

Bill Richardson
Governor

Joanna Prukop
Cabinet Secretary

Mark Fesmire
Division Director
Oil Conservation Division



July 9, 2009

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Jodi McGinnis Porter,
Public Information Officer 505.476.3226

Public Meeting About Carlsbad Brine Well Scheduled for July 16, 2009

CARLSBAD, NM – The Oil Conservation Division, along with Eddy County Office of Emergency Management and the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management will host an informational public meeting on Thursday, July 16, 2009 at 6:30 pm at the Pecos River Village Conference Center, Room 4, located at 711 Muscatel Avenue, in Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220. The purpose of the meeting is to update the public about a potential brine well cavern collapse, newly gathered information, what it means, and where we go from here.

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 facility in Carlsbad with two brine 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 that the site poses a serious risk to human life and to property.

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

#30#

*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

