

**Michelle Lujan Grisham**, Governor  
**Sarah Cottrell Propst**, Cabinet Secretary  
**Todd E. Leahy, JD, PhD**, Deputy Cabinet Secretary  
**Adrienne Sandoval**, Oil Conservation Division Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**July 16, 2020**

## **Oil Conservation Commission to hold hearing on updates to produced water rules**

**Santa Fe, NM** – The Oil Conservation Commission (OCC) will hold a public hearing on proposed changes to rules governing produced water on July 30th and 31st via webcast and telephone. The proposed rule changes conform the existing rules governing produced water with the statute changes found in the 2019's House Bill 546 (HB 546), which includes the Produced Water Act, and also require additional reporting requirements to better understand the types and volumes of water used in drilling and completions activities. The rule changes are being proposed by the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) Oil Conservation Division (OCD).

Under HB 546, the OCD only has jurisdiction over the reuse of produced water within the oil and gas industry. The OCC currently has rules for how produced water is reused within the oil and gas industry, how it is transported, and how it is cleaned up if spilled. The proposed rule changes will require better reporting on the types and volumes of water being used in oil and gas production, providing the OCD with better data on current water use practices. The rules also clarify jurisdictional changes in accordance with the Produced Water Act which encourages the use of recycled produced water within oil and gas operations. Encouraging the recycling of produced water within the oil field can help conserve New Mexico's drinking water resources. The rule does not authorize the use of produced water outside of the oil patch.

The [public hearing](#) is scheduled for July 30<sup>th</sup> but may be continued on the 31<sup>st</sup> if not completed. Information for joining can be found here:

**July 30, 9:00 am:**

OCC – (Day 1) Produced Water Rule Making Hearing

Meeting number: 967 682 712

Password: R4SpDXpeu49

<https://nmemnrd.webex.com/nmemnrd/j.php?MTID=m6572062a0ff431b8f7a815b6edf74af0>

Join by phone

+1-408-418-9388 United States Toll

Access code: 967 682 712

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**July 31, 9:00 am (If necessary):**

OCC – (Day 2) Produced Water Rule Making Hearing

Meeting number: 963 288 479

Password: ZjiqP9PET32

<https://nmemnrd.webex.com/nmemnrd/j.php?MTID=m2854bda11fb429c3fd553e90c6707a8f>

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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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