1	SENATE BILL 443
2	56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023
3	INTRODUCED BY
4	Ron Griggs and George K. Muñoz
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10	AN ACT
11	RELATING TO TAXATION; PROVIDING AN OIL AND GAS SEVERANCE TAX
12	EXEMPTION FOR THE SEVERANCE OF OIL AND NATURAL GAS FROM A
13	PRODUCTION COMPLIANCE PROJECT COMPLETED TO COMPLY WITH CERTAIN
14	AGENCY RULES.
15	
16	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:
17	SECTION 1. Section 7-29-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1980,
18	Chapter 62, Section 5, as amended) is amended to read:
19	"7-29-4. OIL AND GAS SEVERANCE TAX IMPOSED
20	COLLECTIONINTEREST OWNER'S LIABILITY TO STATEINDIAN
21	LIABILITY <u>EXCLUSIONS</u>
22	A. There is imposed and shall be collected by the
23	department a tax on all products that are severed and sold,
24	except as provided in Subsection B of this section. The
25	measure of the tax and the rates are:
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(1) on natural gas severed and sold, except as provided in Paragraphs (4), (6) and (7) of this subsection, three and three-fourths percent of the taxable value determined pursuant to Section 7-29-4.1 NMSA 1978;

5 (2) on oil and on other liquid hydrocarbons
6 removed from natural gas at or near the wellhead, except as
7 provided in Paragraphs (3), (5), (8) and (9) of this
8 subsection, three and three-fourths percent of taxable value
9 determined pursuant to Section 7-29-4.1 NMSA 1978;

(3) on oil and on other liquid hydrocarbons removed from natural gas at or near the wellhead produced from a qualified enhanced recovery project, one and seven-eighths percent of the taxable value determined pursuant to Section 7-29-4.1 NMSA 1978, provided that the annual average price of west Texas intermediate crude oil, determined by the department by averaging the posted prices in effect on the last day of each month of the twelve-month period ending on May 31 prior to the fiscal year in which the tax rate is to be imposed, was less than twenty-eight dollars (\$28.00) per barrel;

(4) on the natural gas from a well workover project that is certified by the oil conservation division of the energy, minerals and natural resources department in its approval of the well workover project, two and forty-five hundredths percent of the taxable value determined pursuant to Section 7-29-4.1 NMSA 1978, provided that the annual average .225085.4

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price of west Texas intermediate crude oil, determined by the department by averaging the posted prices in effect on the last day of each month of the twelve-month period ending on May 31 prior to the fiscal year in which the tax rate is to be imposed, was less than twenty-four dollars (\$24.00) per barrel; (5) on the oil and on other liquid

(5) on the oil and on other liquid hydrocarbons removed from natural gas at or near the wellhead from a well workover project that is certified by the oil conservation division of the energy, minerals and natural resources department in its approval of the well workover project, two and forty-five hundredths percent of the taxable value determined pursuant to Section 7-29-4.1 NMSA 1978, provided that the annual average price of west Texas intermediate crude oil, determined by the department by averaging the posted prices in effect on the last day of each month of the twelve-month period ending on May 31 prior to the fiscal year in which the tax rate is to be imposed, was less than twenty-four dollars (\$24.00) per barrel;

(6) on the natural gas from a stripper well property, one and seven-eighths percent of the taxable value determined pursuant to Section 7-29-4.1 NMSA 1978, provided the average annual taxable value of natural gas was equal to or less than one dollar fifteen cents (\$1.15) per thousand cubic feet in the calendar year preceding July 1 of the fiscal year in which the tax rate is to be imposed;

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on the natural gas from a stripper well (7) 2 property, two and thirteen-sixteenths percent of the taxable value determined pursuant to Section 7-29-4.1 NMSA 1978, provided that the average annual taxable value of natural gas was greater than one dollar fifteen cents (\$1.15) per thousand cubic feet but not more than one dollar thirty-five cents (\$1.35) per thousand cubic feet in the calendar year preceding 8 July 1 of the fiscal year in which the tax rate is to be imposed;

(8) on the oil and on other liquid hydrocarbons removed from natural gas at or near the wellhead from a stripper well property, one and seven-eighths percent of the taxable value determined pursuant to Section 7-29-4.1 NMSA 1978, provided that the average annual taxable value of oil was equal to or less than fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per barrel in the calendar year preceding July 1 of the fiscal year in which the tax rate is to be imposed;

on the oil and on other liquid (9) hydrocarbons removed from natural gas at or near the wellhead from a stripper well property, two and thirteen-sixteenths percent of the taxable value determined pursuant to Section 7-29-4.1 NMSA 1978, provided that the average annual taxable value of oil was greater than fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per barrel but not more than eighteen dollars (\$18.00) per barrel in the calendar year preceding July 1 of the fiscal year in .225085.4

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1 which the tax rate is to be imposed; and 2 (10)on carbon dioxide, helium and non-3 hydrocarbon gases, three and three-fourths percent of the 4 taxable value determined pursuant to Section 7-29-4.1 NMSA 5 1978. The tax imposed in Subsection A of this section 6 Β. 7 shall not be imposed on: 8 natural gas severed and sold from a (1)9 production restoration project during the first ten years of 10 production following the restoration of production, provided 11 that the annual average price of west Texas intermediate crude 12 oil, determined by the department by averaging the posted 13 prices in effect on the last day of each month of the twelve-14 month period ending on May 31 prior to each fiscal year in 15 which the tax exemption is to be effective, was less than 16 twenty-four dollars (\$24.00) per barrel; 17 (2) natural gas severed from a stripper well 18 property and sold from a production compliance project during 19 the first ten years of production following the completion of 20 the project or until the date the total amount of tax that 21 would have been imposed but for this subsection equals the cost 22 of the production compliance project, whichever occurs first; 23 (3) oil and other liquid hydrocarbons removed 24 from natural gas at or near the wellhead from a stripper well 25 property production compliance project during the first ten .225085.4

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years of production following the completion of the project or until the date the total amount of tax that would have been imposed but for this subsection equals the cost of the production compliance project, whichever occurs first; and

[(2)] (4) oil and other liquid hydrocarbons removed from natural gas at or near the wellhead from a production restoration project during the first ten years of production following the restoration of production, provided that the annual average price of west Texas intermediate crude oil, determined by the department by averaging the posted prices in effect on the last day of each month of the twelvemonth period ending on May 31 prior to each fiscal year in which the tax exemption is to be effective, was less than twenty-four dollars (\$24.00) per barrel.

C. Every interest owner shall be liable for the tax to the extent of [his] <u>the interest owner's</u> interest in such products. Any Indian tribe, Indian pueblo or Indian shall be liable for the tax to the extent authorized or permitted by law.

D. The tax imposed by this section may be referred to as the "oil and gas severance tax".

E. As used in this section, "production compliance project" means a procedure undertaken by the operator of a natural gas or crude oil well that, in order to continue production from the well, is required by rules promulgated on .225085.4 - 6 -

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1 or after January 1, 2022 by the oil conservation commission to 2 reduce the venting and flaring of natural gas from wells and production equipment and facilities and of natural gas from 3 4 natural gas gathering systems or by the environmental 5 improvement board to reduce ambient ozone concentrations." SECTION 2. 6 Section 7-29B-1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1995, 7 Chapter 15, Section 1) is amended to read: 8 "7-29B-1. SHORT TITLE.--[Sections 1 through 6 of this 9 act] Chapter 7, Article 29B NMSA 1978 may be cited as the 10 "Natural Gas and Crude Oil Production Incentive Act"." 11 SECTION 3. Section 7-29B-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1995, 12 Chapter 15, Section 2, as amended by Laws 1999, Chapter 7, 13 Section 2 and as further amended by Laws 1999, Chapter 256, 14 Section 3) is amended to read: 15 "7-29B-2. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Natural Gas and 16 Crude Oil Production Incentive Act: 17 "average annual taxable value" means the average Α. 18 of the taxable value per barrel, determined pursuant to Section 19 7-31-5 NMSA 1978, of all oil produced in New Mexico for the 20 specified calendar year as determined by the department; 21 "average daily production" means, for any crude Β. oil or natural gas property assigned a single production number by the department, the number derived by dividing the total volume of crude oil or natural gas production from the property 25 reported to the division during a calendar year by the sum of .225085.4 - 7 -

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1 the number of days each eligible well within the property 2 produced or injected during that calendar year;

3 C. "department" means the taxation and revenue 4 department;

D. "division" means the oil conservation division of the energy, minerals and natural resources department;

E. "eligible well" means a crude oil or natural gas well that produces or an injection well that injects and is integral to production for any period of time during the preceding calendar year;

F. "natural gas" means any combustible vapor composed chiefly of hydrocarbons occurring naturally;

G. "operator" means the person responsible for the actual physical operation of a natural gas or oil well;

H. "person" means any individual or other legal entity, including any group or combination of individuals or other legal entities acting as a unit;

I. "production compliance project" means a procedure undertaken by the operator of a natural gas or crude oil well that, in order to continue production from the well, is required by rules promulgated on or after January 1, 2022 by the oil conservation commission to reduce the venting and flaring of natural gas from wells and production equipment and facilities and of natural gas from natural gas gathering systems or by the environmental improvement board to reduce .225085.4

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ambient ozone concentrations;

[I+] J. "production restoration incentive tax exemption" means the tax exemption set forth in Subsection B of Section 7-29-4 NMSA 1978 for natural gas or oil produced from a production restoration project;

[J.] <u>K.</u> "production restoration project" means the use of any process for returning to production a natural gas or oil well that had thirty days or less of production in any period of twenty-four consecutive months beginning on or after January 1, 1993 as approved and certified by the division;

[K.] <u>L.</u> "severance" means the taking from the soil of any product in any manner whatsoever;

 $[L_{\cdot}]$ <u>M</u>. "stripper well property" means a crude oil or natural gas producing property that is assigned a single production unit number by the department and:

(1) if a crude oil producing property, produced an average daily production of less than ten barrels of oil per eligible well per day for the preceding calendar year;

(2) if a natural gas producing property, produced an average daily production of less than sixty thousand cubic feet of natural gas per eligible well per day during the preceding calendar year; or

(3) if a property with wells that produce both
 crude oil and natural gas, produced an average daily production
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of less than ten barrels of oil per eligible well per day for the preceding calendar year, as determined by converting the volume of natural gas produced by the well to barrels of oil by using a ratio of six thousand cubic feet to one barrel of oil;

[M.] N. "stripper well incentive tax rates" means the tax rates set forth in Paragraphs (6) through (9) of Subsection A of Section 7-29-4 NMSA 1978 and in Paragraphs (4) through (7) of Subsection A of Section 7-31-4 NMSA 1978 for natural gas or oil produced from a well within a stripper well property;

[N.] O. "well workover incentive tax rate" means the tax rate set forth in Paragraphs (4) and (5) of Subsection A of Section 7-29-4 NMSA 1978 on the natural gas or oil produced from a well workover project; and

[O.] P. "well workover project" means any procedure undertaken by the operator of a natural gas or oil well that is intended to increase the production from the well and that has been approved and certified by the division."

SECTION 4. Section 7-29B-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1995, Chapter 15, Section 3, as amended by Laws 1999, Chapter 7, Section 3 and as further amended by Laws 1999, Chapter 256, Section 4) is amended to read:

"7-29B-3. APPROVAL OF PRODUCTION RESTORATION PROJECTS, <u>PRODUCTION COMPLIANCE PROJECT</u>, WELL WORKOVER PROJECTS AND STRIPPER WELL PROPERTIES.--

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1 Α. A natural gas or oil well shall be approved by 2 the division as a production restoration project if: 3 the operator of the well makes application (1)4 to the division in accordance with the provisions of the 5 Natural Gas and Crude Oil Production Incentive Act and rules adopted pursuant to that act for approval of a production 6 7 restoration project and the application is made within twelve 8 months of the completion of the production restoration project; 9 and 10 the division records show that the well (2)11 had thirty days or less of production in any period of twenty-12 four consecutive months beginning on or after January 1, 1993. 13 B. A natural gas or crude oil well shall be 14 approved by the division as a production compliance project if: 15 (1) the operator of the well makes an 16 application to the division in accordance with the provisions 17 of the Natural Gas and Crude Oil Production Incentive Act and 18 rules adopted pursuant to that act for approval of a production 19 compliance project and the application is made within twelve 20 months of the completion of the production compliance project; 21 (2) in order to continue production, the 22 production compliance project was required by rules promulgated 23 on or after January 1, 2022 by the oil conservation commission 24 to reduce the venting and flaring of natural gas from wells and 25 production equipment and facilities and of natural gas from .225085.4

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1	natural gas gathering systems or by the environmental
2	improvement board to reduce ambient ozone concentrations;
3	(3) the well is approved and certified by the
4	<u>division as a stripper well;</u>
5	(4) the operator of the well has total
6	production in New Mexico of not more than one thousand barrels
7	of oil equivalent per day; and
8	(5) the production compliance project was
9	implemented to install, upgrade or replace the following well
10	equipment, as approved by the division:
11	<u>(a) tank controls;</u>
12	(b) pneumatic devices;
13	<u>(c) actuators;</u>
14	(d) vapor recovery units;
15	(e) forward-looking infrared cameras;
16	and
17	(f) smokeless combustion chambers.
18	$[B_{\bullet}]$ <u>C.</u> A natural gas or oil well shall be approved
19	by the division as a well workover project if:
20	(1) the operator of the well makes application
21	to the division in accordance with the provisions of the
22	Natural Gas and Crude Oil Production Incentive Act and rules
23	adopted pursuant to that act for approval of a well workover
24	project;
25	(2) the division determines that the procedure
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1 performed by the operator of the well is a procedure to 2 increase the production from the well, but is not routine 3 maintenance performed by a prudent operator to maintain the 4 well in operation. Such procedures may include, but are not 5 limited to: 6 (a) re-entry into the well to drill 7 deeper, to sidetrack to a different location or to recomplete 8 for production; 9 (b) recompletion by reperforation of a 10 zone from which natural gas or oil has been produced or by 11 perforation of a different zone; 12 repair or replacement of faulty or (c) 13 damaged casing or related downhole equipment; 14 fracturing, acidizing or installing (d) 15 compression equipment; or 16 squeezing, cementing or installing (e) 17 equipment necessary for removal of excessive water, brine or 18 condensate from the well bore in order to establish, continue 19 or increase production from the well; and 20 the operator of the well submits to the (3) 21 division evidence of a positive production increase over the 22 production rate of the well prior to the workover. The 23 operator must submit a production curve or tabulation made up 24 of at least twelve months' production prior to the workover and 25 at least three months' production following the workover that .225085.4

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reflects a positive production increase from the workover. The production curve or tabulation must be certified by the operator as that of the well on which a workover was performed.

[G.] D. A natural gas or crude oil producing property shall be approved and certified by the division as a stripper well property if the division records show that the property is assigned a single production unit number by the department and:

9 (1) if a crude oil producing property,
10 produced an average daily production of less than ten barrels
11 of oil per eligible well per day for the preceding calendar
12 year;

(2) if a natural gas producing property, produced an average daily production of less than sixty thousand cubic feet of natural gas per eligible well per day during the preceding calendar year; or

(3) if a property with wells that produce both crude oil and natural gas, produced an average daily production of less than ten barrels of oil per eligible well per day for the preceding calendar year, as determined by converting the volume of natural gas produced by the well to barrels of oil by using a ratio of six thousand cubic feet to one barrel of oil."

SECTION 5. Section 7-29B-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1995, Chapter 15, Section 4, as amended) is amended to read:

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"7-29B-4. APPLICATION PROCEDURES--CERTIFICATION OF .225085.4

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APPROVAL--RULES--ADMINISTRATION.--

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A. The operator of a proposed production restoration project, <u>production compliance project</u> or well workover project shall apply to the division for approval of a production restoration project, <u>production compliance project</u> or a well workover project in the form and manner prescribed by the division and shall provide any relevant material and information the division requires for that approval.

B. Upon a determination that the project complies with the provisions of the Natural Gas and Crude Oil Production Incentive Act and rules adopted pursuant to that act, the division shall approve the application and shall issue a certification of approval to the operator and designate the natural gas or oil well as a production restoration project, <u>production compliance project</u> or well workover project, as applicable.

C. In addition to the powers enumerated in Section 70-2-12 NMSA 1978, the division shall adopt, promulgate and enforce rules to carry out the provisions of the Natural Gas and Crude Oil Production Incentive Act.

D. The division shall consider and approve applications for approval of a production restoration project, <u>production compliance project</u> or well workover project without holding hearings on the applications. If the division denies approval of an application pursuant to such a process, the .225085.4 - 15 - division, upon the request of the applicant, shall set a hearing of the application before an examiner appointed by the division to conduct the hearing. The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Oil and Gas Act for such hearings."

SECTION 6. Section 7-29B-5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1995, Chapter 15, Section 5, as amended) is amended to read:

"7-29B-5. NOTICE TO SECRETARY OF TAXATION AND REVENUE.--The division shall notify immediately the secretary of taxation and revenue upon:

A. adoption of rules pursuant to the provisions of the Natural Gas and Crude Oil Production Incentive Act;

B. certification of the date that production has been restored on a production restoration project;

<u>C. certification of the date that a production</u> <u>compliance project has been completed;</u>

[C.] <u>D.</u> certification of the date that a well workover project has been completed; and

 $[\underline{P}_{\cdot}] \underline{E}_{\cdot}$ certification of the stripper well properties for the fiscal year."

SECTION 7. Section 7-29B-6 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1995, Chapter 15, Section 6, as amended) is amended to read:

"7-29B-6. QUALIFICATION FOR PRODUCTION RESTORATION INCENTIVE TAX EXEMPTION, <u>PRODUCTION COMPLIANCE PROJECT TAX</u> <u>EXEMPTION</u> AND WELL WORKOVER AND STRIPPER WELL PROPERTY .225085.4

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1 INCENTIVE TAX RATE--SECRETARY OF TAXATION AND REVENUE 2 APPROVAL -- REFUND .--

3 The person responsible for paying the oil and Α. 4 gas severance tax on natural gas or oil produced from a 5 production restoration project shall qualify to receive a tenyear production restoration incentive tax exemption upon: 6

application to the department in the form (1)8 and manner prescribed by the department for approval for the ten-year production restoration incentive tax exemption;

submission of the certification of (2) approval from the division and designation of the natural gas or oil well as a production restoration project; and

submission of any other relevant material (3) that the secretary of taxation and revenue deems necessary to administer the applicable provisions of the Natural Gas and Crude Oil Production Incentive Act.

B. The person responsible for paying the oil and gas severance tax on natural gas or oil produced from a production compliance project shall qualify to receive a production compliance project tax exemption upon:

(1) application to the department in the form and manner prescribed by the department for approval of the production compliance project tax exemption;

(2) submission of the certification of approval from the division and designation of the natural gas .225085.4 - 17 -

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1 or oil well as a production compliance project; 2 (3) submission of verifiable total costs of 3 compliance for the production compliance project for payout 4 purposes; and 5 (4) submission of any other relevant material 6 that the secretary of taxation and revenue deems necessary to 7 administer the applicable provisions of the Natural Gas and 8 Crude Oil Production Incentive Act. 9 [B.] C. The person responsible for payment of the 10 oil and gas severance tax on natural gas or oil produced from a 11 well workover project shall qualify for the well workover 12 incentive tax rate on all the natural gas or oil produced by 13 that project upon: 14 application to the department in the form (1)15 and manner prescribed by the department for approval to apply 16 the well workover incentive tax rate to the natural gas or oil 17 produced from a well workover project; 18 (2)submission of the certification from the 19 division of approval and designation of the natural gas or oil 20 well as a well workover project; and 21 any other relevant material that the (3) 22 department considers necessary to administer the applicable 23 provisions of the Natural Gas and Crude Oil Production 24 Incentive Act. 25 [C.] D. The person responsible for paying the oil

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and gas severance tax and the oil and gas emergency school tax on natural gas and crude oil produced from a stripper well property shall qualify to receive the stripper well property incentive tax rate for the fiscal year following certification by the division in the form and manner agreed to by the division and the department designating the property as a stripper well property. The division shall certify stripper well properties for calendar year 1998 no later than June 30, 1999 and no later than June 1 of each succeeding year for the preceding calendar year.

[D-r] E. The production restoration incentive tax exemption shall apply to natural gas or oil produced from a production restoration project beginning the first day of the month following the date the division certifies that production has been restored and ending the last day of the tenth year of production following that date. The well workover incentive tax rate applies to the natural gas or oil produced from a well workover project beginning the first day of the month following the date the division certifies that the well workover project has been completed. The stripper well property incentive tax rates apply to the natural gas or oil produced from a stripper well property in the twelve months beginning May 1 prior to July 1 of the fiscal year to which the certification of the property as a stripper well property applies.

[E.] <u>F.</u> The person responsible for payment of the .225085.4

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1 oil and gas severance tax on natural gas or oil production from 2 an approved well workover project may file a claim for credit 3 against current tax liability or for refund in accordance with 4 Section 7-1-26 NMSA 1978 for taxes paid in excess of the amount 5 due using the well workover incentive tax rate.

Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection E of Section
7 7-1-26 NMSA 1978, any such refund granted shall be made in the
8 form of a credit against any future oil and gas severance tax
9 liabilities incurred by the taxpayer.

 $[F_{\tau}]$ <u>G.</u> Well workover projects certified prior to July 1, 1999 shall be deemed to be approved and certified in accordance with the provisions of this 1999 act and natural gas or oil produced from those projects shall be eligible for the well workover incentive tax rate effective beginning July 1, 1999.

[G.] <u>H.</u> The secretary of taxation and revenue may adopt and promulgate rules to enforce the provisions of this section."

SECTION 8. APPLICABILITY.--The provisions of this act apply to production compliance projects completed on or after July 1, 2023.

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