

# **Summary: Unfounded Allegations of False Production Reporting by Onshore Oil and Gas Production Company**

**Report Date: September 21, 2021**

**Case Number: 20-0390**

We investigated allegations that an oil and gas company submitted false mineral production reports to the Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR). ONRR alleged that the company improperly adjusted its required monthly Oil and Gas Operations Report for oil production on its Federal mineral leases in New Mexico. When ONRR questioned the adjustment, the company reversed the adjustment and simultaneously reduced the oil production amount it originally reported. ONRR suspected this reduction was the company's attempt to avoid paying Federal mineral royalties.

We did not find that the company submitted false reports to ONRR as alleged. Instead, after reviewing relevant documentation and conducting interviews, we found that the company followed the proper reporting procedure and coordinated with ONRR to correct its production reporting and pay Federal mineral royalties. Our investigative findings resolved ONRR's concerns about the company's previous reporting regarding produced oil volumes associated with this matter.

This is a summary of an investigative report we issued to the ONRR Director and the Bureau of Land Management Director.

