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EMNRD's Oil Conservation Division settles enforcement action with Harvest Midstream Company for reporting violations

Santa Fe, NM – The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department's Oil Conservation Division (OCD) announces that it has settled a notice of violation (NOV) issued to Harvest Midstream Company (Harvest) for failing to report a major release. To settle the alleged violations Harvest agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$92,500 and took specific steps to improve its environmental protection and reporting practices.

The NOV alleged that in August 2020, Harvest's pipeline from the Hanks #2 wellsite released natural gas and a small quantity of liquids into an ephemeral wash, a type of watercourse, approximately 11 miles southeast of Bloomfield. Because the release occurred in a watercourse, OCD's rules required Harvest to give verbal notice within 24 hours of discovery and to submit written notice within 15 days of discovery. While Harvest took immediate action to stop the release and remediated the impacts to the watercourse, it failed to provide the verbal notice and did not submit the written notice until September 29th, 44 days later.

"Reporting releases is a crucial part of the regulatory process so the OCD can ensure potential risks to public health and the environment are mitigated," said OCD Director Adrienne Sandoval. "This settlement holds Harvest accountable for its failure to comply with OCD's rules and establishes a path forward to improve reporting and protect public health and the environment."

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The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.

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