

From: nancy king <nanking1224@earthlink.net>

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 4:46 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

The proposed rule should be strengthened to expressly require increased financial assurance where an operator causes or fails to remediate produced water spills and discharges, repeatedly violates spill prohibitions, contaminates waterways or public lands, or demonstrates a pattern of equipment failure, corrosion, or operational noncompliance.

Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

They also create dangerous public health hazards, depress property values, and erode the local tax base, leaving behind impoverished municipalities burdened with environmental degradation and economic stagnation. A study in 2021 found that construction and development on the land surrounding unplugged wells is reduced by as much as 50%, resulting in a substantially depressed local tax base.

The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
nancy king
1224 Vallecita Dr
Santa Fe, NM 87501

From: Maja Hawkes <frytki40@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 4:45 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

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Sincerely,
Maja Hawkes
39 Old Stage Rd
Pie Town, NM 87827

From: Naima Shea <naima9alma@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 4:45 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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These industrial corporations need to be held accountable, please! Poisoning the lands, water, and air. And making us clean up after them? Heinous!!

Sincerely,
Naima Shea
4 Baya Ct
Santa Fe, NM 87508

From: Signe Stuart <sstuartstudio@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 4:47 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

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Sincerely,
Signe Stuart
Santa Fe, NM 87508

From: Susan Peirce <speirce@prodigy.net>

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 4:49 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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Sincerely,
Susan Peirce
Santa Fe, NM 87506

From: Roger Peirce <rjpeirce@prodigy.net>

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 4:49 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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Sincerely,
Roger Peirce
Santa Fe, NM 87506

From: Alasdair Lindsay <alasdair.d.lindsay@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 4:52 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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Well, what do we expect when the state of New Mexico does not enforce the already in-place rules. Why worry when our state government has tax payers who can cover the costs? Whose in charge? Are they asleep or do they just not care?

Sincerely,
Alasdair Lindsay
48 Avenida Frijoles
Santa Fe, NM 87507

From: Lura Brookins <lurabrookins@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 5:04 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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Sincerely,
Lura Brookins
1500 Pacheco St
Santa Fe, NM 87505

From: John Margerum <jmargerum1@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 5:09 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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Sincerely,
John Margerum
Philadelphia, PA 19129

From: Doug Dunkle <coachdugger@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 5:09 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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Sincerely,
Doug Dunkle
HC 74 Box 806
Pecos, NM 87552

From: Jeff Mason <mason87104@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 5:15 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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Sincerely,

Jeff Mason

3308 La Mancha Dr NW

Albuquerque, NM 87104

From: Debra Denker <swlight1@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 5:24 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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Sincerely,
Debra Denker
SANTA FE, NM 87508

From: Meg meltz <megmeltz.nm@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 5:51 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am absolutely appalled to discover the cost to New Mexico of cleaning up leaks from oil & gas wells. I had no idea of the huge number of these leaks nor of the harm they do to human & animal health. These leaks also increase climate change. I totally support the reforms proposed by the NM State Land Office.

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

They also create dangerous public health hazards, depress property values, and erode the local tax base, leaving behind impoverished municipalities burdened with environmental degradation and economic stagnation. A study in 2021 found that construction and development on the land surrounding unplugged wells is reduced by as much as 50%, resulting in a substantially depressed local tax base.

The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Meg meltz
18 Serena Rd
Santa Fe, NM 87508

From: Debra Jones <breakline23@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 5:53 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

The proposed rule should be strengthened to expressly require increased financial assurance where an operator

causes or fails to remediate produced water spills and discharges, repeatedly violates spill prohibitions, contaminates waterways or public lands, or demonstrates a pattern of equipment failure, corrosion, or operational noncompliance.

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The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Debra Jones
Placitas, NM 87043

From: Rita Glasscock <ritalink9@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 6:09 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,

Rita Glasscock

1200 Camino Consuelo

Santa Fe, NM 87507

From: Robert Hays <robhnm@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 6:16 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Robert Hays
1925 Camino Lumbre
Santa Fe, NM 87505

From: Ron Mittan <rgmittan@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 6:26 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be

made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Ron Mittan
5024 Sevilla Ave NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120

From: Lydia Davis <lydiadavis174@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 6:26 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

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Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Lydia Davis
Albuquerque, NM 87112

From: Katherin Hinton <katherin.hinton@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 6:55 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

As a concerned New Mexico resident, I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

The proposed rule should be strengthened to expressly require increased financial assurance where an operator causes or fails to remediate produced water spills and discharges, repeatedly violates spill prohibitions, contaminates waterways or public lands, or demonstrates a pattern of equipment failure, corrosion, or operational noncompliance.

Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

As you know, the environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

They also create dangerous public health hazards, depress property values, and erode the local tax base, leaving behind impoverished municipalities burdened with environmental degradation and economic stagnation. A study in 2021 found that construction and development on the land surrounding unplugged wells is reduced by as much as 50%, resulting in a substantially depressed local tax base.

The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,

Katherin Hinton

Santa Fe, NM 87505

From: Ginny Schneider <bigmoneyoutofpolitics@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 7:16 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

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Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Ginny Schneider
Cochiti Lake, NM 87083

From: Maresa Pryor-Luzier <mpluzier@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 7:34 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Maresa Pryor-Luzier
Datil, NM 87821

From: Judy Mellow <graygrammarian@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 7:45 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico's wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans. They are essential . How else can we ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely?

Sincerely,
Judy Mellow
Santa Fe, NM 87505

From: Steve Collins <stevecollins45@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 8:04 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Steve Collins
Santa Fe, NM 87505

From: Peter and Marita Prandoni <mprandoni@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 8:54 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

The burden to future generations is not just financial but a question of whether or not they make it to adulthood without severe health issues.

Sincerely,
Peter and Marita Prandoni
Santa Fe, NM 87508

From: Ellen Lee <pelican730f@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 8:54 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the "bonding gap" between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico's wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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Sincerely,
Ellen Lee
808 W Manhattan Ave Apt A
Santa Fe, NM 87501

From: Emily Severance <emilyaseverance@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 8:58 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

The proposed rule should be strengthened to expressly require increased financial assurance where an operator causes or fails to remediate produced water spills and discharges, repeatedly violates spill prohibitions, contaminates waterways or public lands, or demonstrates a pattern of equipment failure, corrosion, or operational noncompliance.

Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

They also create dangerous public health hazards, depress property values, and erode the local tax base, leaving behind impoverished municipalities burdened with environmental degradation and economic stagnation. A study in 2021 found that construction and development on the land surrounding unplugged wells is reduced by as much as 50%, resulting in a substantially depressed local tax base.

The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Emily Severance
Albuquerque, NM 87108

From: AJ cho <amenoartemis@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 11:21 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
AJ cho
159 Santa Teresa
San Leandro, CA 94579

From: Thomas Talbot <ttalbot56@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, May 22, 2026 12:01 AM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am sending this along as I'm grateful for the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the "bonding gap" between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico's wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company's prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently "lost" into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

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The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico's land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,

Thomas Talbot

210 Mesa Vista Rd

Anthony, NM 88021

From: Chrysa Wikstrom <misscgwhee@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, May 22, 2026 6:32 AM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

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Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

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The proposed rules are the least you can do to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans. They really should be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Chrysa Wikstrom
1830 Kiva Rd
Santa Fe, NM 87505

From: Frank Hoffman <bullhoffy@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, May 22, 2026 7:53 AM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I believe we must decrease the taxpayer burden from abandoned and finished oil wells. I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Frank Hoffman
1300 Upper Canyon Rd
Santa Fe, NM 87501

From: Peggy Froelich <peggyfroelich@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, May 22, 2026 9:44 AM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Peggy Froelich
625 Madrid Rd
Jemez Springs, NM 87025

From: Ruby Oland <rubyoland@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, May 22, 2026 10:19 AM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Ruby Oland
1313 Acequia Borrada
Santa Fe, NM 87507

From: Joaquin Karcher <joaquin@zeroedesign.com>

Sent: Friday, May 22, 2026 10:38 AM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Joaquin Karcher
Taos, NM 87571

From: Amy Larsen <amyliv@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, May 22, 2026 10:54 AM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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Sincerely,
Amy Larsen
Española, NM 87532

From: Victoria Hern <victorialhern@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, May 22, 2026 2:44 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Victoria Hern
Rio Rancho, NM 87124

From: amor gaytan <danielrsjuu08@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, May 22, 2026 2:56 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

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Sincerely,
amor gaytan
Rio Rancho, NM 87144

From: Simone James <jamessimone9@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, May 22, 2026 4:03 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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Sincerely,

Simone James

Albuquerque, NM 87120

From: Susana Vasquez <oxsusiexo@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, May 22, 2026 4:58 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Susana Vasquez
4517 Douglas MacArthur Rd NE
Albuquerque, NM 87110

From: Jeff Silesky <jeffsilesky@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, May 22, 2026 5:17 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted

to cover New Mexico's wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company's prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

The proposed rule should be strengthened to expressly require increased financial assurance where an operator causes or fails to remediate produced water spills and discharges, repeatedly violates spill prohibitions, contaminates waterways or public lands, or demonstrates a pattern of equipment failure, corrosion, or operational noncompliance.

Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico's land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

They also create dangerous public health hazards, depress property values, and erode the local tax base, leaving behind impoverished municipalities burdened with environmental degradation and economic stagnation. A study in 2021 found that construction and development on the land surrounding unplugged wells is reduced by as much as 50%, resulting in a substantially depressed local tax base.

The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Jeff Silesky
Rio Rancho, NM 87144

From: Mary Russell <mhrussell100@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, May 22, 2026 5:32 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico's wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

I am supportive of this amendment. As a resident of New Mexico I want my children and grandchildren to live in a healthy safe environment.

Sincerely,
Mary Russell
2803 Quincy St NE
Albuquerque, NM 87110

From: Susan Peirce <speirce@prodigy.net>

Sent: Friday, May 22, 2026 5:33 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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Sincerely,
Susan Peirce
18 Paseo de Aguila
Santa Fe, NM 87506

From: Zoe Dennison <kay99zoe@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, May 22, 2026 5:55 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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Sincerely,
Zoe Dennison
Santa Teresa, NM 88008

From: Bo Bergstrom <bo.cinesthetic.30.yx@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, May 22, 2026 6:22 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Bo Bergstrom
Silver City, NM 88061

From: Ireland Vandergriff <irero1331@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, May 22, 2026 6:46 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Ireland Vandergriff
Albuquerque, NM 87106

From: James Guntis <epicherping@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, May 22, 2026 11:12 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,

James Guntis
Las Cruces, NM 88001

From: David Fackler <datfackler@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 23, 2026 12:22 AM
To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

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The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

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Sincerely,
David Fackler
Las Cruces, NM 88005

From: Patrice Goodkind <pgoodkind@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 23, 2026 1:47 AM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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The proposed rule should be strengthened to expressly require increased financial assurance where an operator causes or fails to remediate produced water spills and discharges, repeatedly violates spill prohibitions, contaminates waterways or public lands, or demonstrates a pattern of equipment failure, corrosion, or operational noncompliance.

Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

Please support the proposed rule and call for the addition of heightened bond requirements for repeated produced water spills.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

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Sincerely,

Patrice Goodkind

10501 Lagrima de Oro Rd NE Apt 6501

Albuquerque, NM 87111

From: Carly Baca <carlybaca1010@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, May 23, 2026 7:23 AM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am thankful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms that will strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers/ community members from oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule will consider a company’s prior record of major spills into produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

The proposed rule should be strengthened to expressly require increased financial assurance where an operator causes or fails to remediate produced water spills and discharges, repeatedly violates spill prohibitions, contaminates waterways or public lands, or demonstrates a pattern of equipment failure, corrosion, or operational noncompliance.

The immense remediation costs and the risks of long-term contamination, combined with heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operations bear the financial burden of remediating the land.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severely dangerous. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide. The impact of the emotions benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds are linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers. Of which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

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Sincerely,
Carly Baca
Albuquerque, NM 87105

From: Rica Maestas <ricamaestas@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, May 23, 2026 8:35 AM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

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Sincerely,
Rica Maestas
Albuquerque, NM 87104

From: Adnane Rhoulam <pvtrhoulam@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, May 23, 2026 11:16 AM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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Sincerely,
Adnane Rhoulam
Rio Rancho, NM 87144

From: Natalie Gutierrez <nataliegutierrez012@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, May 23, 2026 1:59 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

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Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating

climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico's land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

They also create dangerous public health hazards, depress property values, and erode the local tax base, leaving behind impoverished municipalities burdened with environmental degradation and economic stagnation. A study in 2021 found that construction and development on the land surrounding unplugged wells is reduced by as much as 50%, resulting in a substantially depressed local tax base.

The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Natalie Gutierrez
Santa Teresa, NM 88008

From: Gregory Sandoval <gregjade@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, May 23, 2026 2:10 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the "bonding gap" between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico's wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company's prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently "lost" into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

The proposed rule should be strengthened to expressly require increased financial assurance where an operator causes or fails to remediate produced water spills and discharges, repeatedly violates spill prohibitions, contaminates waterways or public lands, or demonstrates a pattern of equipment failure, corrosion, or operational noncompliance.

Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico's land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

They also create dangerous public health hazards, depress property values, and erode the local tax base, leaving behind impoverished municipalities burdened with environmental degradation and economic stagnation. A study

in 2021 found that construction and development on the land surrounding unplugged wells is reduced by as much as 50%, resulting in a substantially depressed local tax base.

The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Gregory Sandoval
1720 Avenida Cristo Rey NW
Albuquerque, NM 87107

From: Barry Goldberg <barry@hwgoldberg.com>

Sent: Saturday, May 23, 2026 2:19 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

The proposed rule should be strengthened to expressly require increased financial assurance where an operator causes or fails to remediate produced water spills and discharges, repeatedly violates spill prohibitions, contaminates waterways or public lands, or demonstrates a pattern of equipment failure, corrosion, or operational noncompliance.

Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

They also create dangerous public health hazards, depress property values, and erode the local tax base, leaving behind impoverished municipalities burdened with environmental degradation and economic stagnation. A study in 2021 found that construction and development on the land surrounding unplugged wells is reduced by as much as 50%, resulting in a substantially depressed local tax base.

The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Barry Goldberg
99 Encantado Loop
Santa Fe, NM 87508

From: Isabella Botello <isabellabotello8@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, May 23, 2026 4:18 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

The proposed rule should be strengthened to expressly require increased financial assurance where an operator causes or fails to remediate produced water spills and discharges, repeatedly violates spill prohibitions, contaminates waterways or public lands, or demonstrates a pattern of equipment failure, corrosion, or operational noncompliance.

Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

They also create dangerous public health hazards, depress property values, and erode the local tax base, leaving behind impoverished municipalities burdened with environmental degradation and economic stagnation. A study in 2021 found that construction and development on the land surrounding unplugged wells is reduced by as much as 50%, resulting in a substantially depressed local tax base.

The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Isabella Botello
Albuquerque, NM 87114

From: Colette Scaff <ismatmscaff@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, May 23, 2026 4:29 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

The proposed rule should be strengthened to expressly require increased financial assurance where an operator causes or fails to remediate produced water spills and discharges, repeatedly violates spill prohibitions, contaminates waterways or public lands, or demonstrates a pattern of equipment failure, corrosion, or operational noncompliance.

Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

They also create dangerous public health hazards, depress property values, and erode the local tax base, leaving behind impoverished municipalities burdened with environmental degradation and economic stagnation. A study in 2021 found that construction and development on the land surrounding unplugged wells is reduced by as much as 50%, resulting in a substantially depressed local tax base.

The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,

Colette Scaff

ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87102

From: Colette Scaff <ismatmscaff@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, May 23, 2026 4:36 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I appreciate the New Mexico State Land Office is advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect our state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from ever mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is a vital step in addressing the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

Additionally, I support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply another risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). I'd think this rule should consider a company's prior record of major spills of produced water. In just 2025, operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often the same companies over and over again. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste have been released into the environment, contaminating fifteen of our waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into our soil, waterways, and ecosystems costing untold damage to our communities.

The proposed rule should be strengthened to expressly require increased financial assurance where an operator causes or fails to remediate produced water spills and discharges, repeatedly violates spill prohibitions, contaminates waterways or public lands, or demonstrates a pattern of equipment failure, corrosion, or operational noncompliance. And if they continue to incur fines through these violations, they should be banned from our communities.

Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

They also create dangerous public health hazards, depress property values, and erode the local tax base, leaving behind impoverished municipalities burdened with environmental degradation and economic stagnation. A study in 2021 found that construction and development on the land surrounding unplugged wells is reduced by as much as 50%, resulting in a substantially depressed local tax base.

The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely

Sincerely,
Colette Scaff
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87102

From: sherry thompson <thompson.online@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, May 23, 2026 4:57 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas

liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

The proposed rule should be strengthened to expressly require increased financial assurance where an operator causes or fails to remediate produced water spills and discharges, repeatedly violates spill prohibitions, contaminates waterways or public lands, or demonstrates a pattern of equipment failure, corrosion, or operational noncompliance.

Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

They also create dangerous public health hazards, depress property values, and erode the local tax base, leaving behind impoverished municipalities burdened with environmental degradation and economic stagnation. A study in 2021 found that construction and development on the land surrounding unplugged wells is reduced by as much as 50%, resulting in a substantially depressed local tax base.

The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

I support the proposed rule and calling for the addition of heightened bond requirements for repeated produced water spills.

Sincerely,
sherry thompson
57 Camino Los Abuelos
Santa Fe, NM 87508

From: Alan Gracia <graciaalan343@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, May 23, 2026 6:30 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company's prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

The proposed rule should be strengthened to expressly require increased financial assurance where an operator causes or fails to remediate produced water spills and discharges, repeatedly violates spill prohibitions, contaminates waterways or public lands, or demonstrates a pattern of equipment failure, corrosion, or operational noncompliance.

Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico's land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

They also create dangerous public health hazards, depress property values, and erode the local tax base, leaving behind impoverished municipalities burdened with environmental degradation and economic stagnation. A study in 2021 found that construction and development on the land surrounding unplugged wells is reduced by as much as 50%, resulting in a substantially depressed local tax base.

The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Alan Gracia
Albuquerque, NM 87114

From: Brain Hauck <hauckb45@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, May 23, 2026 9:36 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico's wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company's prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and

ecosystems.

The proposed rule should be strengthened to expressly require increased financial assurance where an operator causes or fails to remediate produced water spills and discharges, repeatedly violates spill prohibitions, contaminates waterways or public lands, or demonstrates a pattern of equipment failure, corrosion, or operational noncompliance.

Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

They also create dangerous public health hazards, depress property values, and erode the local tax base, leaving behind impoverished municipalities burdened with environmental degradation and economic stagnation. A study in 2021 found that construction and development on the land surrounding unplugged wells is reduced by as much as 50%, resulting in a substantially depressed local tax base.

The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Brain Hauck
Los Lunas, NM 87031

From: Elena Vena <leilagreen66@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, May 24, 2026 1:29 AM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

The proposed rule should be strengthened to expressly require increased financial assurance where an operator causes or fails to remediate produced water spills and discharges, repeatedly violates spill prohibitions, contaminates waterways or public lands, or demonstrates a pattern of equipment failure, corrosion, or operational noncompliance.

Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

They also create dangerous public health hazards, depress property values, and erode the local tax base, leaving behind impoverished municipalities burdened with environmental degradation and economic stagnation. A study in 2021 found that construction and development on the land surrounding unplugged wells is reduced by as much as 50%, resulting in a substantially depressed local tax base.

The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Elena Vena
Albuquerque, NM 87110

From: Josephine Tucker <success.josephine00tucker@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, May 24, 2026 6:32 AM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

The proposed rule should be strengthened to expressly require increased financial assurance where an operator causes or fails to remediate produced water spills and discharges, repeatedly violates spill prohibitions, contaminates waterways or public lands, or demonstrates a pattern of equipment failure, corrosion, or operational noncompliance.

Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and

abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

They also create dangerous public health hazards, depress property values, and erode the local tax base, leaving behind impoverished municipalities burdened with environmental degradation and economic stagnation. A study in 2021 found that construction and development on the land surrounding unplugged wells is reduced by as much as 50%, resulting in a substantially depressed local tax base.

The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Josephine Tucker
Clovis, NM 88130

From: Michael Lawler <oeillist@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, May 24, 2026 7:39 AM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

The proposed rule should be strengthened to expressly require increased financial assurance where an operator causes or fails to remediate produced water spills and discharges, repeatedly violates spill prohibitions, contaminates waterways or public lands, or demonstrates a pattern of equipment failure, corrosion, or operational noncompliance.

Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

They also create dangerous public health hazards, depress property values, and erode the local tax base, leaving behind impoverished municipalities burdened with environmental degradation and economic stagnation. A study in 2021 found that construction and development on the land surrounding unplugged wells is reduced by as much as 50%, resulting in a substantially depressed local tax base.

The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Despite their self-serving profiteering, corporations should be responsible to We The People who granted their charters, and clean up after themselves. Enough of privatizing profit while socializing environmental damage.

Sincerely,
Michael Lawler
Albuquerque, NM 87111

From: Ann Gibson <ann.l.gibson@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, May 24, 2026 9:41 AM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

While I oppose the sale of our public utilities to private equity firms, I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water and history of “walking away” from similar environmental recklessness in other states. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

I agree the proposed rule should be strengthened to expressly require increased financial assurance where an operator causes or fails to remediate produced water spills and discharges, repeatedly violates spill prohibitions, contaminates waterways or public lands, or demonstrates a pattern of equipment failure, corrosion, or operational noncompliance.

Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

They also create dangerous public health hazards, depress property values, and erode the local tax base, leaving

behind impoverished municipalities burdened with environmental degradation and economic stagnation. A study in 2021 found that construction and development on the land surrounding unplugged wells is reduced by as much as 50%, resulting in a substantially depressed local tax base.

The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Ann Gibson
Highway 474
Algodones, NM 87001

From: Nanibah Chacon <nanibahchacon@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, May 24, 2026 11:25 AM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be

made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Nanibah Chacon
Albuquerque, NM 87102

From: Joshua Beltran <joshuabeltran2121@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, May 24, 2026 2:31 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

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Sincerely,
Joshua Beltran
Albuquerque, NM 87121

From: Adriel Molina <badxam07@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, May 24, 2026 4:15 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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Sincerely,

Adriel Molina

El Paso, NM 88081

From: Trevor Vigil <trevorvigil.tv@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, May 24, 2026 5:22 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

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Sincerely,
Trevor Vigil
Albuquerque, NM 87112

From: Kenley Frey <kenners8228@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, May 24, 2026 5:31 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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Sincerely,
Kenley Frey
Albuquerque, NM 87122

From: Sarah Stout <sarahclaudia.s@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, May 24, 2026 8:43 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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Thank you for listening and giving attention to this extraordinarily important issue for our state.

Sincerely,

Sarah Stout
Santa Fe, NM

Sincerely,
Sarah Stout
1317 Luana St
Santa Fe, NM 87505

From: Dominic Tarango Tarango <tarangodom@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, May 24, 2026 10:03 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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Sincerely,
Dominic Tarango Tarango
Albuquerque, NM 87110

From: Stephen Hochmann <steve@wolffmann.us>

Sent: Sunday, May 24, 2026 10:17 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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Sincerely,
Stephen Hochmann
6324 Loftus Ave NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

From: stella clifford <stellalynne87@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, May 25, 2026 7:12 AM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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Sincerely,
stella clifford
Rio Rancho, NM 87144

From: Debra Bohler <debbohler@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, May 25, 2026 8:09 AM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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Sincerely,
Debra Bohler
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87114

From: Scott Leonard <binsworth@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, May 25, 2026 8:45 AM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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Sincerely,

Scott Leonard
Albuquerque, NM 87111

From: gabby cordova <gabriellecordova328@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 25, 2026 10:54 AM
To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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Sincerely,
gabby cordova
Santa Fe, 35,1,35.68,-105.93, NM 87505

From: Hayley Harper <hayleyharperdesigns@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 25, 2026 10:58 AM
To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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They also create dangerous public health hazards, depress property values, and erode the local tax base, leaving behind impoverished municipalities burdened with environmental degradation and economic stagnation. A study in 2021 found that construction and development on the land surrounding unplugged wells is reduced by as much as 50%, resulting in a substantially depressed local tax base.

The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Hayley Harper
Albuquerque, NM 87106

From: Lauren Teffeau <Lteffeau@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, May 25, 2026 11:02 AM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company's prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

The proposed rule should be strengthened to expressly require increased financial assurance where an operator causes or fails to remediate produced water spills and discharges, repeatedly violates spill prohibitions, contaminates waterways or public lands, or demonstrates a pattern of equipment failure, corrosion, or operational noncompliance.

Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico's land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Lauren Teffeau
Albuquerque, NM 87112

From: anika marcus <nikapmm@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, May 25, 2026 11:32 AM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

New Mexicans should not bear the financial nor physical responsibility of crude oil in our land air and water. It is a blatant disregard of our health and safety, and of our future. It is absolutely intolerable for crude oil to be our burden.

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico's wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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The proposed rule should be strengthened to expressly require increased financial assurance where an operator causes or fails to remediate produced water spills and discharges, repeatedly violates spill prohibitions, contaminates waterways or public lands, or demonstrates a pattern of equipment failure, corrosion, or operational noncompliance.

There should be no tolerance for these oil companies to create this much waste. It is immoral on behalf of the state and its legislation to allow this to continue.

Sincerely,
anika marcus
santa fe, NM 87501

From: Lisa M Verdi <nmmom2@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, May 25, 2026 1:18 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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as 50%, resulting in a substantially depressed local tax base.

The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Lisa M Verdi
Albuquerque, NM 87112

From: Nicole Maestas <nicolebeautyway@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, May 25, 2026 1:26 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,

Nicole Maestas
Albuquerque, NM 87121

From: Emily Hibbs <hibbsemily78@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, May 25, 2026 1:39 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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Sincerely,
Emily Hibbs
Albuquerque, NM 87112

From: Katja Mesch <katja_960@hotmail.com>

Sent: Monday, May 25, 2026 2:50 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Katja Mesch
Albuquerque, NM 87111

From: Steven and Susan Mayes <bookravens@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, May 25, 2026 3:38 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas

liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Steven and Susan Mayes
SANTAFE, NM 87508

From: Aria Chiodo <ariachiodo@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, May 25, 2026 4:40 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Aria Chiodo
Santa Fe, NM 87505

From: Dani Gutierrez <dani.ruthere@hotmail.com>

Sent: Monday, May 25, 2026 4:46 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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Sincerely,
Dani Gutierrez
2444 Rose Ave NW
Albuquerque, NM 87104

From: Jay Veater <jayveater.lmt@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, May 25, 2026 5:08 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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Sincerely,
Jay Veater
490 Little Wings Loop SW
Los Lunas, NM 87031

From: Betty Stokes <bettydaystokes@hotmail.com>

Sent: Monday, May 25, 2026 5:29 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely. Sincerely,
Betty Stokes

Sincerely,
Betty Stokes
La Luz, NM 88337

From: Diane Reese <DianeAbqNM@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, May 25, 2026 5:36 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

Let me just say up front - thank you for the proposal and let's get it done! Diane

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the "bonding gap" between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico's wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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Sincerely,
Diane Reese
Albuquerque, NM 87105

From: Cathy Lady <1kolibri2@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, May 25, 2026 6:32 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

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Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

They also create dangerous public health hazards, depress property values, and erode the local tax base, leaving behind impoverished municipalities burdened with environmental degradation and economic stagnation. A study in 2021 found that construction and development on the land surrounding unplugged wells is reduced by as much as 50%, resulting in a substantially depressed local tax base.

The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Cathy Lady
Las Cruces, NM 88001

From: Tashenna Simpson <nomnom1620@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, May 25, 2026 8:57 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

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Sincerely,

Tashenna Simpson
Albuquerque, NM 87122

From: Pamela Wolff <pam@wolffmann.us>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 12:09 AM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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Sincerely,
Pamela Wolff
Albuquerque, NM 87109

From: Pixie Jacobs <pixiejacobs0@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 12:16 AM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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Sincerely,
Pixie Jacobs
Albuquerque, NM 87109

From: Caitlin Podsiadlo <cnpodsiadlo@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 1:10 AM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas

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Sincerely,
Caitlin Podsiadlo
Las Cruces, NM 88011

From: Nathan Valdez <polier505@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 1:21 AM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Nathan Valdez
Albuquerque, NM 87114

From: Marshall Magnuson <mags4swim@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 4:28 AM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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Sincerely,
Marshall Magnuson
Farmington, NM 87401

From: Jacqueline Jaramillo <jacquelinecjaramillo@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 4:54 AM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

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Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

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Sincerely,
Jacqueline Jaramillo
Albuquerque, NM 87121

From: L. Watchempino <5000wave@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 8:40 AM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and to protect our state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover oil and gas wells in New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs of plugging wells, remediation costs, and reclaiming the land.

I also support amending the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category for heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule must account for a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water.

In 2025 alone, operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulted in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost”, contaminating soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

The proposed rule must expressly mandate increased financial assurances to cover produced water spills and discharges, noncompliance with spill prohibitions and the resulting contamination of New Mexico waterways and public lands. Bad actors with a history of noncompliance or equipment and operational failures should also be required to remediate past damages and post increased financial assurances.

Due to extraordinary well plugging and remediation costs, as well as the long-term contamination risks posed by oil and gas operations in New Mexico, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that the operators—not taxpayers or New Mexico regulatory agencies —bear the financial burdens of produced water pollution and remediation, and for plugging their own oil and gas wells.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane, a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide, which exacerbates climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and

groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans. The rules must be updated to account for the true costs of conducting oil and gas operations in New Mexico and to ensure that operators pay for all the damages that they inflict.

Sincerely,
L. Watchempino
Pueblo of Acoma, NM 87034

From: A Williams <whycantwealljustcheer@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 10:45 AM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

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as 50%, resulting in a substantially depressed local tax base.

The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
A Williams
albuquerque, NM 87112

From: Hope Wimer <hopeloma1@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 10:47 AM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

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Sincerely,

Hope Wimer
Albuquerque, NM 87102

From: Ethan Crisp <crispethan@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 12:23 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

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Sincerely,
Ethan Crisp
Albuquerque, NM 87111

From: Esperanza Chairez <aznarepse575@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 1:11 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

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Sincerely,
Esperanza Chairez
Las Cruces, NM 88001

From: e bemis <evalyn@newmexico.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 3:07 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial

assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

The proposed rule should be strengthened to expressly require increased financial assurance where an operator causes or fails to remediate produced water spills and discharges, repeatedly violates spill prohibitions, contaminates waterways or public lands, or demonstrates a pattern of equipment failure, corrosion, or operational noncompliance.

Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

They also create dangerous public health hazards, depress property values, and erode the local tax base, leaving behind impoverished municipalities burdened with environmental degradation and economic stagnation. A study in 2021 found that construction and development on the land surrounding unplugged wells is reduced by as much as 50%, resulting in a substantially depressed local tax base.

The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
e bemis
21 Leaping Powder Rd
Santa Fe, NM 87508

From: James Stewart <giacomo38@hotmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 3:09 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

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Sincerely,
James Stewart
Santa Fe, NM 87506

From: Cathy Kumar <ecocathy@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 3:14 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

This makes so much sense and it realistically should be higher.

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico's wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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Sincerely,
Cathy Kumar
Los Ranchos, NM 87107

From: Elizabeth Fryer <modharma@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 3:28 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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Sincerely,
Elizabeth Fryer
Santa Fe, NM 87507

From: Kevin M Skelly <kevin@kmskelly.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 3:33 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

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Sincerely,
Kevin M Skelly
Santa Fe, NM 87502

From: Ginny Schneider <bigmoneyleftofpolitics@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 3:36 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

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Sincerely,
Ginny Schneider
Cochiti Lake, NM 87083

From: William Riker <wriker@mindspring.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 3:40 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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Sincerely,

William Riker
Cochiti Lake, NM 87083

From: Dianna Woods <diannawoods13@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 3:45 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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Sincerely,
Dianna Woods
Santa Fe, NM 87501

From: David Goldberg <dav.nat.goldberg@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 3:48 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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Sincerely,
David Goldberg
Albuquerque, NM 87104

From: Marion Carter <marion@newmexico.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 3:52 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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Sincerely,
Marion Carter
Santa Fe, NM 87505

From: Jeff Mason <mason87104@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 3:53 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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Sincerely,
Jeff Mason
Albuquerque, NM 87104

From: Melissa Lujan <momolujan@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 3:55 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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Sincerely,
Melissa Lujan
720 14th St NW
Albuquerque, NM 87104

From: Ron Abramshe <raamplex@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 4:02 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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They also create dangerous public health hazards, depress property values, and erode the local tax base, leaving behind impoverished municipalities burdened with environmental degradation and economic stagnation. A study in 2021 found that construction and development on the land surrounding unplugged wells is reduced by as much as 50%, resulting in a substantially depressed local tax base.

The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely. Honestly this should be a no-brainer.

Sincerely,
Ron Abramshe
852 Golden Yarrow Trl
Bernalillo, NM 87004

From: Lisa Whitehouse <lisanawhitehouae@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 4:06 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

The proposed rule should be strengthened to expressly require increased financial assurance where an operator causes or fails to remediate produced water spills and discharges, repeatedly violates spill prohibitions, contaminates waterways or public lands, or demonstrates a pattern of equipment failure, corrosion, or operational noncompliance.

Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Lisa Whitehouse
Albuquerque, NM 87111

From: Katherine Shera <katherine_shera@protonmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 4:08 PM
To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for proposed amendments to 19.2.100 NMAC, Section 23, Oil and Gas Financial Assurances

Dear Commissioner Garcia Richards:

As a public health advocate, I stand in strong support of the State Land Office's proposal to strengthen bonding requirements for oil and gas operators on state land, and of New Energy Economy / WildEarth Guardian's further amendments to SLO's proposed rule—specifically those that require increased assurances from operators having (a) a prior record of spills and discharges, e.g. of produced water; or (b) a record of repeated violations or operational non-compliance.

Like the adverse impacts of active oil and gas operations themselves, the substantial health and environmental impacts of abandoned wells fall disproportionately on New Mexico's most vulnerable residents, including members of rural and Indigenous communities. Your efforts to address the state's orphan well crisis will help to eliminate the hazardous exposures that have long fueled this injustice. Thank you.

Katherine Shera
Santa Fe

From: Deniz Pinkerton <denizmbm@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 4:16 PM
To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the "bonding gap" between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico's wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico's land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Deniz Pinkerton
Albuquerque, NM 87108

From: Catey Marquez <careynm@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 4:17 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico's wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company's prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

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The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Catey Marquez
Albuquerque, NM 87108

From: Jeff Silesky <jeffsilesky@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 4:18 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

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Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Jeff Silesky
Rio Rancho, NM 87144

From: Lora Lucero <loralucero3@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 4:21 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I support the rule presented by the New Mexico State Land Office to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I believe this reform is long overdue.

The proposed rule should be strengthened to expressly require increased financial assurance where an operator causes or fails to remediate produced water spills and discharges, repeatedly violates spill prohibitions, contaminates waterways or public lands, or demonstrates a pattern of equipment failure, corrosion, or operational noncompliance.

Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Lora Lucero
Albuquerque, NM 87194

From: Martha Martinez del Rio <marthamdelrio@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 4:22 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely. New Mexicans should not be forced to subsidize corporate pollution after companies have extracted billions in profits. Financial

assurance reform is about basic accountability: if companies profit from drilling, they must pay to clean.

Sincerely,
Martha Martinez del Rio
Silver City, NM 88061

From: Deanna Galkin-Doran <deanna.doran@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 4:23 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Deanna Galkin-Doran
Corrales, NM 87048

From: Diane Gibson <dggibso@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 4:27 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I fully support the amendments outlined below. Strict enforcement of consequences commensurate with results of noncompliance is the ONLY way we can expect bad actors to change.

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely

Sincerely,

Diane Gibson

Albuquerque, NM 87110

From: Karen Smith <karensmithnm@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 4:34 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Karen Smith
Rio Rancho, NM 87144

From: Caitlyn Oliver Brown <caitlyn.brown@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 4:35 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial

assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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Sincerely,
Caitlyn Oliver Brown
Albuquerque, NM 87106

From: Emily Torres <emtorres92@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 4:36 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Emily Torres
Santa Fe, NM 87510

From: Marsha Souers <mmscho@msn.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 4:36 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

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Sincerely,
Marsha Souers
Albuquerque, NM 87104

From: Roberta Price <bertaprice@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 4:44 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

Thank you for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The rule that is proposed is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

The amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B) is extremely important. I support it, but the rule should also consider a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone, operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

Please strengthen the proposed rule to expressly require increased financial assurance where an operator causes or fails to remediate produced water spills and discharges, repeatedly violates spill prohibitions, contaminates waterways or public lands, or demonstrates a pattern of equipment failure, corrosion, or operational noncompliance. Repeat offenders need this attention.

Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, you should heighten financial assurances to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells. It’s obvious these heightened assurances should be required.

No one can doubt that the environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

These leaking wells also create dangerous public health hazards, depress property values, and erode the local tax base, leaving behind impoverished municipalities burdened with environmental degradation and economic stagnation. A study in 2021 found that construction and development on the land surrounding unplugged wells is reduced by as much as 50%, resulting in a substantially depressed local tax base.

Please act on this — the proposed rules are necessary to protect the physical and economic health of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Roberta Price
Albuquerque, NM 87110

From: Michelle Barrows <michellebarrows.cs@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 1:21 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

The proposed rule should be strengthened to expressly require increased financial assurance where an operator causes or fails to remediate produced water spills and discharges, repeatedly violates spill prohibitions, contaminates waterways or public lands, or demonstrates a pattern of equipment failure, corrosion, or operational noncompliance.

Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

They also create dangerous public health hazards, depress property values, and erode the local tax base, leaving behind impoverished municipalities burdened with environmental degradation and economic stagnation. A study in 2021 found that construction and development on the land surrounding unplugged wells is reduced by as much as 50%, resulting in a substantially depressed local tax base.

The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Michelle Barrows
3550 Old Airport Rd NW Apt 2219
Albuquerque, NM 87114

From: nancy king <nanking1224@earthlink.net>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 1:41 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

The proposed rule should be strengthened to expressly require increased financial assurance where an operator causes or fails to remediate produced water spills and discharges, repeatedly violates spill prohibitions, contaminates waterways or public lands, or demonstrates a pattern of equipment failure, corrosion, or operational noncompliance.

Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

Thank you,
Nancy King

From: Katherine Sogolow PhD <soaglow@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 1:43 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,

Katherine Sogolow PhD

10700 Academy Rd NE

Albuquerque, NM 87111

From: Bruce Sogolow PhD <drbrucesogolow@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 1:44 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

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Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Bruce Sogolow PhD
10700 Academy Rd NE
Albuquerque, NM 87111

From: Susan Selbin <sselbin24@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 1:47 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

The oil/gas industry has used New Mexico for profit. Now the need to cover costs for cleanup!

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas

liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

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Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Susan Selbin
505 San Carlos Ct SW
Albuquerque, NM 87104

From: Erin Gibson <erinfg@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 1:48 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company’s prior record of

major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

The proposed rule should be strengthened to expressly require increased financial assurance where an operator causes or fails to remediate produced water spills and discharges, repeatedly violates spill prohibitions, contaminates waterways or public lands, or demonstrates a pattern of equipment failure, corrosion, or operational noncompliance.

Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Erin Gibson
Albuquerque, NM 87102

From: Ruby Oland <rubyoland@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 1:48 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

The proposed rule should be strengthened to expressly require increased financial assurance where an operator

causes or fails to remediate produced water spills and discharges, repeatedly violates spill prohibitions, contaminates waterways or public lands, or demonstrates a pattern of equipment failure, corrosion, or operational noncompliance.

Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

They also create dangerous public health hazards, depress property values, and erode the local tax base, leaving behind impoverished municipalities burdened with environmental degradation and economic stagnation. A study in 2021 found that construction and development on the land surrounding unplugged wells is reduced by as much as 50%, resulting in a substantially depressed local tax base.

The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Ruby Oland
Santa Fe, NM 87507

From: Sam Hitt <sam@wildwatershed.org>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 1:57 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

The proposed rule should be strengthened to expressly require increased financial assurance where an operator causes or fails to remediate produced water spills and discharges, repeatedly violates spill prohibitions, contaminates waterways or public lands, or demonstrates a pattern of equipment failure, corrosion, or operational noncompliance.

Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial

burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico's land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

They also create dangerous public health hazards, depress property values, and erode the local tax base, leaving behind impoverished municipalities burdened with environmental degradation and economic stagnation. A study in 2021 found that construction and development on the land surrounding unplugged wells is reduced by as much as 50%, resulting in a substantially depressed local tax base.

The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Sam Hitt
48 Old Galisteo Way
Santa Fe, NM 87508

From: Sayrah Namaste <sayrahn@hotmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 1:57 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am a mother who is concerned about the pollution caused by oil and gas in our state. So I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company's prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico's land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

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in 2021 found that construction and development on the land surrounding unplugged wells is reduced by as much as 50%, resulting in a substantially depressed local tax base.

The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Sayrah Namaste
Albuquerque, NM 87110

From: Barbara Wisoff <barbarawisoff@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 1:58 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am a 69 year old woman with family and toddler age grandchildren in Albuquerque. I have asthma and particulate allergies. Rule for O & G companies to have larger bonds to cover the rising costs of cleaning up their pollution.

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

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Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

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Sincerely,
Barbara Wisoff
922 Adams St NE
Albuquerque, NM 87110

From: Catana Lopez <catana@newenergyeconomy.org>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 2:00 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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Sincerely,
Catana Lopez
13 Bosquecillo
Santa Fe, NM 87508

From: Pamela Morgan <starowl3@hotmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 2:03 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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They also create dangerous public health hazards, depress property values, and erode the local tax base, leaving behind impoverished municipalities burdened with environmental degradation and economic stagnation. A study in 2021 found that construction and development on the land surrounding unplugged wells is reduced by as much as 50%, resulting in a substantially depressed local tax base.

The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Pamela Morgan
2801 Chitalpa Ct
Silver City, NM 88061

From: Janet Phillips <moonflowersea6@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 2:04 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

The proposed rule should be strengthened to expressly require increased financial assurance where an operator causes or fails to remediate produced water spills and discharges, repeatedly violates spill prohibitions, contaminates waterways or public lands, or demonstrates a pattern of equipment failure, corrosion, or operational noncompliance.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

This says it all, I sincerely ask you to keep in mind the people of this state of New Mexico.

Janet M Phillips RN

Sincerely,
Janet Phillips
Santa fe, NM 87505

From: Judy Goldberg <jude@cnspl.net>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 2:12 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

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Sincerely,
Judy Goldberg
1423 Monterey Dr
Santa Fe, NM 87505

From: Yazh Pending <yazh.yuccapolicy@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 2:18 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

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Sincerely,
Yazh Pending
Albuquerque, NM 87108

From: Walker Laughlin <wlaughlin1@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 2:28 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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Sincerely,
Walker Laughlin
Los Lunas, NM 87031

From: Glenn Wikle <glennwikle@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 2:40 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

New Mexico faces a crisis in deferred costs to clean up abandoned oil and gas wells. I urge you to approve the proposed amendment for financial assurance. Please also add provisions for collecting additional costs when circumstances are not ordinary for specific facilities.

-Glenn

Sincerely,
Glenn Wikle

2006 Conejo Dr
Santa Fe, NM 87505

From: Nikki Benekr <nikkibnk224@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 2:43 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

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Sincerely,
Nikki Benekr
Albuquerque, NM 87106

From: David Prescott <prescottdavidp@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 2:52 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

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Sincerely,

David Prescott

Santa Fe, NM 87501

From: Leah Miller <leahbmiller1307@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 2:55 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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Sincerely,
Leah Miller
Albuquerque, NM 87111

From: Sara Henning <sarajhenning@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 2:56 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

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Sincerely,
Sara Henning
Albuquerque, NM 87114

From: Margaret Westfall <mjw8012@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 4:56 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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Sincerely,
Margaret Westfall
Albuquerque, NM 87109

From: daniel burval <danleeb@hotmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 5:01 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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Sincerely,
daniel burval
santa cruz, NM 87567

From: adrian ennis <funky.are@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 5:03 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

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Sincerely,
adrian ennis
34 River St
Cerrillos, NM 87010

From: Diane MacInnes <storyscapes108@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 5:05 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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Sincerely,
Diane MacInnes
Santa Fe, NM 87505

From: Leeondra Schuler <leeondra13@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 5:08 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

The proposed rule should be strengthened to expressly require increased financial assurance where an operator causes or fails to remediate produced water spills and discharges, repeatedly violates spill prohibitions, contaminates waterways or public lands, or demonstrates a pattern of equipment failure, corrosion, or operational noncompliance.

Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

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They also create dangerous public health hazards, depress property values, and erode the local tax base, leaving behind impoverished municipalities burdened with environmental degradation and economic stagnation. A study in 2021 found that construction and development on the land surrounding unplugged wells is reduced by as much as 50%, resulting in a substantially depressed local tax base.

The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Leeondra Schuler
Albuquerque, NM 87122

From: Avelina Bardwell MD <avelina@newmexico.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 5:08 PM
To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

We need these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Avelina Bardwell MD
Santa Fe, NM 87501

From: Lisa Silva <ddirving@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 5:16 PM
To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

I support the New Mexico State Land Office in its proposal to increase bonds from \$10,000 to \$150,000 per well, which is a great first step for cleaning up and long overdue.

Sincerely,
Lisa Silva
Cochiti Lake, NM 87083

From: Lynn Barker <lynbark65@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 5:16 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am a mineral rights owner and of surface as well. 40 acres, north of Carlsbad, all around me, sloppy oil cleanup

has been going on. It is an Environmental issue to both land and water. I want my land to look like it did before anybody came anywhere near it.

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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Sincerely,
Lynn Barker
Albuquerque, NM 87123

From: Margaret Bell <annieb8@msn.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 5:18 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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Sincerely,
Margaret Bell
4404 De la Cruz NW
Albuquerque, NM 87107

From: Isaac Allen-Arave <iallenara@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 5:43 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

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Sincerely,
Isaac Allen-Arave
Albuquerque, NM 87114

From: Daphne Swancutt <daphneswancutt@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 5:43 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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Sincerely,
Daphne Swancutt
2 Charlotte Ln
Placitas, NM 87043

From: Justin Friedman <justin20friedman@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 5:49 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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Sincerely,
Justin Friedman
PO Box 98
San Cristobal, NM 87564

From: Riley Deskins <potatoroaster85@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 5:55 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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Sincerely,
Riley Deskins
Navajo, NM 87328

From: Alasdair Lindsay <alasdair.d.lindsay@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 6:04 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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Did you make mess? Then clean it up. The Epstein class has pushed this burden on society by owning our politicians. Courts and politicians are bought and paid for by billionaires who underhandedly cheat society and the environment.

Sincerely,
Alasdair Lindsay
48 Avenida Frijoles
Santa Fe, NM 87507

From: Mary Thomas <maryghthomas@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 6:29 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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Sincerely,
Mary Thomas
931 Los Lovatos Rd
Santa Fe, NM 87501

From: Sandra Stulberg <sandydan@prodigy.net>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 6:37 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

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Sincerely,

Sandra Stulberg
Albuquerque, NM 87122

From: Michael Lawler <oeillist@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 6:46 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Let's reverse the perverse protocol of socialism for environmental damage while privatizing profit untethered to business responsibility.

Sincerely,
Michael Lawler
Albuquerque, NM 87111

From: Lauren Meiklejohn <lauren.meiklejohn@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 6:48 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

Dear Commissioner Garcia Richards,

We are so grateful for all the work you have done to strengthen public lands in New Mexico! Please as you prepare to leave office do one last critical thing to cement your legacy for the future.

Thank you to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

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Sincerely,

Lauren Meiklejohn

5717 Guadalupe Trl NW

Albuquerque, NM 87107

From: Douglas Gruenau <bwr54dtg44@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 6:53 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

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Sincerely,
Douglas Gruenau
23 Chapala Rd
Santa Fe, NM 87508

From: Sarah DeRadke <sdevos4@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 7:30 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

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Sincerely,
Sarah DeRadke
Albuquerque, NM 87107

From: Carol Sassaman <carol.sassaman@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 7:44 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

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Sincerely,
Carol Sassaman
Hanvoer, NM 88041

From: Pelican Lee <pelicanlee4@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 8:08 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

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Sincerely,
Pelican Lee
808 W Manhattan Ave Apt A
Santa Fe, NM 87501

From: Susan Peirce <speirce@prodigy.net>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 8:13 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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Sincerely,
Susan Peirce
Santa Fe, NM 87506

From: Roger Peirce <rjpeirce@prodigy.net>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 8:13 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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Sincerely,
Roger Peirce
Santa Fe, NM 87506

From: Nodiah Brent <mydogfawn@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 9:02 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

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As a state, we need to amplify our respect for the land and our self-respect as New Mexicans.

Sincerely,
Nodiah Brent
Santa Fe, NM 87505

From: Julia Dickenson <thinairjewelry@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 9:18 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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Sincerely,
Julia Dickenson
613 W San Francisco St
Santa Fe, NM 87501

From: Roxanne Marquez <marquez.r1121@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 9:20 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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Sincerely,
Roxanne Marquez
Albuquerque, NM 87104

From: Stephanie Waltermann <expressionsofhealing@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 9:41 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

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Sincerely,
Stephanie Waltermann
Santa Fe, NM 87507

From: Bobbe Besold <bobbecbird@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 9:42 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

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Sincerely,
Bobbe Besold
302 Lomita St
Santa Fe, NM 87505

From: Miriam Vaughn <vaughnmiriam@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 9:45 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land. In Texas abandoned wells abound and the folks living closest to them appear to be the only ones who notice. Future land sale loses value in environmental quality and resale potential.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

The proposed rule should be strengthened to expressly require increased financial assurance where an operator causes or fails to remediate produced water spills and discharges, repeatedly violates spill prohibitions, contaminates waterways or public lands, or demonstrates a pattern of equipment failure, corrosion, or operational noncompliance.

Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

They also create dangerous public health hazards, depress property values, and erode the local tax base, leaving behind impoverished municipalities burdened with environmental degradation and economic stagnation. A study in 2021 found that construction and development on the land surrounding unplugged wells is reduced by as much as 50%, resulting in a substantially depressed local tax base.

The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Miriam Vaughn
Santa Fe, NM 87505

From: Alberto del Campo <albertodxcampo@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 10:33 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

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Sincerely,
Alberto del Campo
Las Cruces, NM 88011

From: Ruby Zeuner <rubyzeuner@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2026 2:09 AM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

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Sincerely,
Ruby Zeuner
Albuquerque, NM 87102

From: Sharon Bookwalter <zipnada000@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2026 6:53 AM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Sharon Bookwalter
Silver City, NM 88061

From: Patrick Garrett <pat.garrett9@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2026 7:19 AM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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Sincerely,
Patrick Garrett
Silver City, NM 88061

From: Susan Schuurman <susanjschuurman@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2026 10:04 AM
To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

Please increase the bonds from \$10,000 to \$150,000 per well. That is a more realistic and honest acknowledgement of the true costs of cleaning up after oil and gas walk away from wells that are no longer profitable. They shouldn't just make profits off of the oil and gas below ground, they should also accept the responsibility of cleaning up the mess their operations create. That should not be the taxpayers' burden. It's a lesson we were taught in kindergarten: clean up after yourselves.

Sincerely,
Susan Schuurman
Albuquerque, NM 87104

From: Johanna Montez <johannamontez108@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2026 10:14 AM
To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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Sincerely,
Johanna Montez
Las Cruces, NM 88001

From: Margaret Hadderman <haddermanm@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2026 10:37 AM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

Let's do this!! The New Mexico State Land Office is to be commended for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico's wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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Sincerely,
Margaret Hadderman
Silver City, NM 88061

From: Judy Williams <jkwilliams24@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2026 2:40 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico supports the new oil and gas bonding rules being proposed by the Commissioner of State Lands.

LWVNM supports environmentally sound regulation and enforcement to prevent drilling activities from contaminating surface or groundwater or the surrounding landscape. Companies should be required to obtain adequate bonding or other financial guarantees for drilling activities to fund clean-up operations in the event of abandonment by the oil and gas companies. This cost should not be left to the taxpayers.

We support the State Land Office proposal to revise and update the bonding requirements for companies operating on state lands. The current rates do not begin to cover the costs of plugging inactive wells and cleaning up areas contaminated by the extraction activities.

It's time to modernize the requirements and protect state lands. We ask you to approve these rules.

Judith Williams, Board member

League of Women Voters of New Mexico

jkwiliams24@gmail.com

505-20-7817

From: Wyn Lewis <wynlewissf@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2026 3:22 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,

Wyn Lewis
SANTA FE, NM 87501

From: Noor-un-nisa Touchon <nisatouchon@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2026 4:33 PM
To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

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Sincerely,
Noor-un-nisa Touchon
Santa Fe, NM 87507

From: Sharon Minnix <sharonminnix@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2026 4:37 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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Sincerely,
Sharon Minnix
Alto, NM 88312

From: John Foreman <foremanj268@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2026 4:45 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

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Sincerely,
John Foreman
100 Calle Arriba
Raton, NM 87740

From: MaryJayne Rogers <profoundwellness@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2026 5:36 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

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Sincerely,
MaryJayne Rogers
Albuquerque, NM 87111

From: Ron Mittan <rgmittan@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2026 7:14 PM
To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico's wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company's prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

The proposed rule should be strengthened to expressly require increased financial assurance where an operator causes or fails to remediate produced water spills and discharges, repeatedly violates spill prohibitions, contaminates waterways or public lands, or demonstrates a pattern of equipment failure, corrosion, or operational noncompliance.

Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

They also create dangerous public health hazards, depress property values, and erode the local tax base, leaving behind impoverished municipalities burdened with environmental degradation and economic stagnation. A study in 2021 found that construction and development on the land surrounding unplugged wells is reduced by as much as 50%, resulting in a substantially depressed local tax base.

The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Ron Mittan
5024 Sevilla Ave NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120

From: Sally Beers <beers1111@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2026 8:52 PM
To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] State Land Office public comment for May 28, 2026

My name is Sally Beers.

As a 26 yr NM resident, 25 yr NM business owner and taxpayer I am shocked at the treatment of our land and water by the oil and gas industry.

I am guessing you have heard the frightening New Mexican pollution stats before, but in case you haven't, on April 14, 2026 Wildearth Guardian reported "New Mexico recorded 9,015 oil and gas spills in the first three months of 2026, amounting to more than 100 per day." That is only a small part of the investigation. There is a whole lot more sickening information to process. I thank those who wrote the article because these truths are not being reported in big media outlets.

I understand NM has encouraged these industries since the 1920's. But here we are over 100 yrs later, drilling and polluting with wild abandon like there is no future.

Everyone knows we have allowed this pollution of our beautiful land, air and water. I have held my breath driving through Artesia as the air makes you choke. And yet people struggle to live in what some call, sacrifice zones. Without pollution restrictions and effective plans to clean up their messes, we are only left with cancer.

Our state land office has it in their power to update the bonding rules and require oil and gas polluters to clean house. Thank you for standing by the healthy choice and holding the oil and gas industry accountable.

From: Wendy Volkmann <pinontrees@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2026 9:54 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

Thank you, New Mexico State Land Office, for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

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Given the immense remediation costs and risks of long-term contamination, heightened financial assurances are necessary to ensure that operators—not taxpayers or future generations of New Mexicans—bear the financial burden for produced water pollution and plugging and remediating oil and gas wells.

The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

They also create dangerous public health hazards, depress property values, and erode the local tax base, leaving behind impoverished municipalities burdened with environmental degradation and economic stagnation. A study in 2021 found that construction and development on the land surrounding unplugged wells is reduced by as much as 50%, resulting in a substantially depressed local tax base.

The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic well being of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Wendy Volkmann
4 S Rancho de Bosque
Lamy, NM 87540

From: Natasha Durel <natashadurel@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2026 11:54 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

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The environmental impact of unplugged and abandoned oil and gas wells in New Mexico is severe. Orphaned and abandoned wells leak methane – a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide – exacerbating climate change. They also emit benzene and other toxic volatile organic compounds linked to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illnesses. These pollutants contaminate New Mexico’s land, air, and groundwater aquifers, on which 78% of state residents rely for drinking water.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,

Natasha Durel

Santa Fe, NM 87505

From: Sharon Argenbright <sharonargenbright@msn.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2026 12:18 AM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities.

I am in support The New Mexico State Land Office Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance, introduced to avert disaster. The Rules strengthen financial assurance.

The public's liability for uncapped and abandoned wells is staggering and mounting. Oil and gas liability assurance is limited to a mere fraction of cleanup and remediation. "Bonds typically equal less than 2% of actual cleanup costs" ProPublica and Capital & Main.

The WildEarth Guardians 2025 New Mexico Spill Report definitively identifies our problem. This comprehensive report analyzed our public records to quantify the abuse.

The report identifies biggest spills, most polluted counties, most impacted landowners and water contamination. New Mexicans do not want to bear the burden of the oil and gas industry's reckless regard for our air, soil and water it purges and leaves in hellish looking landscapes. Not surprisingly, the companies who are making the most profit, the biggest producers, are the ones contributing to the largest portion of desecration of our lands, waters and soil. They need to be held to account.

It's all there, in the WildEarth Guardian report, including how to stop spill pollution #8 page 24 "Accelerate cleanup of inactive and abandoned wells".

Naomi Klein, Journalist and best selling author, UBC professor of climate justice and co-Director of the center for climate justice at the university of British Columbia outlines five planks for climate justice.

Plank number 5 is "Polluter pays" and is based on the simple concept that people and institutions that have profited most from pollution should pay the most to repair the harm it has done.

For the largest producing companies who have polluted the most, Financial Assurance can not be limited to a one and done amount. Until remediation is complete, the meter shall run.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company's prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently "lost" into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

Thank you for considering my points of view. Please enter the WildEarth Guardian's 2025 Report on Spills into the record of this hearing.

WildEarth-Guardians-annual-spill-report-2025.pdf

Sincerely,
Sharon Argenbright
48 Caminito de Pinon
Santa Fe, NM 87505

From: Cheryl Gardopee <cgardlange@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2026 8:32 AM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Cheryl Gardopee
1880 Brillante Ln
Santa Fe, NM 87505

From: Naomi Harrison <ngharrison1@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 4:22 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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Sincerely,
Naomi Harrison
Santa Fe, NM 87508

From: Chris Calvert <chriscalvert82@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 4:22 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Chris Calvert
Santa Fe, NM 87501

From: Victor Webster <awebster.sar@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 4:28 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico's wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Victor Webster
Lamy, NM 87540

From: Rachel Winston <rachewin@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 4:30 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I support the New Mexico State Land Office's initiative to update financial assurance rules to reflect the actual costs of well reclamation. To fully protect state trust lands, the rule should be amended to include an operator's 'spill history' as a risk factor under section (19.2.100.23(B)).

The staggering volume of waste released in 2025 highlights the need for increased financial headers for operators demonstrating patterns of noncompliance or environmental damage. By strengthening these requirements, the state can prevent the public from inheriting the costs of methane leaks, toxic emissions, and groundwater contamination caused by orphaned wells. We must prioritize the health of our ecosystems and the fiscal security of our taxpayers over the interests of non-compliant operators.

They also create dangerous public health hazards, depress property values, and erode the local tax base, leaving behind impoverished municipalities burdened with environmental degradation and economic stagnation. A study in 2021 found that construction and development on the land surrounding unplugged wells is reduced by as much as 50%, resulting in a substantially depressed local tax base.

The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Rachel Winston
Santa Fe, NM 87501

From: Carol A Sassaman <carol.sassaman@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 4:35 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

I also support an important amendment to the proposed rule to apply an additional risk category to the heightened bond requirements in (19.2.100.23(B)). The rule should also consider a company’s prior record of major spills of produced water. In 2025 alone operators reported 38,153 spills statewide—often by repeat offenders. Liquid spills resulting in more than 9.4 million gallons of liquid waste released into the environment, contaminating fifteen waterways. More than 3.5 million gallons were permanently “lost” into soil, waterways, and ecosystems.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Sincerely,
Carol A Sassaman
HANOVER, NM 88041

From: Barbara Wisoff <barbarawisoff@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 4:40 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am a 69 year old grandmother with asthma and particulate allergies. Hold them financially accountable and make them pay for their crimes. Polluting our air and water is a crime and should never be thought of as business as usual.

I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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Sincerely,
Barbara Wisoff
922 Adams St NE
Albuquerque, NM 87110

From: Jo Reis <jo.reis43@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 4:42 PM

To: Info <Info@nmslo.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Proposed Amendments to the Oil and Gas Financial Assurance Rule,

Dear Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richards,

I am deeply concerned about low bonding requirements in NM, and I am grateful to the New Mexico State Land Office for advancing these necessary reforms to strengthen financial assurance requirements and protect state trust lands, water resources, and taxpayers from mounting oil and gas liabilities. The proposed rule is an important step to address the “bonding gap” between the surety bonds posted to cover New Mexico’s wells and the predicted actual costs for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming the land.

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The proposed rules are necessary to protect the health and economic wellbeing of New Mexicans, and they can be made even stronger to ensure that bad actors face increased costs when they fail to operate safely.

Thank you for looking out for us, the people who depend on clean water.

Sincerely,
Jo Reis
1528 La Cieneguita
Santa Fe, NM 87507