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Sarah Cottrell Propst, Cabinet Secretary
Todd E. Leahy, JD, PhD, Deputy Cabinet Secretary
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Oil Conservation Division

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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May 8, 2023

EMNRD Announces New Leadership at the Oil Conservation Division

SANTA FE, NM –The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department announces the appointment of Dylan Fuge as Director of the Oil Conservation Division (OCD). His appointment will be effective on May 13, 2023.

For the past two years, Mr. Fuge has served EMNRD’s General Counsel, a role that entails advising the department’s Secretary and its various divisions on the complex natural resources and regulatory issues that routinely come before the department. Since January 2023, Mr. Fuge has served as Acting OCD Director while also performing his duties as General Counsel.

When he becomes the OCD director on May 13, Mr. Fuge will then serve as Acting General Counsel until the agency fills that position. A search for a full-time General Counsel is already underway.

“Mr. Fuge has been an invaluable member of—and advisor to—EMNRD’s senior management team,” said Secretary Sarah Cottrell Propst. “He is a demonstrated problem solver and excellent communicator, who has helped EMNRD achieve significant policy, regulatory, and legislative goals. He is committed to accelerating the progress made during this administration’s first term in modernizing and transforming OCD to oversee responsible permitting and enforcement.”

Mr. Fuge came to EMNRD from T-Mobile, where he was responsible for providing nationwide local permitting and advocacy support for the company’s cell site development efforts. Before that, Mr. Fuge spent six years at the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), where he served as Counselor to the Director of the Bureau of Land Management and as an Attorney Advisor in the Office of the Solicitor. His DOI areas of practice included oil and gas development and oversight, renewable energy project development, land use planning, and general public lands management.

Mr. Fuge holds degrees in Geology and Studies in the Environment from Yale University and earned his Law Degree and a Masters of Environmental Management from Duke University. Mr. Fuge grew up in Santa Fe. “It has been an honor to serve as EMNRD’s General Counsel and I am looking forward to this new, challenging role,” he said. “I welcome the opportunity to continue working with the OCD team to continue the progress they have made.”

In addition to Mr. Fuge’s appointment, EMNRD is also pleased to announce the selection of Brandon Powell as the OCD Deputy Director responsible for the Engineering and

Environmental Bureaus. Mr. Powell is a 17+ year veteran of the OCD, having served at all levels of the organization.

“Mr. Powell brings deep knowledge of oil and gas operations in New Mexico’s key producing basins and we are pleased to have his steady perspective on the OCD leadership team,” said Secretary Sarah Cottrell Propst.

Mr. Powell joins Gerry Razatos, OCD’s current Deputy Director for hearings and administration. Mr. Powell and his family live in Farmington, NM.

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