



Stephanie Garcia Richard, State Land Commissioner
State of New Mexico

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Oil Conservation Commission to reconsider Hilcorp Energy Company application after push from Land Commissioner Garcia Richard

SANTA FE, NM – – In a hearing today, the Oil Conservation Commission (OCC) decided to reconsider an application from Texas-based Hilcorp Energy Co. In the application, the company seeks to double their well density in the San Juan Basin. The special hearing was called after Secretary-designate Sarah Propst Cottrell reviewed Land Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richard's request for the OCC to reconsider the decision. Of the decision to reconsider Hilcorp's application, Commissioner Garcia Richard released the following statement:

"I want to thank Secretary-designate Sarah Cottrell Propst for bringing this precedent setting case back into the forefront for review. While it is critical to encourage natural gas production, it is imperative that we remember the San Juan Basin has the 2nd largest natural gas field in the United States and we need to closely evaluate the impacts of doubling wells in the region. These resources are essential to our state's financial viability and I believe we can ensure long-term sustainability and make more money for New Mexico's school children while increasing responsible production."

The OCC will rehear the Hilcorp application at a meeting on May 9th, 2019.

Oil, gas, and mineral production, ranching and farming, and commercial development on State Trust Lands support public schools, seven universities, New Mexico Military Institute, New Mexico School for the Deaf, New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, three hospitals, correctional facilities, water conservation projects, and public building construction and repair. In fiscal year 2018, the State Land Office collected \$852 million from lease payments, oil and gas lease sale earnings, rights-of-way, permits, interest, fees, and oil, gas, and mineral royalties.