



# State Land Office Trust Advisory Board

Surface Resources Division (SRD)

**STATE LAND OFFICE RESPONSE TO  
NEGLECTED GROUNDWATER SPILLS**

**WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMITTEE**

**OCTOBER 29, 2025**

# NMSLO Surface Resources Division

## Assistant Commissioner of Surface Resources

Director, Surface Resources

Deputy Director of Stewardship

Environmental Compliance Office Manager

# Neglected Groundwater Spills:

Groundwater contamination from oil and gas activities often results from years of un-remediated spills and releases, and new spills and releases that contaminate groundwater directly through percolation through the soil matrix.

## How do we learn about these types of spills?

- External reporting from another lessee or a member of the public through the incident reporting portal (<https://www.nmstatelands.org/report-environmental-incident/>)
- Reviewing the OCD database for reported spills for which we do not have a record in our database.

# Existing Groundwater Monitoring Projects

- ❖ 16 open groundwater monitoring projects with three operators
- ❖ 1 closed project

ECO reviews the monitoring results to determine

- ✓ If there has been a full delineation of the plume,
- ✓ If there are any free hydrocarbon liquids present on the surface of the plume,
- ✓ the contamination level trends over time, and
- ✓ if the contaminant plume has moved offsite.



# Surface Resources Division



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Thank You.