

Questions for Director Baza, relative to Agenda Item 9, “Follow-up – A Performance Audit of Utah’s Oil and Gas Program”

Natural Resources Interim Committee

November 18, 2021

Submitted by Representative Elizabeth Weight

1. For clarification, well statistics published on DOGM’s website are only on wells under the jurisdiction of DOGM. Is that correct?
2. How often are non-producing well reviewed to determine whether they should be allowed to remain in suspended status or that DOGM should issue an order to plug the wells?
3. According to statistics listed on the website (as of Nov. 9, 2021), the “Total Wells Capable of Production” is noted as 13,851. The “Total Non-Plugged Wells” is noted as 16,396. Subtracting the number of non-plugged wells from the number of total wells indicates 2,545 wells that are neither plugged nor capable of producing oil or gas.

( <https://oilgas.ogm.utah.gov/oilgasweb/statistics/well-counts.xhtml> )

Please comment on the accuracy of this number.

If these wells are not capable of production, please explain why they haven’t they been plugged?

With the risk of these wells being abandoned before they are plugged, what is being done?