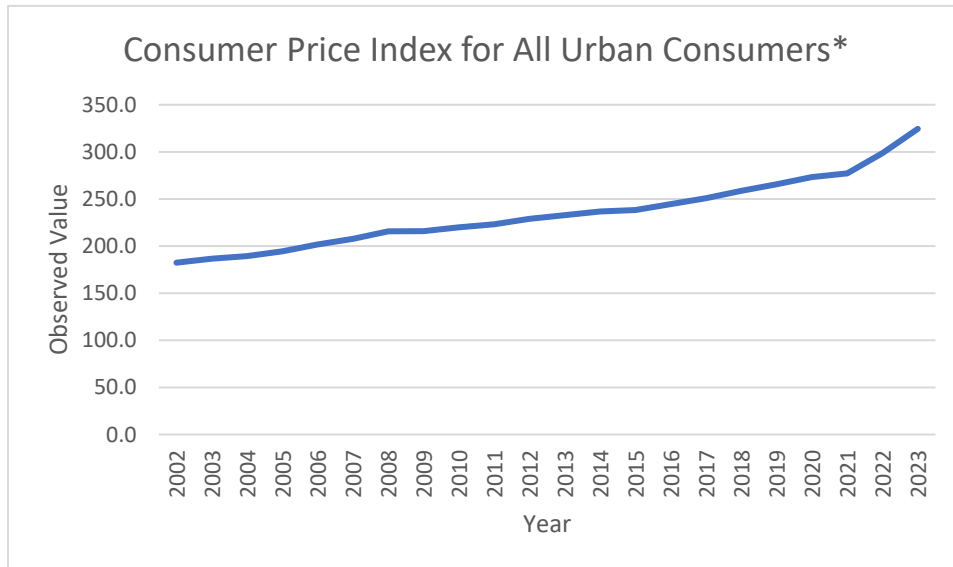




## Voluntary Remediation Oversight Fee Revision

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), Ground Water Quality Bureau (GWQB) is proposing to revise the current Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) Oversight Fee as allowed under 20.6.3 NMAC – *Voluntary Remediation Program*. NMED GWQB has the authority to revise the VRP Oversight Fee every year on November 1, after a 30-day public comment period. The VRP is an essential state cleanup program that provides liability protection incentives for the successful voluntary remediation of contaminated properties, encourages their redevelopment and provides technical/oversight assistance. The current VRP Oversight Fee of \$90.00 has not been revised since the Voluntary Remediation Program regulations (20.6.3 NMAC) went into effect in November 2001. A review of the current VRP Oversight Fee was conducted by NMED GWQB, and it was determined that a revision to the VRP Oversight Fee is necessary to ensure adequate and effective oversight to VRP participants. US Bureau of Labor Statistics data shows that inflation has increased by 74% since 2001 (an average increase of 3.36% per year) and current prices are 1.72 times higher today.



\* Data Source: [US Bureau of Labor Statistics](https://www.bls.gov)

To ensure that the VRP can continue to operate effectively and provide timely services for the oversight of voluntary remediation projects, NMED GWQB is proposing to revise the VRP hourly Oversight Fee from \$90.00/hour to \$125.00/hr. This revision would be a 39% increase, which equals a 1.77% increase per year since 2001.

Prior to approval of this proposed VRP Oversight Fee revision on November 1, 2023, NMED will allow 30 days, until October 25, 2023, to submit written comments on the proposed revision to the VRP Oversight Fee. Comments on the proposed revision should be sent to: NMED Ground Water Quality Bureau – VRP, PO Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469 or by email to [ros.general@env.nm.gov](mailto:ros.general@env.nm.gov) and include “VRP Fees” in the subject line of the email.

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