



MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

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CABINET SECRETARY

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

September 6, 2023

Joel Berman, Plant Operations Division Manager
West Mesa Disposal Site
4201 Second Street SW
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87105

RE: Draft Discharge Permit Renewal and Modification, DP-521, West Mesa Disposal Site

Dear Joel Berman:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) hereby provides notice to Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Authority of the proposed approval of Ground Water Discharge Permit Renewal and Modification, DP-521, (copy enclosed), pursuant to Subsection H of 20.6.2.3108 NMAC. NMED will publish notice of the availability of the draft Discharge Permit in the near future for public review and comment and will forward a copy of that notice to you.

Prior to making a final ruling on the proposed Discharge Permit, NMED will allow 30 days from the date the public notice is published in the newspaper for any interested party, including the Discharge Permit applicant, i.e., yourself, to submit written comments and/or a request a public hearing. A hearing request shall set forth the reasons why a hearing is requested. NMED will hold a hearing in response to a timely hearing request if the NMED Secretary determines there is substantial public interest in the proposed Discharge Permit.

Please review the enclosed draft Discharge Permit carefully. Please be aware that this Discharge Permit may contain conditions that require the permittee to implement operational, monitoring or closure actions by a specified deadline.

Please submit written comments or a request for hearing to my attention at the address below, via email to andrewc.romero@env.nm.gov or to pps.general@state.nm.us, or directly into the NMED Public Comment Portal at <https://nmed.commentinput.com/comment/search>. If NMED does not receive written comments or a request for hearing during the public comment period, the draft Discharge Permit will become final.

Thank you for your cooperation during the review process. Feel free to contact me with any questions at (505) 660-8624.

SCIENCE | INNOVATION | COLLABORATION | COMPLIANCE

Ground Water Quality Bureau | 1190 Saint Francis Drive, PO Box 5469, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-5469
Telephone (505) 827-2900 | www.env.nm.gov/gwqb/

Joel Berman, DP-521

September 6, 2023

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Sincerely,

Andrew Romero, Water Resource Professional

Encl: Draft Discharge Permit Renewal and Modification, DP-521

cc: W. Shane Fitzgerald, SAF Superintendent, wfitzgerald@abcwua.org

Danielle Shuryn, Compliance Division Manager, dshuryn@abcwua.org



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Draft: September 6, 2023

**GROUND WATER QUALITY BUREAU
 DISCHARGE PERMIT
 Issued under 20.6.2 NMAC**

Facility Name:	West Mesa Disposal Site
Discharge Permit Number:	DP-521
Facility Location:	7400 Jim McDowell Road Albuquerque, NM
County:	Bernalillo
Permittee:	Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority
Mailing Address:	Joel Berman 4201 Second Street SW Albuquerque, NM 87105
Facility Contact:	Danielle Shuryn
Telephone Number/Email:	505-289-3382/dshuryn@abcwua.org
Permitting Action:	Renewal and Modification
Permit Issuance Date:	DATE
Permit Expiration Date:	DATE
NMED Permit Contact:	Andrew Romero
Telephone Number/Email:	505-660-8624/andrewc.romero@env.nm.gov or pps.general@env.nm.gov

JUSTIN D. BALL
 Chief, Ground Water Quality Bureau
 New Mexico Environment Department

Date

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ATTACHMENTS

- Discharge Permit Summary
- Groundwater Discharge Permit Guidance for Synthetically Lined Lagoons – Liner Material and Site Preparation, Revision 0.0, May 2007
- Surface Disposal Data Sheet (SDDS-Sludge - <https://www.env.nm.gov/forms/>)

I. INTRODUCTION

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) issues this groundwater discharge permit Renewal and Modification (Discharge Permit or DP-521) to the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (Permittee) pursuant to the New Mexico Water Quality Act (WQA), NMSA 1978 §§74-6-1 through 74-6-17, and the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) Ground and Surface Water Protection Regulations, 20.6.2 NMAC.

NMED's purpose in issuing this Discharge Permit, and in imposing the requirements and conditions specified herein, is to control the discharge of water contaminants from West Mesa Disposal Site (Facility) in order to protect groundwater and those segments of surface water gaining from groundwater inflow for present and potential future use as domestic and agricultural water supply and other uses, and to protect public health. It is NMED's determination in issuing this Discharge Permit that the Permittee has met the requirements of Subsection C of 20.6.2.3109 NMAC. The Permittee is responsible for complying with the terms and conditions of this Discharge Permit pursuant to Section 20.6.2.3104 NMAC; failure to do so may result in enforcement action by NMED (20.6.2.1220 NMAC).

Described below are the activities that produce the discharge, the location of the discharge, and the quantity, quality, and flow characteristics.

The Permittee processes and discharges domestic wastewater treatment facility sludge, sewer line grit and river sediment from the San Juan Chama Surface Water Treatment Plant at the Facility at a volume of up to 114.3 dry metric tons per day to the Facility's 418-acre Soil Amendment Facility at the West Mesa Disposal Site. Surface disposal of dewatered sludge to the Rangeland Restoration Area will no longer occur.

The Discharge Permit modification consists of an increase in the maximum daily discharge volume of 60.3 dry metric tons per day to 114.3 dry metric tons per day to allow for river sediment generated at the San Juan Chama Surface Water Treatment Plant to be discharged at the West Mesa Disposal Site.

Discharge Permit Location Information:

Physical Address	7400 Jim McDowell Road
Nearest Town/City	Albuquerque, NM
Section, Township, Range	Section 11N, Township 22, 27 and 34, Range 01E
County	Bernalillo
Depth to Groundwater	922 feet
Pre-Discharge TDS	450 mg/L

Discharge Permit Issuance History:

Original Permit Issuance	January 29, 1988
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Permit Modification	August 24, 1990
Permit Renewal	February 7, 1997
Permit Renewal	June 8, 2001
Permit Renewal and Modification	January 21, 2005
Permit Renewal and Modification	May 3, 2010
Permit Renewal	January 8, 2016

The application (i.e., discharge plan) associated with this Discharge Permit consists of the materials submitted by the Permittee dated April 4, 2023, and materials contained in the administrative record prior to issuance of this Discharge Permit.

The Permittee shall manage the discharge in accordance with all conditions and requirements of this Discharge Permit.

NMED reserves the right to require a Discharge Permit Modification in the event NMED determines that the Permittee is or may be violating, or is likely to violate in the future, the requirements of 20.6.2 NMAC or the standards of Section 20.6.2.3103 NMAC. NMED reserves this right pursuant to Section 20.6.2.3109 NMAC. An NMED requirement to modify the Discharge Permit may result from a determination by NMED that proposed disposal methods, structural controls or operations and management practices approved under this Discharge Permit are insufficiently protective of groundwater quality and human health. NMED reserves the right to require the Permittee to implement abatement of water pollution and remediate groundwater quality.

NMED issuance of this Discharge Permit does not relieve the Permittee of the responsibility to comply with the WQA, WQCC Regulations, and any other applicable federal, state and/or local laws and regulations, such as zoning requirements and nuisance ordinances.

This Discharge Permit may use the following acronyms and abbreviations.

Abbreviation	Explanation	Abbreviation	Explanation
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	NMED	New Mexico Environment Department
CFU	colony forming unit	NMSA	New Mexico Statutes Annotated
Cl	chloride	NO ₃ -N	nitrate-nitrogen
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency	QA/QC	Quality Assurance/Quality Control
gpd	gallons per day	SDDS	Surface Disposal Data Sheet
LAA	land application area	TDS	total dissolved solids
LADS	Land Application Data Sheet(s)	TKN	total Kjeldahl nitrogen
lbs N/acre	pounds of nitrogen per acre	total nitrogen	= TKN + NO ₃ -N
mg/L	milligrams per liter	TS	total solids

Abbreviation	Explanation	Abbreviation	Explanation
mg/kg	milligram per kilogram	WQA	New Mexico Water Quality Act
mL	milliliters	WQCC	Water Quality Control Commission
NMAC	New Mexico Administrative Code	WWTF	Wastewater Treatment Facility

II. FINDINGS

In issuing this Discharge Permit, NMED finds the following.

1. The Permittee is discharging effluent or leachate from the Facility so that such effluent or leachate may move into groundwater of the State of New Mexico that has an existing concentration of 10,000 mg/L or less of TDS, within the meaning of Subsection A of 20.6.2.3101 NMAC, without exceeding standards of 20.6.2.3103 NMAC for any water contaminant.
2. The Permittee is discharging effluent or leachate from the Facility directly or indirectly into groundwater pursuant to this Discharge Permit and Sections 20.6.2.3000 through 20.6.2.3114 NMAC.
3. The discharge from this Facility has the potential to contain water contaminants or toxic pollutants elevated above the standards of Section 20.6.2.3103 NMAC and is not subject to the exemption at Subsection 20.6.2.3105 NMAC.

III. AUTHORIZATION TO DISCHARGE

The Permittee is responsible for ensuring that discharges authorized by this Discharge Permit are consistent with the terms and conditions herein pursuant to 20.6.2.3104 NMAC.

This Discharge Permit authorizes the Permittee to receive and discharge up to 114.3 dry metric tons per day of liquid, semi-solid, and solid domestic wastewater treatment facility sludge and sewer line grit from the City of Albuquerque sanitary sewer collection system and Southside Water Reclamation Plant to 12 surface disposal cells within the Facility's Soil Amendment Facility totaling 418-acres. This Discharge Permit authorizes the following:

- Discharging the liquefied sludge contained in rinse water from sludge truck cleaning operation to two synthetically lined lagoons at the Soil Amendment Facility site.
- Spreading and tilling the anaerobically digested and dewatered Class B sludge (solid, semi-solid, or liquid) into the fields of the 418-acre Soil Amendment Facility site.
- Spreading and tilling the sewer line grit into Soil Amendment Facility fields.
- Spraying and tilling of residual sludge and grit, originating from cleaning the digesters, onto the Soil Amendment Facility fields.

- Spreading and tilling of river sediment generated at the San Juan Chama Surface Water Treatment Plant into the Soil Amendment Facility fields.

[20.6.2.3104 NMAC, Subsection C of 20.6.2.3106 NMAC, Subsection D of 20.6.2.3109 NMAC]

IV. CONDITIONS

NMED issues this Discharge Permit for the discharge of water contaminants subject to the following conditions.

A. OPERATIONAL PLAN

#	Terms and Conditions
1.	The Permittee shall implement the following operational plan to ensure compliance with Title 20, Chapter 6, Parts 2 and 4 NMAC. [Subsection C of 20.6.2.3109 NMAC]
2.	The Permittee shall operate in a manner that does not violate standards and requirements of Sections 20.6.2.3101 and 20.6.2.3103 NMAC. [20.6.2.3101 NMAC, 20.6.2.3103 NMAC, Subsection C of 20.6.2.3109 NMAC]

Operational Actions with Implementation Deadlines

#	Terms and Conditions
3.	Within 180 days following the issuance date of this Discharge Permit (by DATE), the Permittee shall submit an up-to-date diagram of the layout of the entire Facility to NMED. The diagram shall include the following elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a north arrow; • the issuance date of the diagram; • all components of the disposal facility and components; and • all sampling locations. The Permittee shall ensure that any element that cannot be directly shown due to its location inside of existing structures, or because it is buried without surface identification, shall be on the diagram in a schematic format and identified as such. [Subsection C of 20.6.2.3106 NMAC, Subsection A of 20.6.2.3107 NMAC]

#	Terms and Conditions
4.	<p>Prior to using any of the four synthetically-lined impoundments along the western boundary of the Soil Amendment Facility for storage or disposal of liquified sludge, the permittee shall notify NMED in writing and shall inspect/maintain the impoundments and surrounding berms as described in Condition 6. In the event that inspection findings reveal significant damage likely to affect the ability of the synthetically-lined impoundments to contain contaminants, the Permittee shall submit a corrective action plan to NMED for approval prior to discharging to any of the four synthetically-lined impoundments that have been damaged.</p> <p>[20.6.2.3109 NMAC]</p>
5.	<p>Within 180 days following the issuance date of this Discharge Permit (by DATE), the Permittee shall measure the thickness of the settled solids in the Condensate Storage Pond and Liquid Sludge Storage Pit. The Permittee shall report the results of the solids thickness measurements to NMED in the next required periodic monitoring report.</p> <p>The Permittee shall measure the thickness of settled solids in accordance with the following procedure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) The division of the total surface area of the treatment impoundment into nine equal sub-areas.b) One measurement (to the nearest half foot) using a settled solids measurement device (e.g., core sampler) per sub-area.c) Calculation of the average of the nine measurements. <p>In the event that the measured settled solids does not exceed one-third of the maximum liquid depth in the impoundment, the Permittee shall re-measure the thickness of the settled solids in the Condensate Storage Pond and Liquid Sludge Storage Pit in 2.5 years (by DATE).</p> <p>In the event that the measured settled solids exceed one-third of the maximum liquid depth in the impoundment, the Permittee shall implement Condition 30 of the Contingency Plan set forth in this Discharge Permit.</p> <p>NMED no longer authorizes the Permittee to dispose of liquid sludge originating from rinsing the sludge trucks and other vehicle wash water on to the Soil Amendment Facility fields when the impoundments reach capacity or require maintenance.</p> <p>[Subsection A of 20.6.2.3107 NMAC, Subsection C of 20.6.2.3109 NMAC]</p>

Operational Actions – All Facility Types

#	Terms and Conditions
6.	<p>The permittee shall conduct surface disposal of sludge at the Soil Amendment Facility as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) The permittee shall spread sludge on the surface of the ground and then till the soil to a depth of at least 12 inches by the end of each day.b) The permittee shall spray liquified sludge evenly on the surface of the ground in such a manner as to avoid excessive ponding.c) The permittee shall distribute the sludge so that each of the eleven disposal fields receives approximately the same loading in dry metric tons of sludge per acre over a two-year period.d) In the event that the active disposal field is snow covered, the field shall be tilled before sludge spreading begins. <p>[20.6.2.3109 NMAC, 40.503(32)b.5 CFR]</p>
7.	<p>The Permittee shall maintain all impoundment liners to avoid conditions that could affect the liner or the structural integrity of the impoundments. Characterization of such conditions may include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• erosion damage;• animal burrows or other damage;• the presence of vegetation including aquatic plants, weeds, woody shrubs or trees growing within five feet of the top inside edge of a sub-grade impoundment, within five feet of the toe of the outside berm of an above-grade impoundment, or within the impoundment itself;• the presence of large debris or large quantities of debris in the impoundment;• evidence of seepage; or• evidence of berm subsidence. <p>The Permittee shall routinely control vegetation growing around the impoundments by mechanical removal that is protective of the impoundment liner.</p> <p>The Permittee shall visually inspect the impoundments and surrounding berms on a monthly basis to ensure proper maintenance. In the event that inspection reveals any evidence of damage that threatens the structural integrity of an impoundment berm or liner, or that may result in an unauthorized discharge, the Permittee shall implement the Contingency Plan set forth in this Discharge Permit.</p> <p>The Permittee shall create and maintain a log of all impoundment inspections which describes the date of the inspection, any findings and repairs and the name of the person</p>

#	Terms and Conditions
	<p>responsible for the inspection. The Permittee shall make the log available to NMED upon request.</p> <p>[Subsection A of 20.6.2.3107 NMAC, Subsection C of 20.6.2.3109 NMAC]</p>
8.	<p>The Permittee shall preserve a minimum of two feet of freeboard, i.e., the distance between the highest calculated liquid level in all impoundments and the liquid level which would result in the release of stored liquid from the impoundments.</p> <p>In the event that the Permittee determines that it cannot preserve two feet of freeboard in the impoundment, the Permittee shall implement the Contingency Plan set forth in this Discharge Permit.</p> <p>[Subsection A of 20.6.2.3107 NMAC, Subsection C of 20.6.2.3109 NMAC]</p>
9.	<p>To prevent surface water run-on and run-off at the Facility, the Permittee shall maintain earthen berms surrounding the perimeter of the Facility and in between disposal cells that are a minimum of 24 inches above natural grade.</p> <p>In place of a berm across the Facility entrance, the Permittee shall construct and maintain shallow (minimum depth of six inches) stormwater diversion trenches parallel to and on each side of the Facility entrance gate. The Permittee shall maintain all berms and trenches until termination of this Discharge Permit and the Permittee has completed all closure actions required by conditions.</p> <p>The Permittee shall inspect the berms on a regular basis and after any major rainfall event and repair as necessary.</p> <p>The Permittee shall keep a log of the inspection findings and repairs that includes a date of the inspection and the name of the person responsible for the inspection and shall make the log available to NMED upon request.</p> <p>[Subsection A of 20.6.2.3107 NMAC, Subsection C of 20.6.2.3109 NMAC]</p>
10.	<p>The Permittee shall maintain fences around the entire disposal Facility to restrict access by the general public and animals. A minimum of a three-strand barbed wire fence including a locked gate shall surround the Facility. The Permittee shall maintain the fences to serve the stated purpose throughout the term of this Discharge Permit.</p> <p>[Subsections B and C of 20.6.2.3109 NMAC, NMSA 1978, § 74-6-5.D]</p>
11.	<p>The Permittee shall maintain the following signs at the following locations:</p>

#	Terms and Conditions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signs posted at the Facility entrance and every 500 feet along the Facility boundary that state: "Notice: Waste Disposal Area - KEEP OUT" and "Aviso: Área de Disposición - NO ENTRAR". • A sign posted at the entrance gate with the name of the Facility's contact person, office phone number of the contact person, emergency contact phone number for the Facility, and physical location of the Facility including township, range, and section(s). • A sign at the boundary of each cell to identify the cell number and the waste type the Permittee is authorized to discharge in the cell. <p>All signs shall be weatherproof and legible for the term of this Discharge Permit.</p> <p>[NMSA 1978, § 74-6-5.D, Subsections B and C of 20.6.2.3109 NMAC]</p>
12.	<p>This Discharge Permit only authorizes the Permittee to receive and discharge domestic wastewater treatment facility sludge, sewer line grit and River sediment generated at the San Juan Chama Surface Water Treatment Plant to the land application areas of the Soil Amendment Facility site. The Permittee may not discharge any other waste types to the land application areas of the Soil Amendment Facility.</p> <p>The Permittee shall not combine different waste types. The Permittee shall dispose of waste in separate cells that receive only a single designated waste type.</p> <p>[Subsection C of 20.6.2.3109 NMAC]</p>
13.	<p>The Permittee shall inspect the Facility weekly and collect any residual solid waste (trash) at the Facility. The Permittee shall dispose of the collected materials in a manner consistent with all local, state, and federal regulations.</p> <p>[Subsection A of 20.6.2.3107 NMAC, Subsections B and C of 20.6.2.3109 NMAC]</p>
14.	<p>The Permittee shall not discharge liquid wastes during periods of precipitation or when surface soils are frozen or saturated. The Permittee may store wastes on-site in tanker trucks during these periods.</p> <p>[Subsection C of 20.6.2.3109 NMAC]</p>
15.	<p>The Permittee shall utilize operators, certified by the State of New Mexico at the appropriate level pursuant to 20.7.4 NMAC, to operate the wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal systems. A certified operator or a direct supervisee of a certified operator shall perform the operations and maintenance of all or any part of the wastewater system.</p>

#	Terms and Conditions
	<p>The Permittee shall notify the NMED within 24 hours if at any time the Permittee no longer has a certified operator maintaining the system.</p> <p>[Subsection C of 20.6.2.3109 NMAC, 20.7.4 NMAC]</p>

Operational Actions – Domestic Wastewater Treatment Facility Sludge

#	Terms and Conditions
16.	<p>The Permittee shall apply liquid, semi-solid, and solid domestic wastewater treatment facility sludge, and sewer line grit to 12 surface disposal cells totaling 418-acres. The Permittee shall achieve a manner of pathogen reduction requirements and vector attraction reduction (VAR) pursuant to 40 CFR Part 503. The Permittee shall select a VAR option from 40 CFR Part 503.33(b).</p> <p>The Permittee shall record on the manifest the date and time surface disposal occurred and the date, time, how they achieved pathogen reduction, and the VAR method utilized.</p> <p>[Subsection C of 20.6.2.3109 NMAC]</p>

B. MONITORING AND REPORTING

#	Terms and Conditions
17.	<p>The Permittee shall conduct the monitoring, reporting, and other requirements listed below in accordance with the monitoring requirements of this Discharge Permit.</p> <p>[Subsection A of 20.6.2.3107 NMAC, Subsection C of 20.6.2.3109 NMAC]</p>
18.	<p>METHODOLOGY – Unless otherwise specified by this Discharge Permit, or approved in writing by NMED, the Permittee shall use sampling and analytical techniques that conform with the references listed in Subsection B of 20.6.2.3107 NMAC.</p> <p>[Subsection B of 20.6.2.3107 NMAC]</p>
19.	<p>Annual monitoring - The Permittee shall perform monitoring and other Permit required actions during the following periods and shall submit annual reports to NMED by the following due date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 1st each year.

#	Terms and Conditions
	[Subsection A of 20.6.2.3107 NMAC]
20.	<p>The Permittee shall retain on-site a manifest for each load of waste received. The manifest shall record the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • date of receipt; • name of the hauling company; • name and address of the waste origin; • type of waste or description of contamination (differentiate between soil and water); • volume of waste; • confirmation of inspection for acceptable waste type; • signature of person conducting the inspection; and • cell identification and location within the cell where the Permittee discharged the waste. <p>The Permittee shall make the manifests available for inspection by NMED upon request. The Permittee shall submit a summary listing the information from each manifest for wastes received during the reporting period to NMED in the Annual monitoring reports.</p> <p>[NMSA 1978, § 74-6-5.D, Subsection A 20.6.2.3107 NMAC]</p>

Monitoring and Reporting - Domestic Wastewater Treatment Facility Sludge

#	Terms and Conditions
21.	<p>The Permittee shall analyze domestic wastewater treatment facility sludge discharged to the Soil Amendment Facility in the following manner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record the volume in either gallons or metric tons of domestic wastewater treatment facility sludge discharged to each surface disposal cell each month. • Sample each domestic wastewater sludge type (solid, semi-solid, and liquid) transported to the surface disposal facility on a monthly basis and analyze the sample(s) for percent total solids (%TS). • Sample each domestic wastewater sludge type (solid, semi-solid, and liquid) transported to the surface disposal Facility on a monthly basis and analyze the samples for TKN and NO₃-N. The Permittee shall report the analytical results as mg/kg for TKN and NO₃-N (dry weight basis) for solid sludge and as mg/L for TKN and NO₃-N for liquid and semi-solid sludge. <p>The Permittee shall ensure the samples are properly prepared, preserved, transported,</p>

#	Terms and Conditions
	<p>and analyzed in accordance with the methods authorized in this Discharge Permit. The Permittee shall submit records of the volume of the sludge discharged, percent total solids, and analytical results, including the laboratory QA/QC summary, to NMED in the annual monitoring report.</p> <p>[Subsection A of 20.6.2.3107 NMAC and Subsection H of 20.6.2.3109]</p>
22.	<p>The Permittee shall analyze sewer line grit, residual sludge and grit originating from cleaning the digesters discharged to the Soil Amendment Facility in the following manner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record the volume in either gallons or metric tons of sewer line grit, residual sludge and grit originating from cleaning the digesters discharged to each surface disposal cell during the reporting period. • Sample sewer line grit, residual sludge and grit originating from cleaning the digesters (solid, semi-solid, and liquid) transported to the surface disposal facility on a monthly basis and analyze the sample(s) for percent total solids (%TS). • Sample sewer line grit, residual sludge and grit originating from cleaning the digesters (solid, semi-solid, and liquid) transported to the surface disposal Facility on a monthly and analyze the samples for TKN and NO₃-N. The Permittee shall report the analytical results as mg/kg for TKN and NO₃-N (dry weight basis) for solid sludge and as mg/L for TKN and NO₃-N for liquid and semi-solid sludge. <p>The Permittee shall ensure the samples are properly prepared, preserved, transported, and analyzed in accordance with the methods authorized in this Discharge Permit. The Permittee shall submit records of the volume of the sludge discharged, percent total solids, and analytical results, including the laboratory QA/QC summary, to NMED in the annual monitoring report.</p> <p>[Subsection A of 20.6.2.3107 NMAC and Subsection H of 20.6.2.3109]</p>
23.	<p>The permittee shall collect two composite soil samples annually from the following locations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) each of the Soil Amendment Facility fields where sludge was applied; b) two locations within the playa located in the Soil Amendment Facility; c) one location within each stormwater retention basin at the eastern extent of the Soil Amendment Facility; and d) one location within an untreated Soil Amendment Facility field. <p>In each location, six soil aliquots shall be collected at a depth of 24 inches and six soil aliquots shall be collected at a depth of 60 inches. The Permittee shall mix the six aliquots</p>

#	Terms and Conditions
	<p>collected at each depth to create two composite soil samples. All soil samples shall be analyzed for TKN and NO₃-N. Soil NO₃-N shall be analyzed by a 2 molar KCl extract, as described in Methods of Soil Analysis: Part 2, Chemical and Microbiological Properties, Agronomy Monograph no.9 (2nd edition), pp 643-698, American Society of Agronomy, or another method approved by NMED. The Permittee shall submit the analytical results and a map outlining the sampling locations to NMED in the annual monitoring report.</p> <p>[20.6.2.3107 NMAC]</p>
24.	<p>The Permittee shall sample wastewater from a representative location within the synthetically-lined impoundments near the vehicle maintenance shop on a semi-annual basis and analyze the samples for TKN, NO₃-N, and volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds (EPA Methods 8260 and 8270.) Samples shall be properly prepared, preserved, transported, and analyzed in accordance with the methods authorized in this Discharge Permit. The Permittee shall submit the analytical results to NMED in the annual monitoring report.</p> <p>[20.6.2.3107 NMAC]</p>
25.	<p>The Permittee shall complete a Surface Disposal Data Sheet for Sludge (SDDS-Sludge and SDDS-Liquid Sludge, attached) on a monthly basis to document the amount of nitrogen in domestic wastewater treatment facility sludge discharged to the surface disposal cell(s). The Permittee shall complete a SDDS for each cell designation and for each sludge type (solid, semi-solid, and liquid) disposed of in each cell. The SDDS shall reflect the most recent nitrogen analysis results and the average percent total solids for each sludge type for each cell. The Permittee shall not adjust the nitrogen content to account for volatilization or mineralization processes.</p> <p>The Permittee shall submit the SDDSs, or a statement that no surface disposal occurred within the cell(s), to NMED in the annual monitoring report.</p> <p>[Subsection A of 20.6.2.3107 NMAC and Subsection H of 20.6.2.3109]</p>

C. CONTINGENCY PLAN

#	Terms and Conditions
26.	<p>In the event that groundwater exceeds a groundwater protection standard identified in Section 20.6.2.3103 NMAC as a result of this discharge, the Permittee shall submit to NMED a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) that proposes, at a minimum, contaminant source</p>

#	Terms and Conditions
	<p>control measures and an implementation schedule. The Permittee shall implement the CAP following approval by NMED.</p> <p>The NMED may require the Permittee to abate water pollution consistent with the requirements and provisions of Section 20.6.2.4101, Section 20.6.2.4103, Subsections C and E of 20.6.2.4106, Section 20.6.2.4107, Section 20.6.2.4108 and Section 20.6.2.4112 NMAC.</p> <p>[20.6.2.31303 NMAC, Subsection A of 20.6.2.3107 NMAC, Subsection E of 20.6.2.3109 NMAC]</p>
27.	<p>In the event that a SDDS for any cell shows that the amount of nitrogen applied in any 12-month period exceeds 200 pounds per acre, the Permittee shall propose the reduction of nitrogen loading to the affected cell by submitting a CAP to NMED for approval. The Permittee shall submit the CAP, including a schedule for completion of corrective actions, within 90 days following the end of the monitoring period in which the exceedance occurred. The Permittee shall initiate implementation of the CAP following approval by NMED.</p> <p>[Subsection A of 20.6.2.3107 NMAC, Subsection C of 20.6.2.3109 NMAC]</p>
28.	<p>In the event that an inspection reveals significant damage has occurred or is likely to affect the structural integrity of an impoundment or liner or their ability to contain contaminants, the Permittee shall propose the repair or replacement by submitting a CAP to NMED for approval. The Permittee shall ensure the CAP is submitted to NMED within 30 days after discovery of the damage or following notification from NMED that significant damage is evident. The Permittee shall ensure the CAP includes a schedule for completion of corrective actions. The Permittee shall initiate implementation of the CAP following approval by NMED.</p> <p>[Subsection A of 20.6.2.3107 NMAC, Subsection C of 20.6.2.3109 NMAC]</p>
29.	<p>In the event that an impoundment cannot preserve a minimum of two feet of freeboard, the Permittee shall take actions to restore the required freeboard as authorized by this Discharge Permit and all applicable local, state, and federal regulations.</p> <p>In the event that two feet of freeboard cannot be restored within a period of 72 hours following discovery, the Permittee shall propose actions to restore two feet of freeboard by submitting a short-term CAP to NMED for approval. Examples of short-term corrective actions include the pumping and hauling of excess wastewater from the impoundment or reducing the volume of wastewater discharged to the impoundment. The Permittee shall ensure the CAP includes a schedule for completion of corrective</p>

#	Terms and Conditions
	<p>actions. The Permittee shall submit the CAP within 15 days following the date the Permittee or the NMED discover the exceedance. The Permittee shall implement the CAP following NMED approval.</p> <p>In the event that the short-term corrective actions fail to restore two feet of freeboard, the Permittee shall submit to NMED a proposal for permanent corrective actions in a long-term CAP. The Permittee shall submit the long-term CAP within 90 days following failure of the short-term CAP. Examples corrective actions include the installation of an additional storage impoundment or a significant and permanent reduction in the volume of wastewater discharged to the impoundment. The Permittee shall ensure the long-term CAP includes a schedule for completion of corrective actions. The Permittee shall implement the CAP following NMED approval.</p> <p>[Subsection A of 20.6.2.3107 NMAC]</p>
30.	<p>In the event the average solids accumulation exceeds one-third of the maximum liquid depth in the two vehicle wash impoundments, the Permittee shall propose a plan for the removal and disposal of the solids. The Permittee shall submit the solids removal and disposal plan to NMED for approval within 120 days following discovery and include the following information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A method for removal of the solids to a depth of less than six inches throughout the treatment impoundment in a manner that is protective of the impoundment liner. b) A description of how the Permittee will contain, transport, and dispose of the solids in accordance with all local, state, and federal regulations, including 40 CFR Part 503. c) A schedule for completion of the solids removal and disposal project. <p>The Permittee shall initiate implementation of the plan following approval by NMED.</p> <p>[Subsection A of 20.6.2.3107 NMAC, Subsection C of 20.6.2.3109 NMAC]</p>
31.	<p>In the event that a release occurs that is not authorized under this Discharge Permit (commonly known as a “spill”), the Permittee shall take measures to mitigate damage from the unauthorized discharge and initiate the notifications and corrective actions required in Section 20.6.2.1203 NMAC and summarized below. A release is defined as such quantity as may with reasonable probability injure or be detrimental to human health, animal or plant life, or property, or unreasonably interfere with the public welfare or the use of property.</p> <p>Within <u>24 hours</u> following discovery of the unauthorized discharge, the Permittee shall verbally notify NMED and provide the following information.</p>

#	Terms and Conditions
	<p>a) The name, address, and telephone number of the person or persons in charge of the Facility, as well as of the owner and/or operator of the Facility.</p> <p>b) The name and address of the Facility.</p> <p>c) The date, time, location, and duration of the unauthorized discharge.</p> <p>d) The source and cause of unauthorized discharge.</p> <p>e) A description of the unauthorized discharge, including its estimated chemical composition.</p> <p>f) The estimated volume of the unauthorized discharge.</p> <p>g) Any actions taken to mitigate immediate damage from the unauthorized discharge.</p> <p>Within <u>one week</u> following discovery of the unauthorized discharge, the Permittee shall submit written notification to NMED providing the information listed above and any pertinent updates.</p> <p>Within <u>15 days</u> following discovery of the unauthorized discharge, the Permittee shall submit a CAP to NMED describing any corrective actions previously taken and corrective actions to be taken relative to the unauthorized discharge. The CAP shall include the following information.</p> <p>a) A description of proposed actions to mitigate damage from the unauthorized discharge.</p> <p>b) A description of proposed actions to prevent future unauthorized discharges of this nature.</p> <p>c) A schedule for completion of proposed actions.</p> <p>In the event that the unauthorized discharge causes or may with reasonable probability cause water pollution in excess of the standards and requirements of Section 20.6.2.4103 NMAC, and the water pollution will not be abated within 180 days after notice is required to be given pursuant to Paragraph (1) of Subsection A of 20.6.2.1203 NMAC, NMED may require the Permittee to abate water pollution pursuant to Sections 20.6.2.4000 through 20.6.2.4115 NMAC.</p> <p>The Permittee shall not construe anything in this condition as relieving them of the obligation to comply with all requirements of Section 20.6.2.1203 NMAC.</p> <p>[20.6.2.1203 NMAC]</p>
32.	<p>In the event that NMED or the Permittee identifies any failures of the discharge plan, i.e., the application, or this Discharge Permit not specifically noted herein, NMED may require the Permittee to submit a CAP and a schedule for completion of corrective actions to address the failure(s). Additionally, NMED may require a discharge permit modification to achieve compliance with 20.6.2 NMAC.</p>

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	[Subsection A of 20.6.2.3107 NMAC, Subsection E of 20.6.2.3109 NMAC]

D. CLOSURE PLAN

Closure Actions with Implementation Deadlines

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33.	<p>Within 120 days following the issuance date of this Discharge Permit (by DATE), the Permittee shall complete the following closure measures at the Rangeland Restoration Area portion of the Facility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Notify NMED of any waste types the Permittee will no longer be accepting at the Rangeland Restoration Area. b) Within 60 days of ceasing to discharge to the Rangeland Restoration Area disposal cells, backfill the disposal cell(s) with clean fill (as necessary) and re-grade to allow for positive storm water drainage. c) Re-vegetate the cells and disturbed areas at the Rangeland Restoration Area by establishing a vegetative cover equal to 70% of the native perennial vegetative cover consisting of at least three native plant species including at least one grass, but not including noxious weeds. The Permittee shall maintain the vegetative cover through two consecutive growing seasons. <p>When the Permittee has met all closure and post-closure requirements and verified appropriate actions with date stamped photographic evidence or an associated NMED inspection, the Permittee may submit to NMED a written request, including photographic evidence, for termination of the Discharge Permit.</p> <p>[Subsection A of 20.6.2.3107 NMAC]</p>

Permanent Facility Closure Conditions

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34.	<p>The Permittee shall complete the following closure measures in the event they are proposing to permanently close the septage, sludge, or grease interceptor waste disposal portion of the Facility or a surface disposal cell:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> d) Notify NMED of any waste types the Permittee will no longer be accepting at the Facility or the closure of a surface disposal cell. e) Within 60 days of ceasing to discharge to a disposal cell, backfill the disposal cell(s)

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	<p>with clean fill (as necessary) and re-grade to allow for positive storm water drainage.</p> <p>f) Re-vegetate the cells and disturbed areas at the Facility by establishing a vegetative cover equal to 70% of the native perennial vegetative cover consisting of at least three native plant species including at least one grass, but not including noxious weeds. The Permittee shall maintain the vegetative cover through two consecutive growing seasons.</p> <p>When the Permittee has met all closure and post-closure requirements and verified appropriate actions with date stamped photographic evidence or an associated NMED inspection, the Permittee may submit to NMED a written request, including photographic evidence, for termination of the Discharge Permit.</p> <p>[Subsection A of 20.6.2.3107 NMAC]</p>

E. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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35.	<p>RECORD KEEPING - The Permittee shall maintain a written record of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information and data used to complete the application for this Discharge Permit; • Information, data, and documents demonstrating completion of closure activities; • Any releases (commonly known as “spills”) not authorized under this Discharge Permit and reports submitted pursuant to 20.6.2.1203 NMAC; • The operation, maintenance, and repair of all facilities/equipment used to treat, store or dispose of wastewater; • Facility record drawings (plans and specifications) showing the actual construction of the Facility and bear the seal and signature of a licensed New Mexico professional engineer; • Copies of logs, inspection reports, and monitoring reports completed and/or submitted to NMED pursuant to this Discharge Permit; • The volume of wastewater or other wastes discharged pursuant to this Discharge Permit; • Groundwater quality and wastewater quality data collected pursuant to this Discharge Permit; • Copies of construction records (well log) for all sampled groundwater monitoring wells pursuant to this Discharge Permit; • The maintenance, repair, replacement or calibration of any monitoring equipment or flow measurement devices required by this Discharge Permit; and

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data and information related to field measurements, sampling, and analysis conducted pursuant to this Discharge Permit, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. the dates, location and times of sampling or field measurements;b. the name and job title of the individuals who performed each sample collection or field measurement;c. the sample analysis date of each sample;d. the name and address of the laboratory, and the name of the signatory authority for the laboratory analysis;e. the analytical technique or method used to analyze each sample or collect each field measurement;f. the results of each analysis or field measurement, including raw data;g. the results of any split, spiked, duplicate or repeat sample; andh. a copy of the laboratory analysis chain-of-custody as well as a description of the quality assurance and quality control procedures used. <p>The Permittee shall maintain the written record at a location accessible to NMED during a Facility inspection for a minimum of five years. The Permittee shall make the record available to NMED upon request.</p> <p>[Subsections A and D of 20.6.2.3107 NMAC]</p>
36.	<p>SUBMITTALS – The Permittee shall submit both a paper copy and an electronic copy of all notification and reporting documents required by this Discharge Permit, e.g., monitoring reports. The paper and electronic documents shall be submitted to the NMED Permit Contact identified on the Permit cover page.</p> <p>[Subsection A of 20.6.2.3107 NMAC]</p>
37.	<p>INSPECTION and ENTRY – The Permittee shall allow NMED to inspect the Facility and its operations that are subject to this Discharge Permit and the WQCC regulations. NMED may upon presentation of proper credentials, enter at reasonable times upon or through any premises in which a water contaminant source is located or in which any maintained records required by this Discharge Permit, the regulations of the federal government, or the WQCC are located.</p> <p>The Permittee shall allow NMED to have access to and reproduce for their use any copy of the records, and to perform assessments, sampling or monitoring during an inspection for the purpose of evaluating compliance with this Discharge Permit and the WQCC regulations.</p>

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	<p>No person shall construe anything in this Discharge Permit as limiting in any way the inspection and entry authority of NMED under the WQA, the WQCC Regulations, or any other local, state or federal regulations.</p> <p>[Subsection D of 20.6.2.3107 NMAC, NMSA 1978, §§ 74-6-9.B and 74-6-9.E]</p>
38.	<p>DUTY to PROVIDE INFORMATION - The Permittee shall, upon NMED's request, allow for NMED's inspection/duplication of records required by this Discharge Permit and/or furnish to NMED copies of such records.</p> <p>[Subsection D of 20.6.2.3107 NMAC]</p>
39.	<p>MODIFICATIONS and/or AMENDMENTS – In the event the Permittee proposes a change to the Facility or the Facility's discharge that would result in a change in the volume discharged; the location of the discharge; or in the amount or character of water contaminants received, treated or discharged by the Facility, the Permittee shall notify NMED prior to implementing such changes. The Permittee shall obtain NMED's approval (which may require modification of this Discharge Permit) prior to implementing such changes.</p> <p>[Subsection C of 20.6.2.3107 NMAC, Subsections E and G of 20.6.2.3109 NMAC]</p>
40.	<p>PLANS and SPECIFICATIONS – In the event the Permittee proposes to construct a wastewater system or change a process unit of an existing system such that the quantity or quality of the discharge will change substantially from that authorized by this Discharge Permit, the Permittee shall submit construction plans and specifications of the proposed system or process unit to NMED for approval prior to the commencement of construction.</p> <p>In the event the Permittee implements changes to the wastewater system authorized by this Discharge Permit that result in only a minor effect on the character of the discharge, the Permittee shall report such changes (including the submission of record drawings where applicable) to NMED prior to implementation.</p> <p>[Subsections A and C of 20.6.2.1202 NMAC, NMSA 1978, §§ 61-23-1 through 61-23-32]</p>
41.	<p>CIVIL PENALTIES - Any violation of the requirements and conditions of this Discharge Permit, including any failure to allow NMED staff to enter and inspect records or facilities, or any refusal or failure to provide NMED with records or information, may subject the Permittee to a civil enforcement action. Pursuant to WQA 74-6-10(A) and (B), such action may include a compliance order requiring compliance immediately or in a specified time, assessing a civil penalty, modifying or terminating the Discharge Permit, or any</p>

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	<p>combination of the foregoing; or an action in district court seeking injunctive relief, civil penalties, or both. Pursuant to WQA 74-6-10(C) and 74-6-10.1, civil penalties of up to \$15,000 per day of noncompliance may be assessed for each violation of the WQA 74-6-5, the WQCC Regulations, or this Discharge Permit, and civil penalties of up to \$10,000 per day of noncompliance may be assessed for each violation of any other provision of the WQA, or any regulation, standard, or order adopted pursuant to such other provision. In any action to enforce this Discharge Permit, the Permittee waives any objection to the admissibility as evidence of any data generated pursuant to this Discharge Permit.</p> <p>[20.6.2.1220 NMAC, NMSA 1978, §§ 74-6-10 and 74-6-10.1]</p>
42.	<p>CRIMINAL PENALTIES – No person shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make any false material statement, representation, certification or omission of material fact in an application, record, report, plan or other document filed, submitted or maintained under the WQA; • Falsify, tamper with or render inaccurate any monitoring device, method or record maintained under the WQA; or • Fail to monitor, sample or report as required by a permit issued pursuant to a state or federal law or regulation. <p>Any person who knowingly violates or knowingly causes or allows another person to violate the requirements of this condition is guilty of a fourth-degree felony and shall be sentenced in accordance with the provisions of NMSA 1978, § 31-18-15. Any person who is convicted of a second or subsequent violation of the requirements of this condition is guilty of a third-degree felony and shall be sentenced in accordance with the provisions of NMSA 1978, § 31-18-15. Any person who knowingly violates the requirements of this condition or knowingly causes another person to violate the requirements of this condition and thereby causes a substantial adverse environmental impact is guilty of a third-degree felony and shall be sentenced in accordance with the provisions of NMSA 1978, § 31-18-15. Any person who knowingly violates the requirements of this condition and knows at the time of the violation that he is creating a substantial danger of death or serious bodily injury to any other person is guilty of a second degree felony and shall be sentenced in accordance with the provisions of NMSA 1978, § 31-18-15.</p> <p>[20.6.2.1220 NMAC, NMSA 1978, §§ 74-6-10.2.A through 74-6-10.2.F]</p>
43.	<p>COMPLIANCE with OTHER LAWS - Nothing in this Discharge Permit shall be construed in any way as relieving the Permittee of the obligation to comply with any other applicable federal, state, and/or local laws, regulations, zoning requirements, nuisance ordinances, permits or orders.</p>

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	[NMSA 1978, § 74-6-5.L]
44.	<p>RIGHT to APPEAL - The Permittee may file a petition for review before the WQCC on this Discharge Permit. Such petition shall be in writing to the WQCC within thirty days of the receipt of postal notice of this Discharge Permit and shall include a statement of the issues raised and the relief sought. Unless the Permittee files a timely petition for review, the decision of NMED shall be final and not subject to judicial review.</p> <p>[20.6.2.3112 NMAC, NMSA 1978, § 74-6-5.O]</p>
45.	<p>TRANSFER of DISCHARGE PERMIT - Prior to the transfer of any ownership, control, or possession of this Facility or any portion thereof, the Permittee shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify the proposed transferee in writing of the existence of this Discharge Permit; • Include a copy of this Discharge Permit with the notice; and • Deliver or send by certified mail to NMED a copy of the notification and proof that the proposed transferee has received such notification. <p>The Permittee shall continue to be responsible for any discharge from the Facility, until both ownership and possession of the Facility have been transferred to the transferee.</p> <p>[20.6.2.3111 NMAC]</p>
46.	<p>PERMIT FEES – The Permittee shall be aware that the payment of permit fees is due at the time of Discharge Permit approval. The Permittee may pay the permit fees in a single payment or they may pay the fee in equal installments on a yearly basis over the term of the Discharge Permit. The Permittee shall remit single payments to NMED no later than 30 days after the Discharge Permit issuance date. The Permittee shall remit initial installment payments to NMED no later than 30 days after the Discharge Permit issuance date; with subsequent installment payments remitted to NMED no later than the anniversary of the Discharge Permit issuance date.</p> <p>Permit fees are associated with <u>issuance</u> of this Discharge Permit. No person shall construe anything in this Discharge Permit as relieving the Permittee of the obligation to pay all permit fees assessed by NMED. A Permittee that ceases discharging or does not commence discharging from the Facility during the term of the Discharge Permit shall pay all permit fees assessed by NMED. NMED shall suspend or terminate an approved Discharge Permit if the Permittee fails to remit an installment payment by its due date.</p> <p>[Subsection F of 20.6.2.3114 NMAC, NMSA 1978, § 74-6-5.K]</p>



**New Mexico Environment Department Ground Water Quality Bureau
Discharge Permit Summary**

Facility Information

Facility Name West Mesa Disposal Site
Discharge Permit Number DP-521
Legally Responsible Party Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Authority
 Joel Berman, Plant Division Manager
 4201 2nd Street SW
 Albuquerque, NM 87105
 (505) 289-3524

Treatment, Disposal and Site Information

Primary Waste Type Domestic
Facility Type MUNI-Sludge

Discharge Locations

Type	Designation	Description & Comments
Land Application Area	Soil Amendment fields	418-acres
Land Application Area	Rangeland Restoration Area	5,050-acres – required to be closed.
Impoundment	Condensate Storage Pond	Synthetically-lined storage pond used for collection and evaporation of liquid captured from onsite vehicle wash down.
Impoundment	Liquid Sludge Storage Pit	Synthetically-lined storage pond used for collection and evaporation of liquid captured from onsite vehicle wash down.
Impoundment	Site Interior Sludge Pit 1	Synthetically lined- inactive
Impoundment	Site Interior Sludge Pit 2	Synthetically lined- inactive
Impoundment	Site Interior Sludge Pit 3	Synthetically lined- inactive
Impoundment	Site Interior Sludge Pit 4	Synthetically lined- inactive

Depth-to-Ground Water 922 feet
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) 450 mg/L

Permit Information

Original Permit Issued January 29, 1988
Permit Modification August 24, 1990
Permit Renewal **February 7, 1997**
Permit Renewal **June 8, 2001**



New Mexico Environment Department Ground Water Quality Bureau Discharge Permit Summary

Permit Renewal and Modification
Permit Renewal and Modification
Permit Renewal

January 21, 2005
May 3, 2010
January 8, 2016

Current Action

Application Received
Public Notice Published
Permit Issued (Issuance Date)
Permitted Discharge Volume

Renewal and Modification

April 4, 2023
[not yet published]
[issuance date]
114.3 dry metric tons per day

NMED Contact Information

Mailing Address

Ground Water Quality Bureau
P.O. Box 5469
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-5469

GWQB Telephone Number

(505) 827-2900

NMED Lead Staff

Andrew Romero

Lead Staff Telephone Number

(505) 660-8624

Lead Staff Email

andrewc.romero@env.nm.gov or pps.general@env.nm.gov