



Environment Department

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, GOVERNOR

James C. Kenney, *Cabinet Secretary*

Jennifer J. Pruett, *Deputy Secretary*

NEWS RELEASE

January 3, 2020

Contact: Maddy Hayden, Communications Director
New Mexico Environment Department
505.231.8800 | maddy.hayden@state.nm.us

The Environment Department's mission is to protect and restore the environment and to foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations.

Environment Department reviewing Stage 1 Abatement Plan to investigate groundwater contamination at former dairy

Mesquite – The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is reviewing a Stage 1 Abatement Plan for the investigation and clean-up of contaminated groundwater at a former dairy facility in Mesquite.

The site is located at 13805 Stern Drive, Mesquite, in the Brazito Land Grant, projected in Sections 5 and 6, Township 25S, Range 03E, Doña Ana County. R-Qubed Energy, Inc. submitted the abatement plan as required by New Mexico Ground and Surface Water Protection Regulations (20.6.2 NMAC). The Stage 1 Abatement Plan proposes actions to investigate and characterize groundwater pollution found at the site. No drinking water sources have been impacted by this contamination. Groundwater at the site ranges in depth from 32 to 73 feet below the surface.

Previous groundwater sampling events conducted by R-Qubed Energy, Inc. revealed elevated concentrations of nitrate, total dissolved solids (TDS), and chloride. The source and extent of these contaminants has not been fully defined but is attributed to discharges from a former dairy facility (Buena Vista 2 Dairy) and surrounding active dairy operations. The site history and previous groundwater investigations conducted by R-Qubed Energy, Inc. are summarized in the plan.

Once the site is fully characterized, NMED will require a Stage 2 Abatement Plan that outlines clean-up strategies to remediate groundwater contamination at the facility. While the abatement process is iterative and the site may require additional phases of characterization, NMED anticipates that R-Qubed Energy, Inc. will submit a Stage 2 Abatement Plan within approximately one year of completion and approval of the Stage 1 work.

The abatement plan may be viewed [here](#). For more information, contact Matthew Smith, Geoscientist, Agriculture Compliance Section, at (505)827-2797 or matthew.smith3@state.nm.us.

###

NMED does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age or sex in the administration of its programs or activities, as required by applicable laws and regulations. NMED is responsible for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning non-discrimination requirements implemented by 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 13 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972. If you have any questions about this notice or any of NMED's non-discrimination programs, policies or procedures, you may contact: Kristine Yurdin, Non-Discrimination Coordinator

New Mexico Environment Department
1190 St. Francis Dr., Suite N4050
P.O. Box 5469
Santa Fe, NM 87502
(505) 827-2855

nd.coordinator@state.nm.us

If you believe that you have been discriminated against with respect to a NMED program or activity, you may contact the Non-Discrimination Coordinator identified above.