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New Mexicans Testify for Stronger [EPA Oil and Gas Methane Pollution Safeguards](#)

Washington, DC -- Starting today, the Environmental Protection Agency is hosting three public hearings on new rules to tackle methane and associated pollution from new and existing oil and gas operations.

Under the Trump administration, EPA rolled back Obama-era limits on methane pollution from the oil and gas industry. This summer President Biden signed legislation to reinstate those 2016 safeguards. The EPA is now acting to strengthen these rules.

The proposed EPA safeguards add to the Obama rules by covering not just new and existing rules but also existing sources and would achieve critical emissions reductions. However, a cross section of New Mexicans joined and are joining the hearings to call for key improvements to the rules. These would include increased leak detection and repair for small wells with high potential to pollute; banning of routine venting and flaring, covering orphaned and abandoned wells, and providing for community monitoring.

To view testimony:

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- Tuesday, November 30: <https://youtu.be/j3YURQwMvTE>
 - Joan Brown, NM Interfaith Power and Light (12:27 PM)
 - Camilla Feibelman, Sierra Club - Rio Grande Chapter (12:35 PM)
 - Ron Parry, NM Resident (12:46 PM)
 - Senator Carrie Hamblen (1:19 PM)
 - Additional NM speakers will present throughout the day
- Wednesday, December 1: <https://youtu.be/Hcmwuj8jsaQ>
- Thursday, December 2: <https://youtu.be/QLHkeAOqwxw>

For more details about the rules and the hearings and a full speakers list:
<https://www.epa.gov/controlling-air-pollution-oil-and-natural-gas-industry/public-hearing-epas-proposal-reduce-methane>

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