

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO**  
**OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**October 20-November 6, 2025**  
**Meeting Minutes**

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Greg Bloom	Designee, New Mexico State Land Office
Albert Chang	Director, Oil Conservation Division (OCD) and Commission Chair
William Ampomah	Designee, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Felicia Orth	Appointed Hearing Officer
Zachary Shandler	Commission Counsel
Sheila Apodaca	Commission Clerk

**October 20, 2025:**

**The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair 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. Commissioner Ampomah seconded the motion. Without objection, the Agenda was unanimously approved.

**Item 3:** Approval of the Meeting Minutes from September 18 and 19, 2025.

**Action:** Approval of the minutes was tabled until the next OCC meeting.

**Item 4.** Pending cases:

- **Case No. 24683: Application by Western Environmental Law Center, et al. to amend Sections 19.15.2, 19.15.5, 19.15.8, 19.15.9, and 19.15.25 NMAC.**

➤ **Matter to be heard: Rulemaking Hearing.**

**Action:** Hearing Officer Felicia Orth introduced case and hearing procedures.

Counsel made their appearances: Tannis Fox, Kyle Tisdale, Morgan O'Grady, and Matt Nykiel on behalf of Applicants "WELC"; Jesse Tremaine and Michael Hall on behalf of the Oil Conservation Division "OCD"; Adam Rankin on behalf of Oxy, USA; Andrew Cloutier and Ann Tripp on behalf of Independent Petroleum Association of New Mexico "IPANM"; Miguel Suazo and Jacob Everhart on behalf of New Mexico Oil and Gas Association "NMOGA"; Jennifer Bradfute on behalf of EOG; Mariel Nanasi on behalf of New Energy Economy "NEE"; Richard Moore on behalf of the State Land Office "NMSLO"; Nicholas Maxwell, pro se.

NMOGA and IPANM's Motion to Dismiss is discussed. Hearing Officer Orth distributed her recommendations to the commissioners and parties this morning. Chair Chang proposed taking the motion under advisement to revisit at the end of the hearing. Commissioner Bloom so moved, Commissioner Ampomah seconded the motion. With no objections, the motion carried and the Motion to Dismiss was taken under advisement.

Tannis Fox delivered an opening statement on behalf of WELC.

WELC's witness Tom Alexander provided testimony through written and oral direct, rebuttal and surrebuttal, cross-examination by NMOGA, IPANM, Oxy, USA, OCD, and redirect examination. Examination by Commissioners Ampomah and Bloom.

WELC's exhibits 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, amended 72, 73, were marked and identified by Mr. Alexander.

WELC's witness Dwayne Purvis provided testimony through written and oral direct examination.

Oral public comments were delivered.

Purvis continued direct, rebuttal and surrebuttal testimony.

Hearing was recessed at 4:53 p.m.

#### **October 21, 2025:**

**Case No. 24683 continued.**

9:00 a.m. oral public comments were delivered.

WELC's witness Dwayne Purvis continued to offer testimony through surrebuttal, cross-examination by IPANM, NMOGA, Oxy, USA, OCD, and redirect examination. Mr. Purvis was examined by Commissioners Ampomah and Bloom. Witness excused at 2:24 p.m.

WELC's exhibits 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 49, 50, 52, 53, 72, 73, 74, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80 85, 86, 87, 88 were marked as exhibits, identified by Mr. Purvis and accepted into evidence.

WELC's witness Peter Morgan provided testimony through written and oral direct and rebuttal examination.

4:00 p.m. oral public comments were delivered.

Witness Peter Morgan continued to offer rebuttal and surrebuttal testimony.

Hearing was recessed at 5:05 p.m.

### **October 22, 2025**

**Case No. 24683 continued.**

9:00 a.m. Oral public comments were delivered.

Witness Peter Morgan was cross-examined by IPANM, NMOGA, Oxy, USA, NMSLO, and OCD. WELC. WELC redirect examination of the witness. Witness was examined by Commissioners Ampomah and Bloom. Witness excused at 1:38 p.m.

WELC's witness Adam Peltz offered testimony through written and oral direct and rebuttal testimony, and cross-examination by NMOGA.

WELC's Exhibits 1-88 were marked for identification and admitted into evidence.

3:56 p.m. Oral public comments were delivered.

Witness Peltz continued to testify through cross-examination by IPANM, Oxy, USA, redirect examination.

Hearing was recessed at 5:00 p.m.

### **October 23, 2025**

**Case No. 24683 continued.**

9:00 a.m. Oral public comments were delivered.

Witness Adam Peltz was examined by Commissioners Ampomah and Bloom. Witness was excused at 10:00 a.m.

Jesse Tremaine delivered Opening Statement on behalf of OCD.

OCD's witness Loren Diede provided testimony through written and oral direct testimony, cross-examination by IPANM, NMOGA, Oxy, USA, WELC, redirect by OCD and examination by Commissioners Ampomah and Bloom. Witness was excused at 1:40 p.m.

OCD's exhibits 4, 5 and 6 were admitted into evidence.

OCD witness John Garcia provided testimony through written and oral direct testimony, cross-examination by IPANM, NMOGA, and Oxy, USA.

OCD exhibits 1, 2, 3, 7, 17, and 25 were admitted. Exhibit 16 and page 4 of Exhibit 3 were objected to.

4:00 pm. Oral public comments.

Witness John Garcia was cross-examined by WELC and examined by Commissioner Ampomah.

Hearing was recessed at 4:48 p.m.

#### **October 24, 2025**

Case No. 24683 Continued.

9:00 a.m. Oral public comments

OCD witness Rosa Romero provided testimony through written and oral direct examination, cross-examination by NMOGA, IPANM, Oxy, WELC, redirect by OCD. Witness excused at 11:35 a.m.

OCD exhibits 10, 11, 12, 20, 26, 27, 28A-G were all admitted into evidence (with an objection to exhibit 10, 12 (p. 15 and 17)).

OCD witness Justin Wrinkle provided testimony through written and oral direct examination, cross-examination by IPANM, NMOGA, Oxy, and redirect examination by OCD. Witness was excused at 2:40 p.m.

OCD exhibits 7, 8, and 9 were admitted into evidence.

OCD Witness Brandon Powell provided testimony through written and oral direct, rebuttal, and surrebuttal examination.

OCD exhibits 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21(replacement), 22, 23, 24, 29, and rebuttal exhibit 30 and 31 were marked and identified.

4:00 p.m. oral public comments.

Hearing recessed at 4:09 p.m.

**October 27, 2025**

Case No. 24683 Continued.

9:00 a.m. oral public comment.

OCD witness Brandon Powell continued surrebuttal testimony.

Demonstrative aides used in surrebuttal marked as Exhibits 32 and 33, and replacement Exhibit 16 admitted into evidence.

OCD witness Powell cross-examined by NMOGA, IPANM, Oxy, USA, NMSLO, WELC. Redirect examination by OCD. Examination by Commissioners Ampomah and Bloom.

2:50 p.m. witness excused.

Richard Moore delivered an Opening Statement on behalf of NMSLO.

NMSLO witness Allison Marks testified via written and oral direct testimony.

Written direct testimony admitted into evidence with the revisions discussed during oral testimony.

Allison Marks cross-examined by IPANM, NMOGA, OCD, WELC. Redirect by NMSLO. Examination by Commissioner Bloom. Witness excused at 3:45 p.m.

Adam Rankin delivered Opening Statement on behalf of Oxy, USA.

4:00 p.m. oral public comments.

4:36 p.m. hearing recessed.

**October 28, 2025**

Case No. 24683 continued.

9:00 a.m. oral public comments.

Oxy's witness Tiffany Wallace testified through written and oral direct, rebuttal and surrebuttal testimony. Ms. Wallace was cross-examined by WELC, OCD, NMSLO, IPANM, and NMOGA. Redirect examination by Oxy. Examination by Commissioner Ampomah.

12:04 p.m. witness excused.

Oxy's Exhibits A, B and C admitted into evidence.

Oxy's witness Kelley Montgomery testified through written and oral direct and rebuttal testimony. Cross-examination by WELC, OCD, NMSLO. Redirect examination by Oxy. Examination by Commissioners Ampomah and Bloom.

Oxy's Exhibit C admitted into evidence.

1:51 p.m. witness excused.

Miguel Suazo delivered Opening Statement on behalf of NMOGA.

NMOGA witness, Dan Arthur, testified through written and oral direct, rebuttal and surrebuttal testimony.

Arthur Direct Testimony and Appendix A, and Rebuttal Testimony and Appendix A admitted into evidence.

3:51 oral public comments.

Arthur cross-examined by WELC.

5:00 p.m. hearing recessed.

### **October 29, 2025**

Case number 24683 continued.

9:00 a.m. oral public comments.

Witness Dan Arthur cross examined by OCD, NMSLO, IPANM. Redirect examination by NMOGA. Examination by Commissioners Ampomah, Bloom and Chang.

11:30 a.m. witness excused.

NMOGA witness, Douglas Emerick, testified through written and oral direct, rebuttal and surrebuttal testimony.

Emerick's written direct, rebuttal surrebuttal and all appendices were admitted into evidence.

Cross-examination by WELC, OCD, NMSLO, IPANM. Redirect examination by NMOGA. Examination by Commissioners Bloom, Ampomah and Chang.

3:30 p.m. witness excused.

NMOGA witness Harold McGowen testified through written and oral direct examination.

4:00 p.m. oral public comments.

Witness McGowan continued to testify through direct testimony.

5:00 p.m. hearing in recess.

### **October 30, 2025**

Case. No. 24683 continued.

9:00 a.m. oral public comments.

Witness Harold McGowan continued to offer testimony through written and oral direct, rebuttal and surrebuttal testimony.

McGowan written testimony and Appendices A and B admitted into evidence.

McGowan cross-examined by WELC, OCD, NMSLO, IPANM. Redirect examination by NMOGA. Examination by Commissioners Ampomah and Bloom.

2:08 Witness excused.

WELC's Motion to Exclude Clayton Sportich's Rebuttal Testimony was argued. The motion was denied by Hearing Officer Orth.

NMOGA witness, Clayton Sporich, testified through written and oral direct, rebuttal and surrebuttal testimony.

Sporich's written direct, rebuttal and surrebuttal slides admitted into evidence.

4:00 oral public comments.

Clayton Sporich cross-examined by WELC and OCD.

5:00 pm Hearing is in recess.

**October 31, 2025**

Case No. 24683 continued.

9:00 a.m. oral public comments.

Cross-examination of Clayton Sporich by NMSLO. Redirect by NMOGA. Examination by Commissioner Chang.

9:48 a.m. Witness excused.

NMOGA witness, Andrea Felix, testified through written and oral direct and rebuttal testimony.

Andrea Felix's written direct testimony, with Appendix A, and rebuttal testimony with Appendices A and B, and Felix's direct and rebuttal demonstrative slides were admitted into evidence.

Cross-examination by WELC, OCD, NMSLO, IPANM. Redirect examination by NMOGA. Examination by Commissioners Ampomah and Bloom.

1:31 p.m. Witness excused.

Drew Cloutier delivered an Opening Statement on behalf of IPANM.

IPANM's witness David Mitchell testified through written and oral direct testimony.

IPANM Exhibit 2 marked and admitted into evidence.

Cross-examination by OCD, NMSLO. Examination by Commissioner Ampomah.

2:25 p.m. Witness excused.

IPANM witness, Mike Hanagan, testified through written and oral direct examination. Cross-examination by WELC, OCD, NMSLO. Redirect by IPANM.

3:13 p.m. Witness excused.

IPANM witness, George Sharpe, testified through written and oral direct testimony. Cross examination by WELC.



4:00 p.m. Oral public comments.

Continuation of cross examination of George Sharp, by OCD, NMSLO. Redirect by IPANM.

IPANM's Exhibit 3 Witness Hanagan's rebuttal testimony and Sharp's direct testimony admitted into evidence. Witness was excused.

4:31 p.m. Hearing in recess.

### **November 3, 2025**

Case No. 24683 continued.

9:00 a.m. Oral public comments.

IPANM witness, Jim Winchester, testified through written and oral direct, rebuttal and surrebuttal testimony.

IPANM exhibits 10-13, 27-28, 40, 43-44 and 46-53 admitted into evidence.

Cross examination by WELC, OCD, NMSLO, NMOGA. Redirect by IPANM. Examination by Commissioners Ampomah, Bloom and Chang.

11:21 a.m. Witness excused.

IPANM witness, Kyle Armstrong, testified through written and oral direct and surrebuttal testimony.

Armstrong's direct and surrebuttal testimony and demonstrative slides admitted into evidence.

Kyle Armstrong cross examined by WELC, OCD, NMSLO, NMOGA. Redirect examination by IPANM. Examination by Commissioners Ampomah and Bloom.

1:50 p.m. Witness excused.

IPANM witness, Trevor Gilstrap testified through written and oral direct, rebuttal and surrebuttal testimony.

Trevor Gilstrap's direct, rebuttal, demonstratives, and surrebuttal slides admitted into evidence.

3:01 p.m. Witness excused.

IPANM witness, Calder Ezzell, testified through written and oral direct examination.

Exhibits 14-19, 20-26, and 41 admitted into evidence.

4:00 p.m. Oral public comments.

Witness Calder Ezzell direct examination continued, rebuttal examination and surrebuttal examination.

5:00 p.m. hearing in recess.

#### **November 4, 2025**

Case No. 24683 continued.

9:00 a.m. oral public comments.

IPANM exhibits 37-39, and 45 were admitted into evidence.

OCD rebuttal exhibit 34 was admitted into evidence.

Calder Ezzell cross examined by WELC, OCD, NMSLO, NMOGA. Redirect examination by IPANM. Examination by Commissioners Ampomah and Bloom.

12:11 p.m. witness was excused.

IPANM witness Mark Murphy testified through written and oral direct and surrebuttal testimony.

Murphy written direct and demonstrative slides admitted into evidence.

Cross examination by WELC, OCD, NMSLO. Redirect exam by IPANM. Examination by Commissioners Ampomah, Bloom and Chang.

3:46 witness was excused.

IPANM witness Robert Arscott testified through written and oral direct examination.

IPANM exhibits 1-9 and 29-36 were admitted into evidence.

4:00 p.m. oral public comments.

Robert Arscott continued testifying through written and oral rebuttal testimony.

5:00 p.m. hearing in recess.

**November 5, 2025**

Case No. 24683 continued.

9:00 a.m. oral public comments.

Robert Arscott continued to testify through surrebuttal examination.

Cross examination by WELC, OCD, NMSLO. Redirect examination by IPANM.  
Examination by Commissioners Ampomah and Chang.

12:04 witness was excused. Hearing recessed for the day.

**November 6, 2025**

Case No. 24683 continued.

9:00 a.m. oral public comments.

IPANM witness Jeff Harvard testified through written and oral direct examination.

Jeff Harvard's written direct examination admitted into evidence.

Cross examination by OCD, NMSLO. Examination by Commissioners Ampomah and Bloom.

11:19 a.m. witness was excused.

IPANM witness John Nabors testified through written and oral direct examination.

John Nabors written direct examination admitted into evidence.

Cross examination by WELC, OCD, NMSLO. Examination by Commissioner Ampomah.

11:36 a.m. witness was excused.

Evidentiary record on 24683 was closed.

IPANM and NMOGA's motion to dismiss revisited. After discussion by the Commission, Commissioner Bloom moved to deny the motion to dismiss. Commissioner Ampomah seconded the motion. Roll call was taken and the motion

to deny the motion was unanimously approved and the Motion to Dismiss was denied.

NMOGA and IPANM counsel noted their objections to the denial for the record.

11:54 a.m. the hearing was adjourned.



*Albert Chang*

Albert Chang, Commission Chairman