



# Summary of BLM Updates

## July 2020

Per Call between Ryan Davis, Jim Winchester and NM State Director Tim Spisak  
(Updated 7-29-20 5 PM)

- In June, without any notice, the BLM discontinued their COVID Royalty Relief Program & Temporary Shut-In/Lease Exemptions for up to 60-days. The same options can be available for operators, but they will have to provide economic justification documentation vs. the “rubber stamp” that took place earlier in the COVID / Oil Price crisis.
- Request for Royalty Reductions that came in after mid-June are being returned to the operators who applied for them.
- Carlsbad RMP remains “stuck in DC Headquarters”. No date on when a final draft might be made available.
- Farmington RMP comments extended to September 25, 2020 deadline.
- BLM Right of Way Bonding fix was stalled in the spring due to COVID. BLM did move ahead and send out renewals to companies requesting/requiring new payments, but haven’t received many of them back.
- Several operators have filed bonding appeals with the IBLA (Interior Board of Land Appeals) and are awaiting a ruling. Those decisions may impact how Farmington moves forward with future bonding amounts.
- Farmington may move forward with their own alternative process to clear up the bonding issues.
- Farmington Office claims it’s not running significantly behind on overall approvals, despite IPANM members insisting otherwise.
- Farmington current 2020 turnaround time for APDs:
  - 173 days (86 days on operator / 87 days on feds)
  - 41 APDs total in 2020
  - 35 APDs processed
- Carlsbad current 2020 turnaround time for APDs:
  - 147 days (98 days on operator / 49 days on feds)
  - Approximately 2200 APDs total in 2020 (Over half of all APDS in US)
  - Approximately 1700 APDs processed
- All of BLM current 2020 turnaround time for APDs:
  - 137 days (86 days on operator / 51 days on feds)
  - Approximately 3800 APDs total in 2020
  - Approximately 3500 APDs processed