



New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Bill Richardson
Governor

Joanna Prukop
Cabinet Secretary

Mark Fesmire
Division Director
Oil Conservation Division



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NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Jodi McGinnis Porter,
Public Information Officer 505.476.3226

Public Meeting Scheduled for October 28, 2009 on Carlsbad Brine Well

CARLSBAD, NM – The Oil Conservation Division will host another informational public meeting on Wednesday, October 28, 2009 at 6:00 pm in the Carousel Room at the Pecos River Village Conference Center located at 711 Muscatel Avenue, in Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220. This is the third public meeting on this issue.

The purpose of the meeting is to update the public about new information obtained concerning a potential brine well cavern collapse.

The Oil Conservation Division has been investigating and studying brine wells in New Mexico since two brine wells catastrophically collapsed without warning last year in Eddy County.

A brine production facility in Carlsbad with two historic wells raised red flags for the Oil Conservation Division due to its location, which is between US 285 and US 180/62 where those two highways meet at a "Y"-shaped intersection. Certain aspects of the Carlsbad facility, such as the shallow depth and length of time in service, are similar to the two wells that already collapsed and the division has concluded the site likely poses a serious risk.

For more information and to read the Brine Well Collapse Evaluation Report visit the website:
<http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/oed/BrineWells.htm>.

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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.

Oil Conservation Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive • Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
Phone (505) 476-3440 • Fax (505) 476-3462 • www.emnrd.state.nm.us/OCD

