



NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
GROUND WATER QUALITY BUREAU
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN
(PIP)



Site Name: Former Aerex Refinery - East Parcel

Site Location: 736 N. 5th Street
Bloomfield, NM
Section 22, Township 29 North, Range 11 West
Coordinates: 36.718096, -107.984054

County: San Juan

NCS Property Owner: City of Bloomfield
915 N. 1st Street
P.O Box 1839
Bloomfield, NM 87413

Agency: Ground Water Quality Bureau
Neglected Contamination Sites (NCS) Program

GWQB Action: Neglected Contamination Site – Former Aerex Refinery

Bureau Contact: Tim Noger, NCS Project Manager
(505) 629-8604
Tim.noger@env.nm.gov

Main bureau telephone number:
(505) 827-2900

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 2025

REVISION DATE: N/A

George
Schuman

Digitally signed by George
Schuman
Date: 2025.08.27 15:54:21 -06'00'

George Schuman, Program Manager
Remediation Oversight Section
Ground Water Quality Bureau

Element 1 – Public Involvement Plan (PIP) Overview

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED or Department), Ground Water Quality Bureau (Bureau) has developed this PIP for the Neglected Contamination Site (NCS) located at 736 N. 5th Street in Bloomfield, NM. This Neglected Contamination Site is referred to as Former Aerex Refinery.

The purpose of this PIP is to plan for providing public participation opportunities and information that may be needed for the community to participate in the NCS process for this site. This PIP identifies information about the community and resources needed by the Bureau to incorporate community participation activities into the decision-making process. This PIP is developed in accordance with the Department's *Public Participation Policy* (Policy 07-13 or Policy), and incorporates the requirements of the Policy, as well as applicable regulatory and statutory public participation requirements.

This PIP implements the “elements” set forth in the Policy. Those elements include:

1. An overview of the Public Involvement Plan for the community affected by the activity
2. Bureau contact names and contact information, specifically for Limited English Proficiency (LEP) language assistance services (e.g., translation, interpreters) or for disability accommodations
3. A summary of the regulatory public participation framework associated with the Neglected Contamination Sites Program
4. A description of community/stakeholder groups based on results of a preliminary environmental justice (EJ) screening
5. Details about planned public outreach activities

In developing this PIP, community participation needs were assessed to ensure appropriate public outreach. This was accomplished by identifying whether there is a combination of environmental and demographic factors that may impact public participation (e.g., low-income community, minority community, LEP individuals, linguistically isolated households). Because the community located near the Former Aerex Refinery includes a significant percentage of Spanish speakers, the Bureau will provide appropriate information in both English and Spanish.

Public involvement associated with the Neglected Contamination Site occurs at different stages and in different forms. Public involvement activities required by statute or regulation are mandatory and subject to statutory or regulatory deadlines. Mandatory public involvement activities and associated time requirements relevant to this PIP are noted in the *Table of Mandated Public Involvement Activities* at the end of this PIP.

The Bureau plans to conduct the public involvement activities related to the Neglected Contamination Site Program outlined in the *Table of Public Involvement Activities* below. The activity timeline and dates are tentative and subject to change.

Table of Public Involvement Activities

Activity	Date
Public Notice <i>See Table of Mandated Public Involvement Activities at the end of this PIP for details.</i>	September 2025
Public Meeting Notice <i>(Only if requested by public as part of initial public notice</i> <i>See Table of Mandated Public Involvement Activities for details.</i>	TBD

All notices for upcoming meetings or hearings will include a statement that any person who requires assistance, an interpreter, or an auxiliary aid to participate in the process may contact a specifically identified Department person to request those services. Requested interpretation services during the meeting and accommodations or services for persons with disabilities will be arranged to the extent possible.

This PIP is a “living” document that may be amended for numerous reasons, including the consideration of public comments and feedback.

Element 2 – Bureau Contact Information

PIP Specific Contacts

The Bureau contact for this Neglected Contamination Site is:

Tim Noger, Project Manager
NMED Ground Water Quality Bureau
P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469
(505) 629-8604 / tim.noger@env.nm.gov / ros.general@env.nm.gov

Non-English Language Speaker Assistance

All public notices will contain a statement that non-English speakers may call the Bureau contact listed above and request language assistance to learn more about this site or the Neglected Contamination Site process. Arrangements may be made for document translation or interpretation related to the Neglected Contamination Site process as necessary and as resources allow.

Individuals with Disabilities Assistance

All public notices will contain a statement that individuals with disabilities may call the Bureau contact listed above and request assistance needed to participate in activities associated with the Neglected Contamination Site process.

The following information will be provided in public notices so that individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have difficulty speaking on the phone can contact the Bureau and ask questions about the activity or proceeding: Telephone conversation assistance is available through Relay New Mexico at no charge for people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have difficulty speaking on the phone, by calling 1-800-659-1779 (English); 1-800-327-1857 (Spanish); TTY users: 1-800-659-8331.

Websites

Outreach materials and notices will include links to the following website, where the Bureau's public notices and PIP information are posted:

Ground Water Quality Bureau – <https://www.env.nm.gov/public-notices/>

Element 3 – Regulatory Framework for Public Participation Related to the Neglected Contamination Sites Program Process

The public participation framework associated with the Neglected Contamination Site process is identified in the *Table of Mandated Public Involvement Activities* at the end of this PIP. The Table identifies activities subject to statutory or regulatory deadlines, the associated statutory or regulatory requirements, and the associated dates or time periods.

Element 4 – Description of Community/Stakeholder Groups Based on the EJSCREEN

EJSCREEN Summary

To provide for adequate public participation opportunities and meaningful involvement of persons in the Neglected Contamination Site process, the affected communities must first be identified, informed about proposed environmental actions affecting the community, and invited to share their comments and concerns. The EJSCREEN tool developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) helps identify communities that are low income, have minority populations, and have limited English proficiency that may benefit from a variety of approaches for notification and outreach communication, which is no longer available, therefore an unofficial copy hosted by Public Environmental Data Partners is used. This information is used to help plan for the community's involvement in the public process for environmental activities or actions. In addition to the EJSCREEN results, the Bureau may consider additional information such as the U.S. Census Bureau website or NMED's EJ Mapping Tool.

The Bureau considers the affected community to be those persons living within a 4-mile radius of the Neglected Contamination Site. The results of the EJSCREEN Community Report (attached to this PIP) are summarized in the table below.

EJSCREEN* Results for the Affected Community

Total population	10,794
Percentage People of Color population	56%
Percentage of the population by race	Population reporting one race: White: 44% Black: 0% American Indian: 17% Asian: 0% Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 0% Some Other Race: 3% Hispanic: 35%
Percentage of Limited English households	8%
Languages by percentage in Limited English-Speaking Breakdown	Spanish: 58% Other Indo-European languages: 0% Asian-Pacific Island languages: 0% Other languages: 42%
Percent linguistically isolated population, New Mexico**:	5.1%
Percentage Low Income	52%
Percentage Low Income, USA***	26%

* An unofficial copy of EJScreen hosted by the Public Environmental Data Partners.

** U.S. Census Bureau. 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S1602. Limited English-Speaking Households.

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=S1602%3A%20LIMITED%20ENGLISH%20SPEAKING%20HOUSEHOLDS&g=0400000US35&tid=ACST5Y2020.S1602> (date of access: 5/4/2022).

*** U.S. Census Bureau. 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, from EJAM Report, an unofficial copy of EJScreen hosted by the Public Environmental Data Partners. (date of access: 3/5/2025).

The EJSCREEN results indicate that for the affected community the proportion of the population with limited English proficiency (LEP) is significant, and that the predominant non-English is Spanish. The Bureau has therefore performed a LEP assessment for the community and attaches that assessment to this PIP.

Because the affected community has a significant percentage of persons with difficulties communicating in English, the Bureau will consider the language and communication needs of this community when conducting public outreach and participation activities. To accomplish this the Bureau, to the extent its budget and time limitations allow, will provide the same information in

Spanish as in English in public comment notices, public meeting notices, and other announcements (e.g., radio broadcasts, brochures, signs, postcards) and will strive to make public participation efforts as inclusive as possible. See Element 5 for more specifics on the public outreach and participation activities.

Element 5 – Detailed Actions and Outreach Activities with the Affected Public

Public involvement activities required by statute or regulation for this Neglected Contamination Site are listed in the *Table of Mandated Public Involvement Activities* at the end of this document.

Public Participation – Outreach Activities

The Bureau will conduct the following outreach activities during the Neglected Contamination Site process:

- Placement of this PIP on the Bureau website
- Postal mailing and email notices
- Newspaper notices
- Notice posted on NMED website

Newspapers to be utilized in the notification process include:

- Statewide circulation (English): Las Cruces Sun or Albuquerque Journal
- Local circulation (English and Spanish): TriCity Record – published in Farmington, Aztec, and Bloomfield

Local, state, and federal government agencies, tribal entities, land grant officials and colonias will be notified about the Neglected Contamination Site process. A list of the agencies and officials notified can be provided upon request.

Indian Tribes, Pueblos and Nations will be notified about the Neglected Contamination Site process through the contacts maintained by the Indian Affairs Department at the following URLs:

<https://www.iad.state.nm.us/pueblo-tribes-and-nations/pueblos/>
<https://www.iad.state.nm.us/pueblo-tribes-and-nations/navajo/>
<https://www.iad.state.nm.us/pueblo-tribes-and-nations/apaches/>

Timelines and methods for submitting public comments are specified in the *Table of Mandated Public Involvement Activities*. Final Neglected Contamination Site documents will be available from the Bureau's contact identified in Element 2 of this PIP.

Postal Mailing or E-Mailing of Notices to Persons on the Site-Specific Mailing List

The Bureau solicits the names and contact information of interested parties with all public notices. The Bureau maintains those names on a Site-Specific Mailing List and provides the individuals with

information about regulatory activities for the site. Individuals, organizations, and other interested parties are added to the mailing list as requested. All public notices will contain a statement directing interested individuals to contact the Bureau contact for this Neglected Contamination Site if they want to be added to the site-specific mailing list.

Other means of outreach such as fliers announcing public comment periods and/or public meetings or hearings may be posted in locations throughout the community (e.g., local businesses, schools, libraries) and on the Department's website, at the Bureau's discretion after consideration of public interest and input.

PIP Contingency Plan

During a public health emergency or other unforeseen event outside the control of the Department, the Department will make every effort to ensure the public remains involved in and informed of the decision making and Neglected Contamination Site processes. The purpose of this PIP Contingency Plan is in part to address circumstances when public spaces are closed because of potential human exposure risks. The Department will attempt to identify and utilize alternate methods of document delivery to the public and public viewing when conventional methods and locations are unavailable. When it is unsafe to utilize the physical PIP and document repositories, the Department will consider utilizing electronic delivery methods deemed appropriate for the Neglected Contamination Site action. While operating under the PIP Contingency Plan, the public notice will include a statement specifying that the PIP Contingency Plan is in effect and that, "instead of placing a copy of the PIP for this Neglected Contamination Site action in a public location, NMED will make the PIP available to the community by sending the PIP by email or US mail to any community member requesting a copy. An individual may request a copy of the PIP utilizing the Bureau contact information in this public notice. When making such a request, please specify how you would like the document delivered. If you request a copy of a PIP, you will receive a revised PIP should the PIP be updated in the future." During the times of potential human exposure risks and the resultant implementation of this PIP Contingency Plan, public meetings and hearings will only be held when or through means by which the Department can ensure the public's health and safety and this PIP can be fully adhered to.

Attachments

- LEP Assessment
- A copy of the EJSCREEN Community Report, and a map showing the area evaluated

Table of Mandated Public Involvement Activities

Activity	Dates
Public Notice & Comment Period: New Mexico Water Quality Act § 74-6-9.D NMSA 1978 NMED must prepare a proposed Remediation Work Plan, issue public notice of the Work Plan, and provide opportunities for public comment and participation. Interested parties may submit comments to the Department concerning the proposed Work Plan.	The proposed Work Plan shall be made available for public review within ten (10) calendar days of the acceptance of the proposed Work Plan by the Department Public comment period is at least thirty (30) calendar days following the newspaper publication of the Public Notice
Public Meeting Notice: At NMED's discretion, a public meeting may be held if there is significant public interest in the proposed Remediation Work Plan. If a meeting is held, NMED shall mail a notice of the time and place of the meeting to all persons who have submitted written comments - Newspaper ads - Notice to interested parties - NMED website: https://www.env.nm.gov/public-notices/	At least ten (10) calendar days before the public meeting

ATTACHMENT
Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Assessment
Neglected Contamination Site: Former Aerex Refinery

Factor 1: The Number and Proportion of LEP Individuals Eligible to be Served or Likely to be Encountered in Community of Concern

See Public Involvement Plan (PIP), Table of EJSCREEN Results for the Affected Community.

Conclusions:

1. The percentage of total non-English languages spoken at home is 42%.
2. The percentage of limited English households is 8%, which is significantly greater than the statewide average (5.1%).
3. Spanish is the predominant non-English language spoken by LEP persons.
4. Historical participation: The Bureau maintains a site-specific mailing list. The former Aerex Refinery has been thoroughly investigated through NMED's Brownfields Program. No one has requested to be placed on a site-specific mailing list. A review of the administrative record for this site indicates limited public interest/participation. The review found a limited record of participation by the LEP community.

Factor 2: Frequency with which LEP Individuals Might Come in Contact with the Program

Contact with the Neglected Contamination Site process primarily occurs when a proposed remediation work plan is under review. The GWQB provides notice to the public and encourages participation. Individuals may participate by requesting information, submitting comments on the Remediation Work Plan, and requesting meetings. Some sites generate considerable public interest, but participation is low for most sites. Historical participation in Neglected Contamination Sites Program activities for this site is summarized under Factor 1.

Conclusion:

LEP participation and overall public interest in this site have been limited historically. Based on this record, the Bureau considers the potential for LEP contact with the Neglected Contamination Site process to be "infrequent."

Factor 3: Nature and Importance of the Activity or Service Provided by the Program

The Neglected Contamination Site Program activity is deemed by the GWQB to be "important" to NMED, the impacted community, and the State of New Mexico. The Neglected Contamination Site Program activity is important to NMED because it establishes site-specific requirements that must be met to ensure protection of public health and groundwater quality. The Neglected Contamination Site Program activity is important to the impacted community because abandoned, blighted, and potentially contaminated property can pose environmental risks to the

surrounding community. The Neglected Contamination Site Program activity is important to the State of New Mexico because state oversight of assessment/cleanup of neglected contaminated sites ensures that the State's limited groundwater resources are not impacted.

Conclusion:

The GWQB considers the Neglected Contamination Site Program activity "important" to NMED, to the state as a whole, and to the impacted community.

Factor 4: Resources Available to NMED for LEP Services and Associated Costs

For outreach to LEP communities associated with this Neglected Contamination Site Program action, NMED employs an in-house Spanish translator/interpreter and utilizes a phone interpretation service to assist during direct communication between LEP individuals and NMED staff. The costs of newspaper publication or radio broadcasts of public notice in Spanish and of interpretive services for a public meeting or hearing are being incorporated into the Bureau's budget, to the extent possible.

Conclusion:

The Bureau can accommodate the costs of the LEP services identified in this plan. If additional services are requested, the budgetary implications will be reviewed.

LEP Services Plan:

To accommodate the needs of the LEP individuals who may be interested in this Neglected Contamination Site Program process, the Bureau plans to:

1. Translate the Public Notice and any subsequent public notices into Spanish and publish in a paper serving the local community.
2. Provide interpretive services at any public meeting, if requested.
3. Interact with members of the LEP community using certified interpreters, when needed and feasible.

The Bureau will consider requests from members of the affected community for additional LEP services.

EJScreen Multisite Report

This report summarizes environmental and socioeconomic information for user-defined areas, and combines that data into environmental justice and supplemental indexes.

EJAM Report

4 Mile Ring Centered at 36.718096, -107.984054
Area in Square Miles: 50.27
Population: 10,794

Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data

SELECTED VARIABLES	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN STATE	USA AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN USA
POLLUTION AND SOURCES					
Particulate Matter (PM 2.5 in ug/m3)	5.99	6.11	48	8.45	5
Ozone (ppb)	65.3	65.3	42	61.8	72
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2)	3.9	8.1	16	7.8	13
Diesel Particulate Matter (ug/m3)	0.047	0.187	24	0.191	7
Toxic Releases to Air	180	29	98	4,600	30
Traffic Proximity and Volume (daily traffic count/distance to road)	12,000	730,000	16	1,700,000	5
Lead Paint Indicator (% pre-1960s housing)	0.08	0.19	45	0.3	32
Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)	0.14	0.34	71	0.39	66
RMP Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.43	0.20	80	0.57	60
Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.0	1.2	35	3.5	15
Underground Storage Tanks (UST) indicator	3.3	2.8	74	3.6	71
Wastewater Discharge Indicator (toxicity-weighted concentration/distance)	220	990,000	61	700,000	62
Drinking Water Non-Compliance	2.0	5.58	83	2.2	87
SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS					
Demographic Index USA	2.12	2.16	56	1.34	80
Supplemental Demographic Index USA	1.91	1.62	56	1.64	70
% Low Income	52%	39%	70	30%	83
% in limited English-speaking Households	8%	6%	75	5%	82
% Unemployed	4%	6%	51	6%	56
% with Less Than High School Education	15%	14%	64	11%	73
% under Age 5	8%	5%	79	5%	78
% over Age 64	16%	20%	44	18%	49
% People of Color	56%	62%	39	40%	69

Environmental Justice & Supplemental Indexes

The environmental justice and supplemental indexes are a combination of environmental and socioeconomic information. For each of the environmental indicators in EJScreen, there is an EJ Index and a Supplemental EJ Index. The indexes for a selected area are

compared to those for all other locations in the state or nation. For more information and calculation details on the EJ and supplemental indexes, please visit the [EJScreen website](#).

EJ INDEXES

The EJ indexes help users screen for potential EJ concerns. To do this, the EJ index combines data on low income and people of color populations with a single environmental indicator.

SELECTED VARIABLES	PERCENTILE IN STATE	PERCENTILE IN USA
EJ INDEXES		
Particulate Matter EJ Index	59	17
Ozone EJ Index	55	93
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) EJ Index	23	35
Diesel Particulate Matter EJ Index	30	23
Toxic Releases to Air EJ Index	89	57
Traffic Proximity and Volume EJ Index	19	13
Lead Paint EJ Index	46	57
Superfund Proximity EJ Index	72	82
RMP Proximity EJ Index	82	79
Hazardous Waste Proximity EJ Index	36	20
Underground Storage Tanks EJ Index	59	75
Wastewater Discharge EJ Index	71	82
Drinking Water Non-Compliance EJ Index	81	93
SUPPLEMENTAL EJ INDEXES		
Particulate Matter Supplemental EJ Index	56	8
Ozone Supplemental EJ Index	57	92
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) Supplemental EJ Index	22	18
Diesel Particulate Matter Supplemental EJ Index	29	9
Toxic Releases to Air Supplemental EJ Index	89	39
Traffic Proximity and Volume Supplemental EJ Index	19	5
Lead Paint Supplemental EJ Index	43	37
Superfund Proximity Supplemental EJ Index	75	76
RMP Proximity Supplemental EJ Index	82	70
Hazardous Waste Proximity Supplemental EJ Index	36	15
Underground Storage Tanks Supplemental EJ Index	58	62
Wastewater Discharge Supplemental EJ Index	72	75
Drinking Water Non-Compliance Supplemental EJ Index	81	88

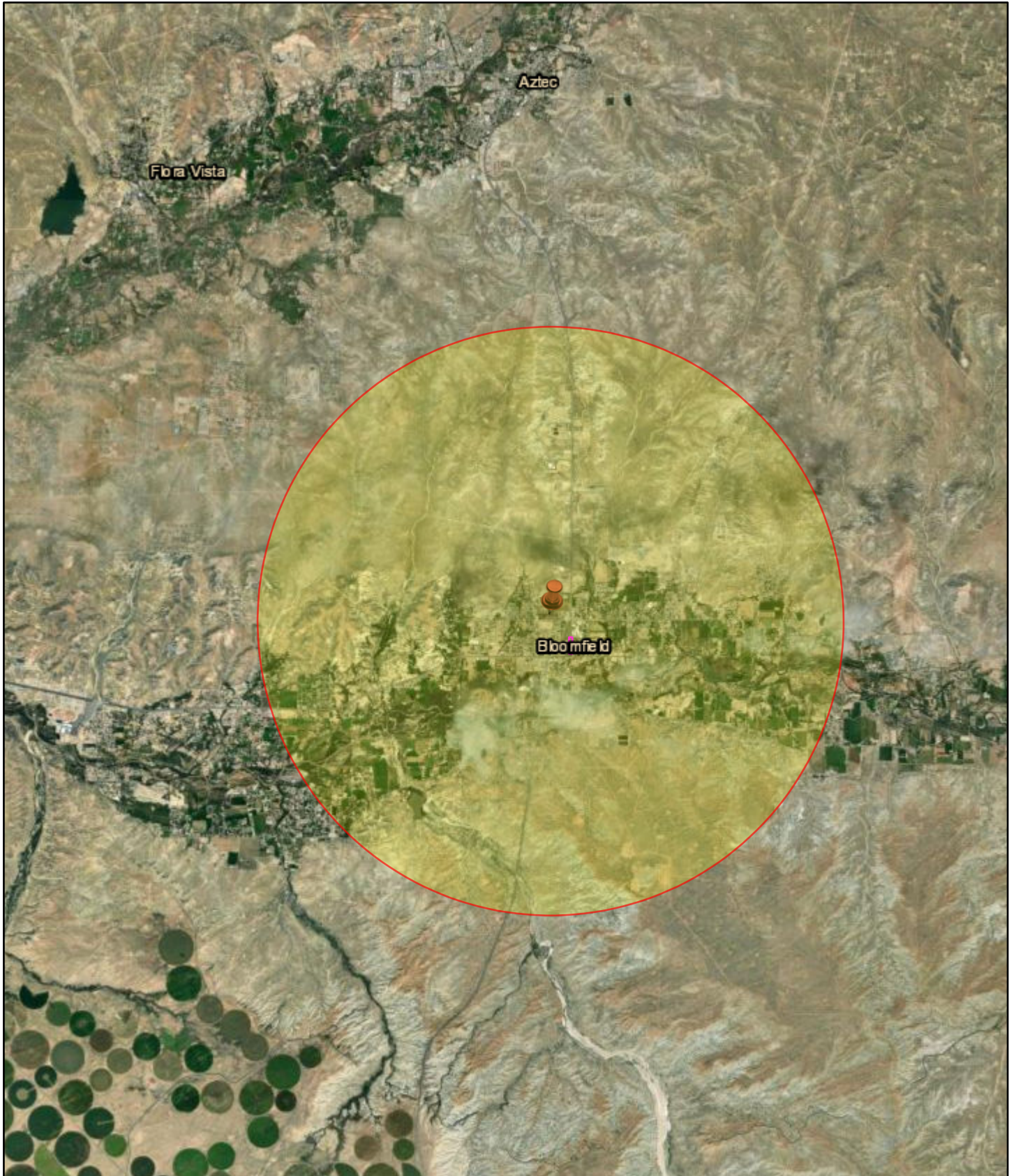
SELECTED VARIABLES	VALUE
BREAKDOWN BY RACE	
% Hispanic or Latino	35%
% Black or African American (non-Hispanic, single race)	0%
% Asian (non-Hispanic, single race)	0%
% American Indian and Alaska Native (non-Hispanic, single race)	17%
% Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic, single race)	0%
% Other race (non-Hispanic, single race)	0%
% Two or more races (non-Hispanic)	3%
% White (non-Hispanic, single race)	44%

BREAKDOWN BY GENDER	
% Male	52%
% Female	48%
LIMITED ENGLISH SPEAKING BREAKDOWN	
%Spanish lang (as %of limited English hhlds)	58%
%Other Indo-European lang (as %of limited English hhlds)	0%
%Asian-Pacific Island lang (as %of limited English hhlds)	0%
%Other lang (as %of limited English hhlds)	42%

Note: Diesel particulate matter index is from the EPA's Air Toxics Data Update, which is the Agency's ongoing, comprehensive evaluation of air toxics in the United States. This effort aims to prioritize air toxics, emission sources, and locations of interest for further study. It is important to remember that the air toxics data presented here provide broad estimates of health risks over geographic areas of the country, not definitive risks to specific individuals or locations. More information on the Air Toxics Data Update can be found at:

<https://www.epa.gov/haps/air-toxics-data-update>

Aerex PIP map



8/14/2025



Project 1



Search Result (point)

