FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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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 30th but may be continued on the 31st 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
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

Join by phone
+1-408-418-9388 United States Toll
Access code: 963 288 479

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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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