 leave it alone, since there was no objection from the
- 24 industry on that, and they can make those demonstrations
- 25 to the Division. I'm just bringing it up because I asked

- 1 questions about it during the hearing, and I don't think
- 2 we had specific proposals from those parties as to what
- 3 that language should be if we were going to change it.
- 4 So I think I prefer to maybe leave it as is without any
- 5 absence of some proposed language.
- 6 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: That's acceptable to
- 7 the Commission as is?
- 8 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Yes.
- 9 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: The next one is 13
- 10 A(5)? Is that the next one?
- 11 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: There was some
- 12 comment -- this one says that an operator shall close a
- 13 tank prior to any sale or transfer of ownership. The
- 14 suggestion was made that if a new operator can
- 15 demonstrate technical and financial capability to
- 16 maintain tank integrity and to undertake any required
- 17 cleanup, and if that tank has not had any integrity
- 18 failures within five years, then it's not at the end of
- 19 its useful life.
- 20 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: These are the tanks
- 21 that we're most concerned about in the grandfathering
- 22 provision. Otherwise, they would have been grandfathered
- 23 out, taken out and replaced. And what the Division was
- 24 trying to do here, and I believe the testimony shows
- 25 this, is that they were -- we were giving the operator

- 1 the opportunity to leave them in as long as they
- 2 maintained integrity. We weren't going to transfer
- 3 ownership without addressing the problem that would have
- 4 otherwise been addressed by them being grandfathered in.
- 5 So this was -- the idea here was that in lieu of the
- 6 grandfathering, we would make sure that they were not
- 7 transferred without -- these are the tanks that otherwise
- 8 would have been taken out, but they're left in and
- 9 removed --
- 10 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Because they have
- 11 not shown any lack of integrity.
- 12 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: But, remember, these
- are also tanks that would not otherwise have been
- 14 conforming with the original proposal.
- 15 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Was the assumption
- 16 made that transfer of ownership would go from a more
- 17 financially-stable company to a less-financially stable
- 18 company that would not be able to maintain the integrity
- 19 or any kind of required cleanup?
- 20 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: I don't think that --
- 21 that may have been implicit in some folks' thinking, but
- 22 I don't think that was ever stated in evidence. The
- 23 problem here is that these are tanks that under the
- 24 existing provision would have been grandfathered out.
- 25 They would have had to have been replaced. These are

- 1 nonconforming tanks.
- What we're asking is, while we have given the
- .3 operators the ability to leave them in place as long as
- 4 they demonstrate integrity, before they transfer that
- 5 property to another owner, they have to address this
- 6 issue. So there's no advantage in just deferring this
- 7 cost, because before they transfer ownership of the
- 8 property, they're going to have to address this tank.
- 9 It's one means of providing assurance to the State that
- 10 an operator who -- these tanks are a threat, and we've
- 11 determined that as long as they're tested and maintain
- integrity, they don't have to come out unless they're
- 13 going to transfer ownership of the property.
- 14 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: I can see a gray
- 15 area of ownership or operatorship.
- 16 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I will say that the
- 17 Division in their proposed findings -- I think it's
- 18 Finding 32 -- suggested changing "ownership" to "transfer
- of operation, "instead of, "transfer of ownership."
- 20 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: I think, Commissioner,
- 21 that you're probably right about that.
- 22 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I didn't really have
- 23 a big problem with it. I was just thinking that -- I
- 24 think the Division has a good suggestion to change that
- 25 to "operation" instead of "ownership." That was the only

- 1 thing I had on that.
- 2 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Is that acceptable,
- 3 Commissioner?
- 4 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Apparently so.
- 5 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: What's the next one?
- 6 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: 13 F(3)(c).
- 7 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Okay. This is the one
- 8 that changes the chloride content for otherwise
- 9 qualifying deep-trench in-place burial -- let's just
- 10 leave it at deep-trench burial, on-site deep-trench
- 11 burial -- from 3,000 milligrams per liter --
- 12 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: -- from 250 to
- 13 3,000.
- 14 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: It gives me a little
- 15 heart burn. Commissioner Bailey, did you have anything
- 16 to say about it?
- 17 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: I think the Division
- 18 demonstrated that 3,000 would still be protective of
- 19 human health, safety, et cetera. And I believe that
- 20 background is something that should be included here,
- 21 because it's not reasonable to expect a producer to bury
- 22 something even cleaner than background already is. My
- 23 issue comes up with the suggestion that all other
- 24 inorganics on 3103 should also be taken to background.
- 25 That was brought up, and Brad Jones did indicate that he

- 1 would not object to other inorganics going to background,
- 2 as well as chlorides, from 3103 standards.
- 3 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: The only thing about it
- 4 that concerns me is the chloride standard is an aesthetic
- 5 standard and I think we've had testimony to that effect.
- 6 The harm, the long-term harm, you're going to cease using
- 7 that water for harmful purposes long before it's going
- 8 to -- I mean, you know what are doing. The problem with
- 9 the 3103 constituents, you know, they had arsenic,
- 10 barium, cadmium, BTEX, they are health-based standards,
- 11 not an aesthetic standard.
- 12 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: You included
- organics when you said BTEX. I was talking strictly
- 14 inorganics.
- 15 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: So the BTEX heavy
- 16 metals is what you're concerned about?
- 17 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: BTEX is an organic.
- 18 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: I mean the 3103
- 19 inorganics?
- 20 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Right, the
- 21 inorganics.
- 22 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Commissioner Olson,
- 23 what's your opinion?
- 24 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I will say that we do
- 25 have various specimens of arsenic in the Rio Grande

- 1 Valley where we have elevated arsenic levels, so -- I
- 2 mean, that's just part of the nature of our volcanic
- 3 soils in certain areas. So I don't know that I
- 4 necessarily -- go ahead.
- 5 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: No. Go ahead, because
- 6 I'm -- this is one of the areas that I have to defer to
- 7 the geologists and the hydrologists.
- 8 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I quess the
- 9 difference, to me, we're talking about the soil, so I
- 10 just wonder if you're still adding more mass of a
- 11 contaminant, and this -- the key to that is whether it's
- 12 something that's going to migrate to the groundwater.
- 13 I'm not exactly sure what to say. I've worked through a
- 14 number of sites where we have applied soil criteria, such
- 15 as down at the Brooklyn refinery. That's an OCD case
- 16 down in -- near El Paso which is near the Asarco Smelter,
- 17 and there is elevated lead in the soils in that area due
- 18 to smeltering operations in that area.
- 19 At that time that the cleanup was going on,
- 20 the Division only required cleanup to the background
- 21 levels of lead, which were actually guite high. They're
- 22 equivalent to the EPA's residential exposure levels of
- 23 400 milligrams per liter of lead. So there is past
- 24 history of the Division applying that in cleanups. I
- 25 don't know if they've ever necessarily done that in the

- 1 disposal setting, for allowing for disposal versus an
- 2 allowance for that in the cleanup of contamination.
- 3 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Is there going to be an
- 4 appreciable difference between the surface concentration?
- 5 Is there any testimony that would allow us to consider
- 6 the difference between surface concentration, the 3103 --
- 7 I guess what I'm saying is would we increase the
- 8 concentration in the water if we were -- because this
- 9 is -- you know, our objective is to keep these
- 10 contaminants out of the water. If they are in the
- 11 background numbers, is there any detriment to allowing
- 12 the waste to come up to that level?
- 13 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I don't know if there
- 14 is.
- 15 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: I don't know that
- 16 there is. Plus, the mobility is not as great as it would
- 17 be --
- 18 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: So how would you
- 19 propose we change it, Commissioner?
- 20 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: "And that the
- 21 concentrations of the water contaminants specified do not
- 22 exceed" -- can we, at that point, say, "and the
- 23 concentrations of the inorganic water contaminants"?
- 24 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: No. We want to leave
- 25 the organics in the prohibition.

- 1 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Okay. So should it
- 2 be, "shall demonstrate that the chloride concentration
- 3 and other inorganic" --
- 4 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Will that put it under
- 5 the 3,000?
- 6 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: That doesn't work.
- 7 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: My water's only got
- 8 3,000 milligrams per liter arsenic. Want to buy my
- 9 house?
- 10 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Do we have any
- 11 suggested language in there? We'll just insert another
- 12 language that says -- yeah, I think that's what you
- 13 absolutely have to do.
- 14 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Yeah.
- 15 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Is there anything on
- 16 the record that would support that change?
- 17 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Yes. Because I
- 18 specifically asked Brad Jones about background levels for
- 19 inorganics, and my statement was, "Organics show
- 20 contamination, but high levels of arsenic, mercury and
- 21 selenium are naturally occurring higher than 3103 in
- 22 certain cases. Would you object to other inorganics for
- 23 background, as well as chloride?" And he said he would
- 24 not.
- 25 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: What if we were to

- 1 insert the language that "The concentrations of the water
- 2 contaminants specified in Subsection A as determined by
- 3 appropriate EPA methods do not exceed the standards
- 4 specified in Subsection A -- provided, however, that
- 5 the" --
- 6 COMMISSIONER OLSON: You have to leave,
- 7 "unless otherwise specified above," because there is some
- 8 different levels for -- no. I quess that's just TPH. I
- 9 don't know why it says, "otherwise specified above."
- 10 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Where are you looking
- 11 at?
- 12 COMMISSIONER OLSON: At the end of that
- 13 sentence where -- I don't see any other constituents of
- 14 3103 A above. Chloride is not a constituent of 3103 A,
- 15 and nor is TPH.
- 16 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: So you think strike,
- "unless otherwise specified above"?
- 18 COMMISSIONER OLSON: You have to leave it
- 19 there because there's no testimony about removing it and
- 20 why it should be removed, but it is existing language.
- 21 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: What we want to do is
- 22 allow for the inorganic portion of the 3103 constituents,
- 23 a concentration equivalent to or less than background.
- 24 Is that your understanding?
- 25 COMMISSIONER OLSON: You just want to say

- 1 the inorganic metals, I guess, because that's what we're
- 2 talking about, right, metals?
- 3 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: What other
- 4 constituents are there that --
- 5 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: BTEX.
- 6 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: BTEX is organic.
- 7 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: It's in the 3103
- 8 standards.
- 9 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: So we have to say
- 10 specifically, inorganic.
- 11 COMMISSIONER OLSON: But you also have one
- 12 for -- is radium considered a --
- 13 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Radium is inorganic.
- 14 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I wouldn't think
- 15 you'd want to allow adding more radium.
- 16 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: But if it's a
- 17 background --
- 18 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Adding to the
- 19 radioactivity level? It looks like it's just the metals
- 20 that are in A1, 2, 3, 4 -- I'm looking at the standards
- 21 myself, so there's arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium,
- 22 cyanide, fluoride -- no. Fluoride is a metal -- cyanide,
- 23 lead, mercury -- do we have any testimony that we can
- 24 list specific metals versus something broad?
- 25 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: It's broad enough to

- 1 list inorganics.
- 2 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Inorganic
- 3 constituents.
- 4 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: As long as we can list
- 5 those, I quess we can list -- as long as the criteria was
- 6 inorganics, we could list those.
- 7 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Okay.
- 8 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Just another
- 9 sentence to add in there?
- 10 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: How many of the
- inorganics are there in the 3103 constituents?
- 12 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Looks like about 11.
- 13 Approximately, 11. I mean, if you actually include that,
- 14 it's probably 13.
- 15 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Is nitrate considered
- 16 an inorganic?
- 17 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Um-hum.
- 18 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Yeah.
- 19 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: That one -- well,
- 20 what's the background concentration of the nitrate going
- 21 to be?
- 22 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I've never seen high
- 23 nitrate in the soil outside of a septic tank.
- 24 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: And that's not going to
- 25 be considered background.

- 1 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Right.
- MR. SMITH: Why do you need to specify
- 3 these?
- 4 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I don't think we need
- 5 to.
- 6 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: I don't think we
- 7 even need to put the number of them.
- 8 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I think we just list
- 9 them as more generic, as inorganic constituents.
- 10 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Constituents of the
- 11 contaminants -- 3103 contaminants?
- 12 COMMISSIONER OLSON: They're not
- 13 constituents. They're contaminants.
- 14 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: That the concentrations
- of inorganic constituents of the 3103 contaminants may
- 16 exceed those standards -- may -- what do we want to say
- 17 in --
- 18 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: May reach below --
- 19 or may reach background or below --
- 20 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: May exceed the 3103
- 21 concentrations but may not exceed the background.
- 22 COMMISSIONER OLSON: It would be nice to
- 23 use a similar language to what's already in the formal
- 24 proposal, but I'm not sure how to do it. Unless you just
- 25 say, "or the background concentration of the" -- so you

- 1 say, "after" -- where it says, "the concentrations of the
- 2 water contaminants specified in Subsection A of
- 3 20.6.2.3103 NMAC as determined by appropriate EPA methods
- 4 do not exceed the standards specified in Subsection A of
- 5 20.6.2.3103 NMAC or the background concentration for
- 6 inorganic contaminants."
- 7 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: -- or the background
- 8 contamination for inorganic contaminants?
- 9 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Background
- 10 concentration.
- 11 COMMISSIONER OLSON: "Concentration of
- inorganic contaminants of Subsection A of 20.6.2.3103."
- 13 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Background
- 14 contamination of the inorganic --
- 15 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Um-hum.
- MR. SMITH: Is it background contamination
- 17 or concentration?
- 18 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Concentration --
- 19 whichever is greater. Then we have at least similar
- 20 language.
- 21 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Of the inorganic
- 22 contituents --
- 23 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Contaminants.
- 24 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: -- whichever is
- 25 greater. Okay. So let me test read this once before we

- 1 do this. "The operator shall collect at minimum, a five
- 2 point -- okay. Using EPA SW-846 method 1312 or other EPA
- 3 leaching procedure that the Division approves, the
- 4 operator shall demonstrate that the chloride
- 5 concentration, as determined by EPA method 300.1 or other
- 6 EPA method that the Division approves, does not exceed
- 7 3,000 milligrams per liter, or the background
- 8 concentration, whichever is greater, and that the
- 9 concentration of the water contaminants specified in
- 10 Subsection A of 20.6.2.3103 NMAC as determined by
- 11 appropriate EPA methods do not exceed the standards
- 12 specified in Subsection A of 20.6.2.3103 NMAC, unless
- 13 otherwise specified above, or the background
- 14 concentrations of inorganic contaminants, whichever is
- 15 greater." I misplaced that. How about that?
- 16 COMMISSIONER OLSON: "Unless otherwise
- 17 specified above, " should stay at the end.
- 18 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Okay. So this would
- 19 read, "approved EPA methods do not exceed the standards
- 20 specified in Subsection A of 20.6.2.3103 NMAC or the
- 21 background concentration of the inorganic contaminants,
- 22 whichever is greater, unless otherwise specified above."
- 23 Is that what you need?
- 24 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: I think so. I'll
- 25 have to see it written out.

- 1 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Okay.
- 2 COMMISSIONER OLSON: You may need some
- 3 words that our attorney --
- 4 MR. SMITH: How do you feel about this,
- 5 because I'm in the dark with this chemical stuff. I want
- 6 to make sure I'm doing this right. As I appreciate it,
- 7 what you have just added with respect to the background
- 8 concentration, you want to limit that to inorganic
- 9 contaminants?
- 10 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Right. The chlorides
- 11 are limited by the background contamination. The
- 12 inorganics in that list are limited by the background
- 13 contamination. The organics on that list shouldn't be.
- 14 MR. SMITH: Now, the reference earlier on
- in that sentence after the comma, "and that the
- 16 concentrations of the water contaminants, " do you see
- 17 that? That reference to water contaminants is --
- 18 includes organic and inorganic; correct?
- 19 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Right.
- MR. SMITH: So how about this? After,
- 21 "NMAC," Mark, where you wanted to put, "or the background
- 22 concentration, "blah, blah, blah, after the "or, " just to
- 23 make it perfectly clear, how about, "or with respect to
- inorganic contaminants, "comma, "the background
- 25 concentration of inorganic contaminants, whichever is

- 1 greater"?
- 2 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: I think we lose
- 3 something there, but I'm not -- why do we need, "with
- 4 respect"?
- 5 MR. SMITH: It concerns me that you have
- 6 this reference to the concentrations of water
- 7 contaminants, and then you have a conjunction with your
- 8 "or," and you start talking about inorganic contaminants.
- 9 And it just seems to me that you're better off having a
- 10 recognition that you are now -- I mean, a verbal
- 11 recognition that you are now talking about a subset of
- 12 water contaminants.
- 13 COMMISSIONER OLSON: It should be
- 14 "inorganic water contaminants," so it is that subset of
- 15 water contaminants.
- 16 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: It would be clearer
- if we also put in after the wording, "or the background
- 18 concentration, whichever is greater, and that the
- 19 concentration of the organic water contaminants specified
- in," blah, blah, "do not exceed the standards."
- MR. SMITH: Yeah, I think that's right.
- 22 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Then we would have
- 23 specified inorganic and organic.
- MR. SMITH: I think that's right. The
- 25 point is you're staying silent about the organic, and I

- 1 think it's better that you either address them or make it
- 2 plain that you're intending to be silent about that.
- 3 COMMISSIONER OLSON: So you could just add
- 4 to that -- take out the "and," and it would just be a
- 5 three-part now. So it would be a comma, "that the
- 6 concentration of organic water contaminants specified
- 7 in" -- and then say, "and the concentrations of the
- 8 inorganic water contaminants specified in Subsection A
- 9 of" --
- 10 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: "Do not exceed the
- 11 standards or background, whichever is greater."
- 12 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Right. That way it's
- 13 a three-part --
- 14 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: And we're
- 15 clarifying.
- 16 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Mark, we'll leave you a
- 17 little leeway in the drafting here, but you understand
- 18 what we're trying to do? The background concentration of
- 19 the chlorides shall not exceed -- I mean, the
- 20 concentration of chlorides in the waste shall not exceed
- 21 3,000 or the background, whichever is greater. The
- 22 concentration of the inorganics will not exceed the
- 23 limits or background, whichever is greater, and the
- 24 concentration of the organics will not exceed the limits
- 25 in the 3103.

- 1 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I think that makes a
- 2 little more sense. That way you're specifically
- 3 addressing the organic situation.
- 4 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: That should
- 5 eliminate confusion.
- 6 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: What's the next
- 7 provision?
- 8 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Before we go on, I
- 9 think -- I kind of agree with Commissioner Bailey. It
- 10 seems that the evidence presented supported changing the
- 11 level to 3,000. However, it still -- I had extensive
- 12 questions again about them -- in order to do this, since
- 13 they are allowing higher levels of contaminants, that
- 14 they should require surface owner written agreement that
- 15 they are allowed to bury this in place.
- And I had asked this of most every witness.
- 17 that was up and pointed out some of the problems in
- 18 future access to these areas. There is nothing that
- 19 limits anybody from coming in and digging up these areas
- 20 in the future. And I had less of a concern of that when
- 21 it was 250 milligrams per liter of chlorides, but when
- 22 you're looking at now considerably higher levels --
- 23 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: A major breach should
- 24 be a major problem?
- 25 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Yes. So we do have

- 1 right now for small land farms, we currently require a
- 2 written certification -- or certification that they have
- 3 a written agreement with the surface owner authorizing
- 4 the site's use for a small land farmer. So I didn't see
- 5 why that couldn't apply in this case, especially since
- 6 we're now looking at significant increases in
- 7 concentrations, which would pose a much more severe
- 8 threat of migration to groundwater.
- 9 So I guess I would make a motion that we add
- 10 some language to (3)(a) to address that, and it would
- 11 be -- right now it reads, "Where the operator meets the
- 12 siting criteria in Paragraph (4) of Subsection C of
- 13 19.15.17.10 NMAC, " right after, "NMAC, " I would add, "and
- 14 the operator furnishes a certification that has a written
- 15 agreement with the surface owner authorizing the site's
- 16 use for on-site trench burial." The language is
- 17 consistent then with the language of --
- 18 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: The Surface Waste
- 19 Management Rule.
- 20 COMMISSIONER OLSON: -- the Surface Waste
- 21 Management Rule for small land farms.
- 22 And that language in 19.15.36.16 A(1), just
- 23 for your reference, says, "If the operator is not the
- 24 surface estate owner of a proposed site, the operator
- 25 shall furnish with its Form C137EZ its certification that

- 1 it has a written agreement with the surface estate owner
- 2 authorizing the site's use for the proposed small land
- 3 farm."
- I think with the change in the contaminant
- 5 level to have a significant increase, I think it's
- 6 warranted to have agreement with the landowners so that
- 7 there is some type of agreement that this will not be
- 8 disturbed in the future. That would typically be part of
- 9 that type of agreement.
- 10 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Would we need an
- 11 agreement or notice?
- 12 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I think the -- I was
- 13 following the language that we already have for
- 14 consistency. I like to have consistency between our
- 15 rules where we can.
- 16 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: You're playing with the
- 17 wrong set of rules here.
- 18 COMMISSIONER OLSON: The language there
- 19 was it was a certification of a written agreement with
- the surface estate owner authorizing the site's use.
- 21 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: That's for full
- 22 occupancy. This is going to be buried in place.
- 23 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Right. But my issue
- 24 here was we're doing this for a small-scale operation
- 25 which is actually remediating it so there is no threat

- 1 when it's done. And then here it is that now we're going
- 2 to allow something significantly higher -- it wouldn't
- 3 even be allowed in this circumstance, in a small land
- 4 farm -- and we'd be allowing that without the surface
- owner's written agreement. And when they don't own the
- 6 land, they can't control access, I think it's really
- 7 problematic that there's no way to control that burrito
- 8 from being disturbed in the future, and you can't really
- 9 do that without some type of written agreement with the
- 10 owner. I think it's very problematic for those higher
- 11 level wastes like that.
- 12 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Commissioner Bailey?
- 13 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: I bring up, again,
- 14 the Surface Owner's Protection Act and the agreements
- 15 that are reached between the operator and the surface
- 16 owner under that act. I believe that that would cover
- 17 the issues that Commissioner Olson talks about.
- 18 I also see where any agreement with the
- 19 current surface owner would not be binding on any future
- 20 owner of that tract of land and so it would not take care
- of the issue that he's concerned about for the long-term
- 22 use or misuse of that area.
- 23 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: What would the Surface
- 24 Owner's Protection Act provide specifically?
- 25 COMMISSIONER OLSON: That's really for

- damages a lot more than for limiting any type of future
- 2 activities. I don't know that that that would
- 3 necessarily be covered, because they can still go
- 4 forward -- if they can't reach an agreement with the land
- 5 owner, they can still go forward and conduct the
- 6 activity, and then they're left to come back and try to
- 7 deal with it in the courts at that point.
- 8 At that point this would already be there, and
- 9 I don't know how that -- I just think this gives me more
- 10 comfort that there is some type of agreement
- 11 acknowledging that this is going on and some way to
- 12 potentially control the future access. I would agree
- 13 with Commissioner Bailey that unless it's actually a
- 14 legally-recorded covenant that the land owner puts on it,
- 15 it may be difficult with future owners. But I think it
- 16 gives us some more comfort that they would actually be
- doing this with the agreement of the land owner and the
- 18 acknowledgment, as well, that they shouldn't be
- 19 disturbing this.
- 20 MR. SMITH: I mean if that's what you
- 21 want, why not require a covenant to be recorded, if it's
- 22 important?
- 23 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I think it is. It's
- 24 important not to disturb it. If it is disturbed, it's
- 25 going to end up in -- highly likely that it could cause

- 1 groundwater contamination.
- 2 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Don't we have a
- 3 requirement that they mark bits?
- 4 COMMISSIONER OLSON: We do, but not to
- 5 record them. We did have a requirement that they place a
- 6 marker there but markers disappear, as I've seen with PNA
- 7 markers before.
- 8 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: And it's recorded on
- 9 the plats.
- MR. SMITH: It would just be recorded in
- 11 the real property records of the county, the way you
- 12 would record any other covenant relative to the land like
- 13 you have in your neighborhood, maybe have restrictions
- .14 and covenants, the same sort of thing. You just record
- in the county real property records.
- 16 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: What we're looking for
- 17 is notice to the surface owner? Are you looking for
- 18 their permission, that the operator has to have their
- 19 permission, or are you looking for notice?
- 20 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I'm looking that they
- 21 do have their permission, because with their permission,
- 22 then, obviously, they recognize that they shouldn't be
- 23 disturbing this in the future. Because, to me, I think,
- 24 you know, it's pretty straightforward that burying waste
- on someone else's property is not necessary for the

- 1 development of the minerals.
- I know we've been through that before, but I,
- 3 you know, strongly believe that that is not a necessary
- 4 activity to produce the minerals, and they should have a
- 5 written agreement authorizing use of that site,
- 6 especially for a burial. You couldn't put a landfill --
- 7 essentially what they're doing is they're landfilling on
- 8 someone's property, and we wouldn't allow that under the
- 9 Surface Waste Management Rule, somebody to create a
- 10 landfill on someone else's property without their
- 11 permission. It's essentially no different than a -- very
- 12 little difference from this than from an actual landfill.
- 13 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Why don't we come back
- 14 to this on that issue and see what he can accomplish?
- 15 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I was looking at,
- 16 myself, just consistency with Rule 36, where we have even
- 17 much less contamination where it requires land owner
- 18 approval.
- 19 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: That's 17.13 F(3)(c)?
- 20 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Right.
- 21 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: We agree on the other
- 22 issue, but we don't -- we still need to talk about notice
- 23 and permission of surface owner. Okay. What's the next
- 24 one, Commissioner?
- 25 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: 17.16.F, transfer of

- 1 a permit.
- 2 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I didn't have a
- 3 problem. I think the one thing was, again, the OCD in
- 4 their finding of fact 32, proposed changing it from
- 5 transfer of ownership to transfer of operation.
- 6 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: I have no problem.
- 7 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: With F or just that
- 8 one?
- 9 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: With all of F.
- 10 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Okay. With the proviso
- 11 that we follow the amended recommendation from the OCD to
- 12 change ownership to operatorship?
- 13 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Operation.
- 14 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Operation.
- MR. SMITH: Where are you?
- 16 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Okay.
- 17 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: I have a thought on
- 18 that. An operator does not necessarily have any
- 19 financial interest in the well or any controlling
- 20 interest in the well.
- 21 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: You mean a contract
- 22 operator or minority owner operator or both?
- 23 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Both. If they don't
- 24 have any financial interest in the well, and if operators
- 25 can be changed by the lessee, the owner, are we going

- 1 after the wrong person there in there?
- CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Well, let's think about
- 3 that. Yeah, because a contract operator with the working
- 4 interest -- one operating agreement, and the operator
- 5 hires -- I think the definition of operator is they have
- 6 to have an interest in it, isn't it?
- 7 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: I don't know.
- 8 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Don't the rules apply
- 9 to changes of operators?
- 10 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Yeah.
- 11 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: "Operator means
- 12 person who is in charge of a lease's development or a
- 13 producing a property's operation or who is in charge of a
- 14 facility's operation or management.
- 15 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: That can be a
- 16 contractor.
- 17 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Yeah. And it's the
- 18 owner or the lessee who's held liable for cleanup of
- 19 contamination, not the operator.
- 20 COMMISSIONER OLSON: In our current rule,
- 21 19.15.9.9, provisions for change of operator. Maybe we
- 22 should just say it the same way. Would that work?
- 23 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Where did that
- 24 definition that you just read me come from?
- 25 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Your OCD rules.

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COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Why not leave it at

do that. Prior to any sale?

24

25

- 1 sale?
- MR. SMITH: Your goal here, right, is to
- 3 see that these below-grade tanks are either closed or
- 4 brought into compliance; right?
- 5 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Or transfer of the
- 6 operating interest or change in the operating interest.
- 7 COMMISSIONER OLSON: But by practice isn't
- 8 that really done when there's a change of operator under
- 9 the rules?
- 10 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: An operating interest
- is a person who has the right to operate or appoint the
- 12 operator. If a person has the operating interest and
- 13 they hire a contract operator, under the way we're
- 14 proposing, they would change -- if they change contract
- 15 operators, they would change -- they would trigger this
- 16 provision, so they would have to bring the tanks into
- 17 compliance.
- 18 COMMISSIONER OLSON: If they change the
- 19 contract operator, do they actually file a change of
- 20 operation, then, or change of operator under the rules?
- 21 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: If they're going to be
- 22 filing the documents, yes. If the contract operator is
- 23 going to be filing the documents, they should.
- 24 COMMISSIONER OLSON: But do they? Because
- 25 I'm just thinking the way this has been used is for sales

- 1 of properties.
- 2 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Right. And the
- 3 corresponding change of operatorship of the sale of the
- 4 operating interest.
- 5 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Why can't we just
- 6 put a period at the end of sale?
- 7 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Well --
- 8 COMMISSIONER OLSON: What if they just
- 9 swap it?
- 10 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: I like, "or transfer of
- 11 the operating interest," because that would include if it
- 12 transfers from one working interest owner to another or
- 13 if it sells and -- if the working interest sells, the
- 14 operating interest sells, and the new operator takes over
- 15 operations, but we've also made this change one other
- 16 place.
- 17 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Yeah. It's just
- 18 consistency.
- 19 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Are you guys happy with
- 20 that?
- 21 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: I think so.
- 22 COMMISSIONER OLSON: When you look in
- 23 here, there's distinctions between change of operator and
- 24 change of name.
- 25 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: They're changing the

- 1 name of the operator.
- 2 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Right. But the
- 3 entity does not change.
- 4 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Right. And, like I
- 5 said, in light of what we just said now, there's a very
- 6 small number of -- given the definition of operator that
- 7 we have --
- 8 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I just think you want
- 9 to link it to a change of operator. That's the way it's
- 10 used within the rules.
- 11 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: That's probably a good
- 12 idea, "or change of operator pursuant to 19.15" --
- 13 COMMISSIONER OLSON: "Pursuant to
- 14 19.15.9.9."
- 15 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: There you go.
- 16 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: So that is also in
- 17 17.13 A(5).
- 18 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Yes. Did you get that
- 19 one, Mark?
- 20 MR. SMITH: I'm not sure. I'll check.
- 21 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Everywhere that
- 22 occurs where it says, "transfer of ownership," it would
- 23 now be, "or a change of operator pursuant to 19.15.9.9."
- MR. SMITH: "Change of operator," not --
- 25 you want to leave out "operating interest" at that point?

- 1 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Yes. We've decided to
- 2 tie it to the requirement that they notify us of change
- 3 of operator, rather than the act that triggers that
- 4 itself.
- 5 MR. SMITH: Okay. So in F, looking at the
- 6 second addition that begins, "The operator of a
- 7 below-grade tank," it goes -- four lines down there's a
- 8 reference to 19.15.17.11 NMAC, then the words, "prior
- 9 to" --
- 10 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: -- "any sale"?
- MR. SMITH: Yeah. Do you want that to be,
- 12 "any sale or transfer of anything," or is it just, "prior
- 13 to any change of operator."
- 14 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: "Prior to any sale or
- 15 change of operator pursuant to" --
- 16 MR. SMITH: "Sale or transfer or change of
- 17 any operator" or "change of operator"?
- 18 COMMISSIONER OLSON: "Change of operator"
- 19 covers transfers.
- 20 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: We don't care if some
- 21 other interest transfers the nonworking interest.
- MR. SMITH: So, "sale or change of
- 23 operator pursuant to" --
- 24 COMMISSIONER OLSON: -- "to 19.15.9.9."
- 25 MR. SMITH: Okay. And the same on 13A(5)?

- 1 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Yes.
- 2 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Yes.
- 3 COMMISSIONER OLSON: It appears in about
- 4 three, four places. It also appears in 19.15 -- proposed
- 5 language, 19.15.17.16F, and 19.15.17.17B and 17D, as
- 6 well. There's four places.
- 7 MR. SMITH: Okay.
- 8 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Are we ready to go
- 9 on?
- 10 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Um-hum.
- 11 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: I have no issues
- with proposed changes of 17.17.
- 13 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I have a couple -- I
- 14 think it's more of an editing -- I don't have any
- 15 problems with B. I think we just changed that transfer
- 16 ownership issue. In C, I think they talked about doing C
- 17 for registration purposes. That's what this is about,
- 18 and I had asked some questions about this. Because right
- 19 now the language talks about "the operator require a
- 20 permit or permit modification." That was in my
- 21 questioning. What they were looking was essentially just
- 22 registering these things. And I guess maybe on the
- 23 beginning of the second line, for a little clarity it
- 24 needs to say where this needs to be submitted.
- So on the second line after, "submit," I would

- 1 say, "submit to the Division" --
- 2 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Okay.
- 3 COMMISSIONER OLSON: -- "a list of the
- 4 lined permitted permanent pit or pits of which it is the
- 5 operator, " and I was going to strike "that require a
- 6 permit or permit modification," because that's something
- 7 they don't make the determination of. The Division
- 8 determines whether a permit modification and some of this
- 9 is going to be required. So I would say, "for which is
- 10 the operation for registration purposes. That's what
- 11 they are looking at doing is just registering these
- 12 things.
- 13 Because here, the next sentence talks about
- 14 the registration list, so it is a registration.
- 15 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: You would strike
- 16 where?
- 17 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I would strike after,
- 18 "operator," on the second line, "that require a permit or
- 19 permit modification to the Division for registration."
- 20 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: The rest of that
- 21 whole sentence?
- 22 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Yes. And I would
- 23 replace after, "operator," "for registration purposes."
- 24 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: And you included that
- 25 the Division was in there.

- 1 COMMISSIONER OLSON: And I included that
- 2 they're submitting it to the Division.
- 3 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: I would have no problem
- 4 with that.
- 5 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: No problem.
- 6 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I'll leave that as
- 7 that first line. At the end it talks about that the
- 8 operator, though, is providing a determination if a
- 9 permit modification is required. It's the Division
- 10 that's really going to make that determination. I would
- 11 think you could replace the word, "determination," with,
- 12 "evaluation." If it's really necessary, I think they're
- 13 going to need to deal with it. It's kind of making it
- 14 seem like the final determination is with the operator
- 15 and not with the Division.
- 16 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Right. I have no
- 17 problem with that.
- 18 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Fine with me.
- 19 MR. SMITH: Show me that last one that you
- 20 have.
- 21 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Change this word
- 22 to -- instead of, "and a determination," strike, "a
- 23 determination, " and replace it with, "an evaluation."
- 24 And then the same thing occurs in D again.
- 25 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: "Shall submit to the

- 1 Division"?
- 2 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Yeah. After, "shall
- 3 submit to the Division" -- that's correct -- "a list of
- 4 the below-grade tank or tanks of which it is the
- 5 operator, " strike the remainder -- well, strike, "that
- 6 require a permit or permit modification to the Division,"
- 7 and it should read again similar to C, so it should be,
- 8 "for registration purposes."
- 9 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Okay.
- 10 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Then down on the --
- 11 down below towards the end of D, instead of, "a
- 12 determination," it should be, "an evaluation."
- 13 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Okay.
- 14 COMMISSIONER OLSON: So keep that language
- 15 consistent. I think that's the only thing I have on that
- 16 section was just clarifying that.
- 17 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Okay. That was 17.17.
- 18 I think we're pretty much done except for addressing the
- 19 thing we put on hold on 13F(3).
- MR. SMITH: F(3)(a).
- 21 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Yeah. That's where I
- 22 was proposing to insert that language to address my
- 23 concerns.
- 24 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: I thought it was
- 25 F(3)(c).

- 1 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I'm linking what they
- 2 need to do in their submissions to be consistent with
- 3 what we've done in Rule 36, and it seemed like the proper
- 4 place to put that because it's specifying when they can
- 5 do this. (3)(c) is just specifying what the contaminant
- 6 criteria are.
- 7 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: You're proposing that
- 8 they mark it and record it?
- 9 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I just propose --
- 10 they're already required to mark it, but I would propose
- 11 that we put on the -- under (3)(a) after the "Subsection
- 12 C of 19.15.17.10 NMAC, " add the language, "and the
- operator furnishes a certification that it has a written
- 14 agreement with the surface owner authorizing the site's
- 15 use for on-site trench burial."
- 16 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: After a written
- 17 agreement, like the initial written lease?
- 18 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Whatever. That it
- 19 has a written agreement. That's the way the language
- 20 in Part 36 reads for small land farms, so I was just
- 21 being consistent with the language that we already have.
- 22 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Commissioner Bailey?
- 23 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: I cannot agree. I
- 24 believe we're treading too close to contractual
- 25 agreements, the Surface Owner Protection Act. I don't

- 1 think that we have the right to put that into this rule.
- 2 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Commissioner Olson, I
- 3 would offer a compromise. It's probably not going to
- 4 make either one of you happy. I see the need for
- 5 consistency. And I understand what you're trying to do,
- 6 I really do. But would notice to the surface owner be
- 7 sufficient? Getting their permission seems like it might
- 8 be a little -- although, I do understand it.
- 9 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I quess -- yeah. I
- 10 just see that we require it already for less intrusive
- 11 and less contaminated soils and disposal operations, so
- 12 I don't see why we wouldn't require the same thing for
- 13 higher-level actual landfilling. On land farming, you're
- 14 actually remediating the soil, so it poses no threat.
- 15 Here it is we're actually landfilling now, and that is at
- 16 higher levels than what is being allowed at a land farm.
- 17 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: That's a temporary
- 18 occupation of the surface, whereas this is a permanent
- 19 occupation of the subsurface.
- 20 COMMISSIONER OLSON: That's correct. So I
- 21 think it just makes sense. Maybe I'll just make that as
- 22 a motion.
- 23 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: I assume, Commissioner
- 24 Bailey, you're not going to second it?
- 25 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: No, I'm not going to

- 1 second. But I am willing to compromise and have notice.
- 2 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Commissioner Olson,
- 3 would that be -- I see your argument for consistency.
- 4 But, to me, the difference is a surface occupation as
- 5 opposed to a subsurface occupation. The problem I see is
- 6 if it would otherwise qualify for deep-trench burial and
- 7 we've determined that that's acceptable, we'd be giving
- 8 the surface owner a veto. How would it affect federal
- 9 and state leases? We've already had to negotiate an MOU
- 10 with the Feds in the northwestern part of the state with
- 11 respect to the dry-hole markers -- not dry-hole
- 12 markers -- the markers for pits. We've allowed them to
- 13 put a welded surface plate instead of the four-foot
- 14 marker required for as long as the well was operational.
- 15 But once they plug the well, they have to come back in
- 16 and re-establish that marker.
- 17 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Do you have any type
- 18 of agreement for them on land farms, though?
- 19 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: No.
- 20 COMMISSIONER OLSON: It's required under
- 21 the rule.
- 22 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Yeah. That's just for
- 23 pits, and that's for pits where the well is still active.
- 24 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I just have a problem
- 25 for us requiring it for less toxic sites that are

- 1 actually remediated and pose no threat when they're done
- versus long-term essentially entombment or landfilling on
- a property. It doesn't seem to be consistent.
- 4 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Theoretically, I agree
- 5 with you, and I see the purpose. Do we have enough --
- 6 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Do you want to take a
- 7 break for a minute?
- 8 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: You guys want to take a
- 9 long lunch break and come back at 2:30?
- 10 COMMISSIONER OLSON: This is last issue
- 11 we've got.
- MR. SMITH: That would help me with my
- 13 2:30 meeting. That way I wouldn't have to find a
- 14 substitute.
- 15 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Why don't we take a
- 16 10-minute break and run to the restroom?
- 17 (A recess was taken.)
- 18 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: This is a continuation
- 19 of Case Number 14292. We were in the middle of
- 20 deliberations. The record should reflect that all three
- 21 Commissioners are present after the break. We,
- 22 therefore, have a quorum. This is the public
- 23 deliberations on the proposed rule change.
- 24 We were in the middle of a motion. I believe
- 25 Commissioner Olson had a motion to, in essence, require

- 1 surface owners' permission prior to the deep trench
- 2 burial.
- 3 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I said have written
- 4 agreement authorizing --
- 5 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Commissioner Bailey did
- 6 not second the motion, and I was in the middle of having
- 7 to make a decision. Commissioner Olson, I'm not going to
- 8 second that, either, but propose -- and the motion will
- 9 die. I'm going to propose a substitute motion that we
- 10 require notice to the surface owner prior to a deep
- 11 trench burial and proof of that notice by -- or maybe
- 12 something like proof of mailing to the last address of
- 13 record on the property records or the tax records. Would
- 14 that be an exceptional compromise?
- I hate to do that because I do agree with you,
- 16 but that would also give the surface owner a veto that
- 17 I'm not comfortable with, either.
- 18 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I quess I don't know
- 19 if I accept it as a substitute, but I think it's better
- 20 than what we have now.
- 21 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: In other words, we've
- 22 just agreed to disagree.
- 23 COMMISSIONER OLSON: But I would accept it
- 24 as something that is necessary. I quess I don't accept
- 25 it as a substitute. I guess I'll put it that way.

- 1 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: How could we include --
- 2 Commissioner Bailey, would that be acceptable to you?
- 3 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Yes.
- 4 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: How would we include it
- 5 in that language?
- 6 COMMISSIONER OLSON: You'd probably add it
- 7 in the same area, I would think.
- 8 MR. SMITH: You could make it a proviso at
- 9 the end of that sentence
- 10 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: (3)(a); correct?
- 11 MR. SMITH: Yeah. After "NMAC," you can
- 12 put, "provided that," and put whatever you wanted to in
- 13 terms of notice.
- 14 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: At the beginning of the
- 15 second line?
- 16 MR. SMITH: No. I'm sorry. At the fourth
- 17 line down, at the very end of the entire sentence where,
- 18 "the operator meets the siting criteria may use on-site
- 19 trench burial for closure associated with a closed
- 20 loop" -- "for closure of a temporary pit and waste,
- 21 meets, " blah, blah, blah. And after the reference to
- 22 19.15.17.13 NMAC, you could put, "provided that," and I
- 23 would underline, "provided that," and you could put
- 24 whatever notice requirement you wanted to.
- 25 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Something to the

- 1 effect, "provided that the operator has notified the
- 2 surface owner by mailing to" --
- 3 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Pick up the language
- 4 from the notice rule.
- 5 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Yeah, because I think
- 6 there's some language about proof of notice.
- 7 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Okay. Does anybody
- 8 have that?
- 9 MR. SMITH: You might think about whether
- 10 you want to put a time frame on there, any time prior
- 11 to, " or --
- 12 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Yeah, notified like one
- 13 week prior to the beginning of the trench burial. Would
- 14 one week be enough?
- 15 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Um-hum.
- 16 MR. SMITH: What do we expect the land
- owner to do with that week's notice?
- 18 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: They may want to be
- 19 present, you know, to -- Commissioner Olson wanted to
- 20 make sure they knew where it was, and we also need to
- 21 probably think about a marker similar to the pit markers
- that we're going to be requiring for the pit rule.
- MR. SMITH: If these people are going to
- 24 be out of town, a week might not be enough.
- 25 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Anything more than

- 1 that, you start cutting into the operator's timing for
- 2 equipment and personnel and things like that.
- 3 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Yeah. I don't know
- 4 where that's at, to tell you the truth.
- 5 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: What we can do is
- 6 instruct counsel to draft a provision in there for notice
- 7 that complies or matches.
- 8 MR. SMITH: What you want is a notice
- 9 provision within a week or whatever is standard.
- 10 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Provide proof of
- 11 notice.
- 12 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Commissioner Bailey, do
- 13 we need -- we do need sort of a dry-hole marker like we
- 14 provided for in other places. Does anybody remember
- 15 where that was? There's a provision for in-place
- 16 markers -- I mean for markers for in-place --
- 17 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Why don't you look
- 18 for that and I'll look for the notice.
- 19 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: We've already got that
- 20 provision under J, "Closure notice. The operator shall
- 21 notify the surface owner by certified mail, return
- 22 receipt requested, that the operator plans to close a
- 23 temporary pit, a permanent pit, a below-grade tank or
- 24 where the operator has approval for on-site closure.
- 25 Evidence of mailing of the notice to the address of the

- 1 surface owner shown in the county tax records is
- 2 sufficient to demonstrate compliance with this
- 3 requirement." Doesn't that already --
- 4 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Um-hum.
- 5 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: What we don't have is
- 6 the requirement for -- I don't see the markers.
- 7 MR. SMITH: Could I just bring up one
- 8 thing? By placing the notice provision under (3)(a), you
- 9 make the operator's right to do the on-site burial
- 10 subject to the notice provision. If they don't give the
- 11 notice, then they don't have the right. If you rely
- 12 solely on the closure notice, it is arguable that they
- 13 still have the right under (3)(a) --
- 14 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Um-hum.
- 15 MR. SMITH: -- but that they just messed
- 16 up on the closure notice. What you could do, if you
- 17 wanted, was under (3)(a), still put the proviso in and
- 18 make it, "provided that the operator complies with the
- 19 notice provision under J(1) and shortcut it that way.
- 20 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Prior to closure. Is
- 21 that acceptable?
- 22 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Yes.
- 23 COMMISSIONER OLSON: It may already be in
- 24 13F(1)(B). It's the general requirements for on-site
- 25 closure. Under F(1)(b) it says, "The operator shall

- 1 provide the surface owner notice of the operator's
- 2 proposal of an on-site closure method. The operator
- 3 shall attach the proof of notice to the permanent
- 4 application, " so they're already required by the rule to
- 5 notify the land owner.
- 6 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: So we don't need to
- 7 change --
- 8 COMMISSIONER OLSON: So that doesn't need
- 9 to change. That's right. And that's actually prior to
- 10 getting approval, so --
- 11 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: So we're good.
- 12 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Except for the marker.
- 13 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Yeah. It's right
- 14 under (1)(d). "The operator shall place a steel marker
- 15 at the center of an on-site burial." That talks about
- 16 descriptions of the marker.
- 17 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Is that good enough for
- 18 you? I mean, given your reservations.
- 19 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I think it's where I
- 20 was at last time when we adopted this, so I just kind
- 21 of -- well, it's there for the record. I think it should
- 22 be done. I'd just like that noted for the record.
- 23 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Do we have a rule that
- 24 you can agree to, Commissioner?
- 25 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Yes.

- 1 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Commissioner Olson, do
- 2 we have a rule that you can agree to?
- 3 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I think -- yes, I
- 4 agree with what we are proposing here with the
- 5 reservations that I've expressed about the surface owner
- 6 agreements.
- 7 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: With that we will
- 8 instruct counsel to draft a proposed rule and order for
- 9 consideration. Can it be done at the June 16th or
- 10 18th --
- MS. DAVIDSON: June 18th.
- 12 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: -- June 18 Commission
- 13 meeting?
- MR. SMITH: What is that, three weeks?
- 15 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: About three weeks.
- 16 MR. SMITH: I believe it can. If not,
- 17 maybe I'll seek relief. But if that's when you want it,
- 18 I will definitely get it.
- 19 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Let me go on record
- 20 saying I'll help if I have to. Is there anything more
- 21 concerned with Case Number 14292 that the Commission
- 22 needs to address at this time?
- 23 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: No.
- 24 COMMISSIONER OLSON: No.
- 25 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: With that --

- 1 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Wait. Let me see.
- 2 Do we need to address -- I mean, we have other proposals
- 3 here. I don't know if we have to address why we're not
- 4 adopting those in some of the proposed findings and
- 5 conclusions.
- 6 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: I'll ask counsel. I
- 7 will state for the record that I reviewed all of the
- 8 proposed submissions, and they have been part of the
- 9 deliberations and been part of my consideration in making
- 10 the changes that we have made.
- 11 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: As have I.
- 12 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Actually -- because I
- 13 think there was one other one here I was noticing on the
- 14 OCD's -- let me check here. Like they had one in 52
- 15 where they talked about a definition of background should
- 16 be adopted to effectuate the Division's intent in
- 17 proposing a background standard. But I don't recall
- 18 there being any testimony on what the proposed language
- 19 should be. They don't propose any here, either.
- 20 MR. SMITH: Do you know off the top of
- 21 your head where in the rule proposed amendments are
- 22 authorized for submission?
- 23 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: That would be in the
- 24 rules of rule making. I believe that's a new Section 4,
- 25 Part 3.

- 1 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Three?
- 2 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Yeah. What was your
- 3 question, counsel?
- 4 MR. SMITH: Where in the rule is
- 5 submission of alternative amendments provided for? I
- 6 think I can find it now that you've --
- 7 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: I believe what you're
- 8 looking for is 15.3.11C. It starts there and goes
- 9 through 12. I think what you're looking for will be in
- 10 there.
- 11 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Commissioner, did you
- 12 want to elaborate on Section 52 of the --
- 13 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I quess, from what I
- 14 recall at the hearing, there was no testimony on this, so
- 15 I don't know how we could adopt a definition since we
- 16 have none proposed to it. So I was just going to leave
- 17 it at that because there was no testimony on it.
- 18 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Commissioner Bailey, do
- 19 you have anything to add?
- 20 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: No.
- 21 COMMISSIONER OLSON: The only other
- 22 question I had was on OCD's Items Number 59 and 60. They
- 23 were proposing some changes and I've just got a question
- 24 mark. So I'm not sure I understood what they were
- 25 doing -- what they were requesting, at least in 59.

- 1 They're looking at the transitional provisions of the
- 2 rule in D, because they say it should be changed to this,
- 3 but they don't say what the -- they say, "in lieu of the
- 4 language quoted, "but I'm not quite sure what they're
- 5 changing.
- 6 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: 17D?
- 7 COMMISSIONER OLSON: And then they
- 8 reference it, "in lieu of the language quoted immediately
- 9 preceding the finding," which would be C, wouldn't it?
- 10 Because that's why I was getting confused. I guess it
- 11 was 58, maybe. I'm sorry. Because the problem I was
- 12 seeing, I didn't see the language they're quoting here.
- 13 I didn't see it in D, though, so maybe they were
- 14 referring to something else.
- 15 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: That's on the very back
- 16 page, page 20 of their exhibit. "Upon discovery that the
- 17 below-grade tank does not demonstrate integrity or prior
- 18 to any sale or transfer of ownership."
- 19 COMMISSIONER OLSON: They want to strike
- 20 that, and replace it --
- 21 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Or do they want to
- 22 change it? "An operator" -- at the very last line on
- 23 page 19, "An operator of an existing below-grade tank
- 24 shall comply with the construction requirements of
- 25 19.15.17.11 NMAC within the time provided by applicable

- 1 provisions of Paragraph 5 or 6 of Subsection 1 or 11 or
- 2 prior to any transfer of operation."
- 3 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I see.
- 4 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: And scratch the
- 5 underlined proposal, "upon discovery."
- 6 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: I didn't catch the
- 7 inconsistency, but it would appear it is something we
- 8 need to consider -- five years after the effective date.
- 9 Whereas, if we left it the way it is, we've got the
- 10 inconsistency of five years in the preceding section
- 11 and --
- 12 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Right.
- 13 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: -- and here it would be
- 14 upon discovery.
- 15 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Right. I think for
- 16 consistency it is something that needs to be clarified.
- 17 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Okay. Commissioner
- 18 Bailey, it's going to change -- well, there's an
- 19 inconsistency in there under --
- 20 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Because those other
- 21 provisions make -- I believe in subsection I, provide for
- 22 failure of integrity already.
- 23 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Okay. "An operator
- 24 of an existing below-grade tank shall apply for a permit
- 25 or permit modification within two years. After June

- 1 16th, an operator of an existing below-grade tank shall
- 2 comply with the construction requirements."
- 3 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Within five years,
- 4 essentially, is what was intended under I(6).
- 5 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Right.
- 6 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: But here it's kind of
- 7 ambiguous.
- 8 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Let's make it
- 9 consistent.
- 10 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Okay. Counsel, did you
- 11 pick up that change?
- 12 MR. SMITH: I did not
- 13 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: It's pursuant to
- 14 Section 58, and to a lesser extent to -- 59 and to a
- 15 lesser extent, 58 of the OCD's proposed findings and
- 16 conclusions. And what we would be doing is scratching,
- 17 "upon discovery that the below-grade tank does not
- 18 demonstrate integrity or prior to any sale or transfer of
- 19 ownership, " and replace it with, "within the time
- 20 provided by acceptable provisions of Paragraph 5 and 6 of
- 21 Subsection I of 19.15.17.11 NMAC and prior to any
- 22 transfer of operation."
- MR. SMITH: Okay. Thank you.
- 24 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Okay.
- 25 MR. SMITH: And in answer to your prior

- 1 question, I don't think that you're required to go
- 2 through each and every proposed amendment made in any
- 3 submissions to the Commission, but I do think that you
- 4 are required to go through them and do just what
- 5 Commissioner Olson has done, and if there are any that
- 6 you think need consideration, to bring it before the
- 7 Commission.
- 8 COMMISSIONER OLSON: In that same vein, I
- 9 see in their Number 60, as well, Finding of Fact 60,
- 10 they're trying to clarify the effective date of these
- 11 proposed changes that they're -- 60 days after these
- 12 amendments are adopted in an order.
- 13 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: I think that's
- 14 important to have.
- 15 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Me too. Okay.
- 16 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Because right now
- 17 it's within one year after June 16th, 2008, which is
- 18 coming up quite shortly.
- 19 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Right.
- 20 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Let me check one more
- 21 thing.
- 22 MR. SMITH: You want 60 days after the
- 23 order?
- 24 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: We want to comply with
- 25 Section 60.

- 1 COMMISSIONER OLSON: Finding of Fact 60 in
- 2 the OCD's clarification.
- 3 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Since we're talking
- 4 about the numbering, Mr. Brooks uses lawyer's numbering
- 5 and goes from 45 to 56 to 47.
- 6 COMMISSIONER OLSON: I think that's the
- 7 only other things I found in there.
- 8 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Commissioner Bailey, do
- 9 you have anything to add on that case?
- 10 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: No.
- 11 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: On that, we will
- 12 continue Case Number 14292 to the next regularly
- 13 scheduled meeting of the Oil Conservation Commission --
- 14 which is June 16th?
- MS. DAVIDSON: 18th.
- 16 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: I got it wrong again --
- 17 which is June 18.
- 18 We will address the next items before the
- 19 Commission. The first is Case Number 14055, the
- 20 application of the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division
- 21 for a compliance order against C&D Management Company
- 22 d/b/a Freedom Ventures Company. It has been continued to
- 23 the --
- 24 MS. DAVIDSON: I don't know which hearing
- 25 you want to continued it to. They didn't ask for a

- 1 specific date.
- 2 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: It will be continued.
- 3 The next case before the Commission is Case Number 14149,
- 4 the de novo application of El Paso E&P Company, L.P., to
- 5 abolish the Van Bremmer Canyon-Vermejo Gas Pool, expand
- 6 the Castle Rock Park-Vermejo Gas Pool and establish
- 7 special rules and regulations for the Castle Rock
- 8 Park-Vermejo Gas Pool in Colfax County, New Mexico. This
- 9 case will be continued to the June 18, 2009 Commission
- 10 meeting.
- The next case before the Commission is Case
- 12 Number 14450, the application of El Paso E&P Company,
- 13 I.P., to expand the Stubblefield Canyon Raton-Vermejo Gas
- 14 Pool, and to establish special rules and regulations for
- 15 the pool, in Colfax County, New Mexico. This case will
- also be continued to the June 18th, 2009 Commission
- 17 meeting.
- 18 The next matter before the Commission is Case
- 19 Number 14134, the application of the Board of County
- 20 Commissioners of Rio Arriba County for cancellation or
- 21 suspension of application for permits to drill (APDs)
- 22 filed by Approach Operating, LLC, Rio Arriba County, New
- 23 Mexico. This case will be continued to the July 16th,
- 24 2009 Commission meeting.
- The next case before the Commission is Case

- 1 Number 14141. It is the application of Approach
- Operating, LLC, for approval of six applications for
- 3 permits to drill, in Rio Arriba County, New Mexico. This
- 4 is a related case and it will be continued also to the
- 5 July 16th, 2009 Commission meeting.
- The next case before the Commission is also
- 7 related to the previous two. It's Case Number 14278, the
- 8 application of Approach Operating, LLC, for approval of
- 9 14 applications for permits to drill in Rio Arriba
- 10 County, New Mexico. This case will also be continued to
- 11 the July 16th, 2009 Commission meeting.
- MS. DAVIDSON: Could you continue that
- 13 Case Number 14055 to the June 18th Commission meeting so
- 14 we don't have to readvertise it?
- 15 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: This --
- 16 MS. DAVIDSON: The compliance case.
- 17 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: Against C&D?
- MS. DAVIDSON: Um-hum.
- 19 CHAIRMAN FESMIRE: I need to make a
- 20 correction here. Case Number 14055, the application of
- 21 the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division for a compliance
- 22 order against C&D Management Company d/b/a Freedom
- 23 Ventures, will be continued to the June 18th regularly
- 24 scheduled Commission meeting and not continued
- 25 indefinitely. I want to repeat. Case Number 14055 will