

**MAY 22, 2019, MEETING MINUTES**  
**BEFORE THE BOARD OF OIL, GAS AND MINING**  
**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**IN AND FOR THE STATE OF UTAH**

---

A public meeting was held on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 in the auditorium of the Department of Natural Resources, 1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah. The meeting was streamed live on the Department of Natural Resources YouTube channel. The link for the Briefing Session was <https://youtu.be/kMw4xHS7Leg>, and the link for the Board Hearing was <https://youtu.be/-LY5hUX6J9s>.

---

**ATTENDEES:**

**Board Members**

Ruland J. Gill, Jr, Chairman  
Chris D. Hansen, Vice Chairman– Excused  
Michael R. Brown  
Susan S. Davis  
Gordon L. Moon  
Richard K. Borden

**Utah Attorney General’s Office, Natural Resources Division**

Michael E. Begley, AAG, representing the Board - Excused  
Steven F. Alder, AAG, representing the Division  
Emma Whitaker, AAG, representing the Board  
Thomas Kessinger, AAG representing the Division

**Division of Oil, Gas and Mining**

John R. Baza, Division Director  
John Rogers, Assoc. Director, Oil and Gas Program  
Dana Dean, Assoc. Director, Mining Program  
Hollie Brown, Public Information Officer  
Natasha Ballif, Legislative and Planning Coordinator  
Julie Ann Carter, Board Secretary  
Dustin Doucet, Petroleum Engineer, Oil and Gas Program  
Dayne Doucet, Petroleum Engineer, Oil and Gas Program  
Josh Payne, Oil and Gas Program  
Tom Thompson, Senior GIS Analyst

**Department of Natural Resources**

Paul Gedge, Senior Business Analyst

**Advanced Reporting Solutions**

Michelle Mallonee, RPR

**University of Utah**

Dr. John McLennan

**MacDonald & Miller Mineral Legal Services, PLLC**

Frederick M. MacDonald, Esq.

**Utah Petroleum Association**

Rikki Hrenko-Browning, President

**Members of the Public:**

Brad Gunnell, WEM Uintah, LLC

Danny Gunnell, WEM Uintah, LLC

Riley Brinkerhoff, WEM Uintah, LLC

John Adamson, Geopion, Inc.

---

**BRIEFING SESSION:**

The Chairman of the Board, Ruland J Gill, Jr., called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Mr. John R. Baza, Director of the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining, conducted the briefing session.

1. Geologic Potential of Uinta Basin

Dr. John McLennan, University of Utah, gave a presentation, developed in concert with Mr. Michael D. Vandenberg, Utah Geological Society, on the Geologic Potential of the Uinta Basin. Dr. McLennan explained the Geology of the Uinta Basin and described oil and gas reserves located there. The Uinta Basin currently provides 82% of oil and gas production in the state of Utah. He also described production methods for maximizing production.

2. Discussion of June Hearing Plans

The June field trip and board hearing in the Price area has been postponed due to a conflict with a field trip site and a board matter. The field trip has been tentatively rescheduled to take place in September or October.

3. Other

No report was given.

4. Next Month's Agenda and Division Calendar

No report was given.

5. Opportunity for Public Comment

Mr. Ruland J. Gill, Jr., Chairman, opened the meeting for public comments, and seeing none, the board recessed until 10:30 a.m.

The Briefing Session concluded at 10:12 a.m.

---

**FORMAL SESSION:**

The Chairman, Ruland J. Gill, Jr., called the formal session of the Board of Oil Gas and Mining hearing to order at 10:30 a.m. The Board heard the following matters:

*Please note: Transcripts of the formal items will be available for review at the Division offices approximately fifteen business days after the hearing date. Copies of individual transcripts may be purchased from Advanced Reporting Solutions, 159 West Broadway, Broadway Lofts, Suite 100, Salt Lake City, Utah 84101, ph.: 801-746-5080.*

1. [Docket No. 2017-013 Cause No RO&G-2017-01](#) – In the matter of informal rule making associated with the 2017 and 2018 legislative amendments concerning forced pooling and the need to initiate rulemaking on other emerging matters, including but not limited to, rulemaking on operatorship designation.

*(There may be discussion by the Board of additional modifications to the proposed compulsory rule prior to commencing formal rulemaking.)*

Time: 10:35 a.m. to 11:12 a.m.

Board Members present: Ruland J Gill, Jr., Chairman, Richard K. Borden, Michael R. Brown, Susan S. Davis, and Gordon L. Moon. Chris D. Hansen was excused.

Counsel for the Board: Michael E. Begley, Assistant Attorney General, Utah Attorney General's Office, Natural Resources Division.

Counsel for the Division: Steven F. Alder, and Thomas Kessinger, Assistant Attorneys General, Utah Attorney General's Office, Natural Resources Division.

Witness: Mr. John R. Baza

On Behalf of Utah Petroleum Association: Rikki Hrenko-Browning, President

The Board voted to continue this matter on in the informal rulemaking process to provide for 30 additional days for public comment. The vote was unanimous. This matter was continued to the June 26, 2019, board hearing.

Mr. Ruland J Gill, Jr., Chairman, Mr. Richard K. Borden, Mr. Michael R. Brown, Ms. Susan S. Davis, and Mr. Gordon L. Moon were present to participate and vote on the matter. Mr. Chris D. Hansen was excused.

2. [Docket No. 2019-014 Cause No. C/007/0045](#) – In re: Request by the Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining to forfeit the reclamation surety in order to complete reclamation of the Wellington Dry-Coal Cleaning Facility, Permit No. C/007/0045, located in Section 14, Township 15 South, Range 10 East, SLBM, Carbon County, Utah.

Time: 10:33 a.m. to 10:35 a.m.

Board Members present: Ruland J Gill, Jr., Chairman, Richard K. Borden, Michael R. Brown, Susan S. Davis, and Gordon L. Moon. Chris D. Hansen was excused.

Counsel for the Board: Michael E. Begley, Assistant Attorney General, Utah Attorney General’s Office, Natural Resources Division.

Counsel for the Division: Steven F. Alder, and Thomas Kessinger, Assistant Attorneys General, Utah Attorney General’s Office, Natural Resources Division.

This matter has been continued to the regularly scheduled Board hearing on June 26, 2019.