

# OIL & GAS CORNER

## WORLD – NATION – STATE

### Conflict of interest charges fly over New Mexico's expanded oil and gas drilling

*"Conflict of interest charges fly over New Mexico's expanded oil and gas drilling" okenergytoday.com, 27 December 2018.*

The New Mexico State Land Commission is calling for a state attorney general's investigation of regulators and Hilcorp Energy Co. of Texas.

Commissioner Aubrey Dunn contends there are potential conflicts of interest as the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission approved expanded drilling by Hilcorp in the San Juan Basin located in northern New Mexico. The commission approval came last month.

Dunn pointed out that commissioner Heather Riley once worked for WPX Energy and Ken McQueen, secretary of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department had worked there as well.

WPX Energy sold its assets in recent years to Logos Operating, which the State Land Office said is party to Hilcorp's proposal.

And the State Land Office said

Logos Operating stands to benefit from the move, which Dunn, a Libertarian, opposed.

McQueen called the allegations "completely ridiculous."

"The land commissioner is clearly desperate to try and score political points as he leaves office and is throwing every outrageous idea against the wall in order to see what sticks," he said.

Environmental groups have opposed the move to double the number of wells allowed in the San Juan Basin's Blanco-Mesaverde gas pool.

Previously, four wells were allowed per 320-acre tract of the Blanco-Mesaverde. The signed order allows eight.

Dunn argued the commission rushed the proposal at the expense of land owners and the environment to get it through before a new Democratic administration takes office on Jan. 1.

But proponents argued the move is a win for economic development in a historically poor corner of the state.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST



### Wind farm owner to stand trial in February on \$1 million fraud scheme charges

*"Wind farm owner to stand trial in February on \$1 million fraud scheme charges" okenergytoday.com, 27 December 2018.*

A former Minnesota wind farm owner and operator charged with a \$1 million fraud scheme is reportedly headed to trial in the coming year.

Kerry Dale Kisslinger, 58, is a former owner and CEO of ES Windpower, Inc. and was indicted in November. His company sold wind turbines to farmers and ranchers throughout the Midwest.

The indictment alleged that beginning in 2012 and until 2015, Kisslinger "devised and executed a scheme to defraud ESWindpower customers by falsely representing that in exchange for payment, Kisslinger and his company would deliver and install a wind turbine on the customers' farms or land."

Kisslinger reportedly failed to send a down payment to a North Dakota-based wind turbine manufacturer in some of the purchases.

Federal prosecutors in Minnesota say he regularly used the customers' payments for personal use and benefit including a \$45,000 down payment on a lakefront home in Emmons, Minnesota. He also used money to buy Minnesota Timberwolves season tickets.

Kisslinger now reportedly lives in Humble, Texas and is scheduled to go to trial in February.

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