

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Regular Meeting – April 9, 2026**

The Oil Conservation Commission meeting was a hybrid meeting with both in person and virtual participation options. The meeting was held in the Pecos Hall Hearing Room at the Wendell Chino Building, First Floor, 1220 South St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Albert Chang (attending remotely on MS Teams)
Director, Oil Conservation Division (OCD) and Commission Chair
Greg Bloom Designee, New Mexico State Land Office
William Ampomah Designee, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

OTHERS PRESENT:
Zachary Shandler Commission Counsel
Felicia Orth Hearing Officer in Case No. 24683
Sheila Apodaca Commission Clerk

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chang at 9:00 a.m.

Item 1. Roll Call.

Action: Roll was taken; a quorum was present.

Item 2. Approval of the Agenda.

Action: Commissioner Bloom moved to approve the Agenda as amended. Commissioner Ampomah seconded the motion. Without objection the motion to approve the Revised Agenda was unanimously approved.

Item 3. Approval of the Meeting Minutes for the OCC Meeting on March 4 and 10, 2026.

Action: Commission inadvertently did not vote on approval of the Minutes. The Minutes will be presented at the May 13, 2026 meeting.

Item 4. Commission availability for upcoming OCC Meetings

Action: The OCC regular meeting in May will take place on May 13. Will tentatively hold open the week of May 26 through 29 for possible deliberations in WELC rulemaking.

Commission Chair Chang recommended that the commission defer motions related to case numbers 25694, 25695 and 25696 [Agenda Item D]; as well as motions related to case numbers 24123-23614-17, 23775, 24018, 24020, 24025 [Agenda Item E], and continue those matters to the May meeting so that the commission may

have time to review documents filed the day before and overnight. Commissioner Bloom moved to continue the matters as discussed by the Chair. Commissioner Ampomah seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved, and the matters were continued to the May meeting.

Item 5. Pending cases:

A. Case No. 25875: Application of Oil Conservation Division to Adopt 19.15.41, 19.15.42, and 19.15.42 NMAC: Statewide (Class VI Injection Well).

Action: Status conference was held. Jesse Tremaine appeared on behalf of the Oil Conservation Division and provided a status of the case. The case will be placed on next month's agenda for status conference.

B. Case No. 24683: WELC Application for Rulemaking, to Amend 19.15.2, 19.15.2, 19.15.5, 19.15.8, 19.15.9, and 19.15.25 NMAC.

Action: Tannis Fox appeared on behalf of WELC; Jesse Tremaine appeared on behalf of OCD; Miguel Suazo appeared on behalf of NMOGA; Adam Rankin appeared on behalf of Oxy USA, and Ann Tripp appeared on behalf of IPANM.

Hearing Officer Orth announced decisions on two post-hearing matters. The first was an attempted entry of appearance by Jonathan Samaniego, which was denied as the rulemaking procedure does not allow for post-hearing entries of appearance. The second was a motion to reopen the record to present evidence relating to HB 80 and a newly filed complaint against the OCC. That motion was also denied, and the parties were previously informed by email and a formal Order was entered this morning. The hearing officer will prepare her report by the end of the month, but it will not include any recommendations.

Procedural issues were discussed for the upcoming deliberations. Commissioners would like to hear oral summations from the parties on their closing statements. Hearing dates were discussed. Mr. Suazo inquired as to whether the hearing would only be for closing arguments or if there would be oral argument on the motion to reopen. Commission counsel confirmed that the motion was denied and the hearing would only be for oral summation.

The OCC regular meeting for May was moved to the 13th. Oral summations and any other matters that may come up in this case will be heard at that meeting. Deliberations in this matter will take place at a special meeting scheduled for May 26-29, 2026.

C. Case No. 26053: Desert Ram South Ranch Application for Hearing De Novo:

Application for hearing de novo of order striking Desert Ram's Entry of Appearance and Notice of Intervention in Division Case Nos. 25547, 25548, 25899 and 25900.

Action: Matthias Sayer appeared on behalf of Desert Ram South Ranch; Dana Hardy appeared on behalf of Select Water Systems; Miguel Suazo appeared on behalf of Pilot Water Solutions; Chris Moander appeared on behalf of OCD; D.L. Sanders appeared on behalf of the City of Jal.

Status conference was held. Pilot appeared because they are similarly situated and have filed a separate related application. Commission counsel queried the parties as to whether Desert Ram is considered a party of record with an opportunity to file a de novo hearing at the conclusion of the division's proceeding.

The matter was continued for argument on the motions to dismiss filed or to be filed by Select. A date for hearing and briefing schedule will be determined and announced by the commission clerk.

Item 5: Pending OCC Litigation.

Action: There are no updates.

Item 6: Other business.

Action: There was no other business to discuss.

Item 7: Next OCC Meeting.

Action: Next regular meeting will be on May 13, 2026.

Item 8: Adjourn

Action: Commissioner Bloom moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Ampomah seconded the motion. With no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 10:02 a.m.



Albert Chang

Albert Chang, Commission Chairman