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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**Additional details on upcoming Oil Conservation Commission
natural gas waste reduction rules hearing**

Santa Fe, NM – Beginning January 4, 2021 the Oil Conservation Commission (OCC) will hold a hearing on the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department’s proposed rules on reducing natural gas waste. Additional details on the proposed rules and how to attend the hearing and submit public comments are provided below.

The proposed rules include the following key elements:

- Midstream and upstream operators must capture 98 percent of their natural gas by the end of 2026.
- Operators must report gas loss at every stage of the oil and gas value chain. Operators that do not meet their gas capture targets may not be able to obtain drilling permits or start drilling wells and may face enforcement actions.
- Operators of stripper wells will have flexibility to meet the requirements for inspections and equipment retrofits, but they are not exempted from the gas capture targets.
- Routine venting and flaring is prohibited.

The public comment process began November 24th and there are multiple ways for members of the public to submit comments on the proposed rules. Written comments can be submitted through 5:00 pm on January 8, 2021. Comments can be mailed to Florene Davidson, OCC Clerk, 2nd Floor, Wendell Chino Building, 1220 South St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87505, or emailed to florene.davidson@state.nm.us.

To allow members of the public to make a public comment at the hearing, the OCC is scheduling 2-minute timeslots during portions of the hearing schedule. To speak during the hearing, submit a request to Florene Davidson, OCC Clerk, at the email address above by 5:00 p.m. on January 3, 2021. The OCC will take public comments all day on January 4, the morning of January 5, and from 8:30 – 9:00 and 4:30 – 5:00 January 6 – 8 and January 11 - 15. Additional details on how to request a time to speak can be found [here](#).

Information on joining the hearing each day can be found [here](#).

Additional information, including legal notice, rule language, technical documents, and pre-hearing statements can be found [here](#).

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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.

<http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us>