

UPDATE FROM NEW MEXICO STATE BLM OFFICE

MESSAGE TO IPANM MEMBERS

On May 21, 2019, IPANM members met with BLM State Director Tim Spisak to ask questions about various topics.

Overall Focus

Spisak reinforced the focus of the Trump Administration: To utilize public lands allow for **recreational access, grazing and energy production**.

Carlsbad Resource Management Plan

The main line of questions focused on the upcoming release of the Carlsbad Field Office's Resource Management Plan (RMP).

Spisak reports the report is undergoing final review in Washington, D.C. and once approved, it will be released to the public. That release date could be as soon as June of 2019, or it could linger into the fall of 2019.

Spisak was unable to reveal any details or preferred alternatives, but did assure IPANM members that the final draft will be consistent with the mission of the President Donald Trump to make the United States an energy leader.

Following the release of the RMP, there will be protest period which constituents and associations can file comments. IPANM will evaluate our options if we wish to move forward on a protest.

IPANM members should continue to monitor our newsroom for updates, and can also go to the [BLM's Planning Webpage for the State of New Mexico](#).

IPANM [submitted comments](#) in November regarding the final draft plan.

Temporarily Abandoned vs. Shut-In Wells

The BLM continues to make sure that operators are correctly defining the phase of wells, specifically when it comes to the halting of well production. Please refer to the previously post IPANM [published information](#) to ensure proper categorization.

APD Permitting

Without referencing any specifics, Spisak stated that federal well approvals are being turned around quicker than in previous years, but there's still room for improvement. IPANM operators requested help on the part of federal government to reduce the lengthy application that seems to grow in scope and complexity. Spisak said the federal government is looking into this.

Regulation by Drone

Spisak said the federal government continues to explore drone options for future use in terms of regulating oil and gas operators, but that such drastic operational changes are still years out before practical application in the field. How and what the drones would measure is still being



determined. IPANM has concerns if such technology is deployed without standard procedures and reasonable criteria, especially if unproven LDAR technology is involved related to emissions.

No MOUs Currently in Place with New State Administration

IPANM specifically asked about regulatory authority on well sites, and Spisak mentioned that the new state administration is still working through their own rules and will likely hold off on moving forward on any MOUs for inspections, etc., until there's more clarity on the state's regulatory framework.

Staff Issues

Carlsbad and other offices are working to try to quickly fill vacancies, but report that many positions are being filled within the offices internally. Obviously, is not helping in bringing more outside candidates into the department, and positions remain open. The issue is further complicated due to the labor shortage in the Permian.

Methane

The BLM regulates Methane in accordance to state regulations for each state. As New Mexico is now embarking on a new Methane rule, BLM is waiting and watching what the state will develop before considering any sort of inspections or enforcement.

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