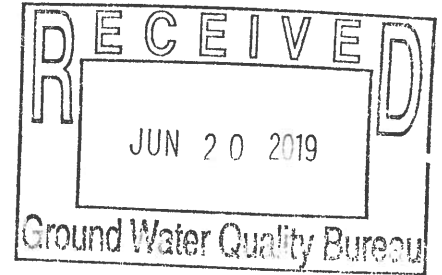


**ANTHONY PALMA  
JANELLE SPEROW-PALMA**



June 16, 2019

Mr. Jason Herman, NMED Permit Contact  
Ground Water Quality Bureau  
1190 South St. Francis Drive, Ste. N4050  
PO Box 5469  
Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469

RE: NMED Discharge Permit #465

Dear Mr. Herman:

We are residents of the Stagecoach Neighborhood in El Prado, a part of Taos County.

For years our neighborhood has fought the renewal of a groundwater discharge permit for a private, open and unlined septic disposal facility owned by Steve Rael of S&R Septic. The septic lagoon is located at the beginning of our private road, Tune Drive, and the entrance to the Stagecoach Neighborhood, a thousand acre tract of land with 95 private homes. A renewal of the permit allows S&R Septic to continue to use its unlined septic lagoon for liquid waste disposal for an additional 5 years. Every five years our opposition to the renewal of this permit has been unsuccessful in shutting down the lagoon.

**S&R Septic is the only waste disposal company in Taos and Taos County that does not use the Taos Waste Water Disposal Plant for its disposal.**

Our concerns:

- 1) Drinking water contamination. Each home has a private well or shared wells.
- 2) Airborne contamination. The Stagecoach Neighborhood is situated on the mesa close to the northeast side of the Rio Grande Gorge. We experience mild to high winds throughout the year.

What we want:

- 1) We are asking for a public hearing.
- 2) In order for the officials at the public hearing to understand the environmental impact on our neighborhood, we are asking NMED to fund deep hole testing of the unlined septic disposal facility in order to provide the scientific data necessary to analyze the impact on our ground water.

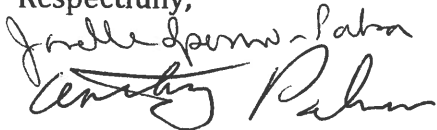
- 3) The State of New Mexico Environment Department's Ground Water Quality Board continues to grant 5-year permit extensions even though S&R repeatedly violates the operating codes for such a lagoon. We have been told that the board does not have the means or manpower to monitor the lagoon. Therefore, the violations go unaddressed and the board renews the permit.
- 4) If the board cannot monitor and continues to renew the permit, then NMED should step in and provide either the funding or the manpower or both to properly monitor the septic lagoon and force the hauler to comply. If NMED can't provide the oversight, then it is incumbent on NMED to override the board and deny the permit. Who else can we turn to if not the NMED?

As you can imagine, we are more than frustrated. We feel that the onus is always on us, our neighborhood, to monitor an antiquated and sub-standard septic lagoon and prove that it is not environmentally sound and that it is a hazard to our neighborhood's precious drinking water and clean air.

We are asking that the next five year permit be denied to S&R Septic. We are not asking to shut down S&R Septic, but to demand that S&R use the Taos Waste Water Treatment Plant for its disposal as do the other septic haulers in the town and county.

We thank you for your immediate attention to this very important matter.

Respectfully,



Janelle Sperow Palma  
Anthony Palma  
445 Tune Drive, El Prado, NM