



Public Involvement Plan

New Mexico Environment Department

Air Quality Bureau, Planning Section

Project: Methane Abatement Rule

Planning timeframe: June 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026

Project Planner: Alex Sanchez

Approval: DocuSigned by:
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Date: 9/10/2026

Purpose

The New Mexico Environment Department (“NMED” or “Department”) developed this Public Involvement Plan (“Plan”) to provide public participation opportunities and information that may be needed to participate in the methane abatement rule project. This project is necessary for the State to meet statewide emissions reduction obligations established by Executive Order 2019-003, which calls for a 45% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2030, compared to 2005 levels.

The Air Quality Bureau (“AQB” or “Bureau”) has developed this Plan to increase transparency regarding the planning and decision-making processes. This Plan integrates information about potentially affected communities and identifies resources needed by the Bureau to successfully incorporate community participation activities into the decision-making process. The Plan identifies the NMED staff and resources needed to accomplish these activities.

In developing this Plan, community participation needs across the State were assessed to ensure appropriate promotion of public outreach, by identifying whether there is a combination of environmental and demographic factors (e.g., low-income communities, minority communities, limited English proficient individuals, linguistically isolated households, etc.) that may impact public participation. This assessment identifies community outreach needs, provides for public access opportunities beyond statutory requirements, and supports the provision of adequate public access to information about the super-emitter program.

The methane abatement rule project may require public participation throughout different stages of planning and decision-making. The Bureau will follow this Plan, designed to ensure nondiscriminatory access to all applicable public participation opportunities related to policy, regulatory actions and statutory requirements.

Project Overview

Methane emissions are increasing in conjunction with increased oil and gas extraction activities in New Mexico. In addition, scientific surveys conducted over several years have shown increasing numbers of large-scale methane emissions from sources that do not appear to be a part of routine maintenance or normal operations of the source. The proposed methane abatement rule contains two sets of provisions to aid in mitigating methane emissions in New Mexico. First, the proposed rule establishes a state-level methane super-emitter program in New Mexico modeled after the federal methane super-emitter program. For purposes of the proposed rule, a super-emitter event means any emissions event that is detected using remote detection methods and has a quantified emission rate of 50 kg/hr of methane or greater. Under the new state super-emitter program, qualified entities may apply to NMED for certification as a third-party notifier. Once certified, a third-party notifier may submit notifications of super-emitter events detected using approved remote methane sensing technologies to NMED. NMED must then review the notification for completeness and accuracy and provide it to the owner or operator of any source located within 50 meters of the location of the detected super-emitter event. The owner or operator is then required to conduct an investigation to determine the source of the super-emitter event, repair the responsible methane leak(s), submit a report to NMED, and maintain related records.

Second, the proposed rule requires all process controller designated facilities to emit zero methane to the atmosphere beginning January 1, 2031, either by routing the emissions to a process through a closed vent system or by using self-contained natural gas-driven process controller(s). For purposes of

the proposed rule, a process controller designated facility means the collection of natural gas-driven process controllers at a gathering and boosting station, natural gas processing plant, tank battery, transmission compressor station, or well site. Natural gas-driven process controllers that function as emergency shutdown devices and process controllers that are not driven by natural gas are exempt from the designated facility. To ensure compliance with the new zero methane emission standard, the proposed rule specifies design and operating requirements for closed vent systems and initial and periodic inspection requirements for closed vent systems and self-contained natural gas-driven process controllers, and requires owners or operators to submit annual reports to NMED documenting all inspections and repairs and maintain related records.

Because methane emissions can occur anywhere in the state, and the effort to detect these emissions will also be statewide, this project is expected to receive statewide interest. Thus, outreach will be statewide as well.

Contacts

The following is the main contact for the methane abatement rule project. This contact will be included in public notices and outreach materials.

New Mexico Environment Department, Air Quality Bureau
Control Strategies Unit
525 Camino de los Marquez
Santa Fe, NM 87505
AQB-Control-Strategies@env.nm.gov

Website

Outreach materials and public notices will include links to the following website(s), where information and periodic updates will be provided.

<https://www.env.nm.gov/air-quality/proposed-regs/>.

Non-English Language Speaker Assistance and Accommodations

The Bureau will provide Spanish interpretation services at all public meetings, including public hearings, will provide other language interpretation services upon request, and will also include information in public notices about how persons may request interpretation services, along with accommodations for persons with disabilities. If any person requires an auxiliary aid (e.g., accommodations for persons who are disabled) to participate in any meeting or hearing, they may contact the project contact above, preferably 14 days prior to the meeting or hearing. TDD or TTY users may access the number via the New Mexico Relay Network, (800) 659-1779 (voice) or (800) 659-8331 (TTY).

Community Description / LEP Analysis

To address potential or existing environmental justice areas, the Bureau completed an initial screening of the potentially affected communities, using American Community Survey 5-year reports found on the U.S. Census Bureau website. These reports help identify communities with demographic factors which may benefit from a variety of approaches for notification and outreach communication.

Table 1, below, summarizes the demographics of potentially affected communities. These statistics are derived from American Community Survey reports for 2020 – 2024.

Table 1: Potentially affected communities and their estimated demographics.

Potentially Affected Communities	Total number of households	Per capita income	Persons of Color population (%)	Linguistically Isolated Households* (%)	Predominant Language in Linguistically Isolated Households	LEP Individuals† (%)
USA	129,227,496	\$44,673	42.6%	4.3%	Spanish	8.6%
New Mexico	825,021	\$36,218	63.5%	5.3%	Spanish	9.0%

* Linguistically Isolated Households are those in which no one 5 and over speaks English "very well," or speaks English only.

† Limited English Proficient Individuals are those that speak a language other than English at home **and** who speak English "less than very well."

The American Community Survey Report data indicate that a significantly larger percentage of population (63.5%) in New Mexico are persons of color, compared with the persons of color population (43.6%) of the United States. Households in New Mexico are 5.3% linguistically isolated, which is comparable to the U.S. average (4.3%). Spanish is the predominant language in these households. The per capita income is \$36,218 in New Mexico; which is lower than the average of U.S. per capita income (\$44,673).

The results of this screening suggest that attention should be paid to the linguistic and logistical needs of the low income, minority, linguistically isolated and limited English proficiency populations in New Mexico. Attention should be paid to additional language assistance, especially Spanish.

Historically, participation by LEP individuals in New Mexico-led rulemaking activities has been limited. Despite the historically infrequent participation by LEP individuals in similar proceedings, it is still important for the Bureau to incorporate the linguistic and communication needs of these communities when conducting public outreach and participation activities, to foster and support further participation by these communities.

To help accomplish this, the Bureau will translate all public notices into Spanish. The same materials will also be provided to the various Native American Tribes, Pueblos and Nations for distribution. Spanish interpretation services will also be provided at all public meetings and public hearings, with other language interpretation services provided upon request. The following are average costs associated with various services:

Costs associated with translation: \$1,000;

Costs associated with providing a language interpreter: \$2,500 – 5,000, depending on the number and length of the proceeding(s) and the language assistance requested;

Costs for a court reporter: \$2,000.

The Bureau strives to make public participation efforts as inclusive as possible within budget and time limitations. In addition, interpretation services will be made available upon request to the appropriate contact person listed in the "Contacts" section of this Plan.

Details of Outreach Activities

Based on the demographics outlined above, the history of public involvement for related projects, and projected impacts to potentially affected communities, the Bureau will provide important documents and public notices in Spanish as well as English, and will also provide documents to Native American

Tribes, Pueblos and Nations for distribution as they deem appropriate. All notices will include information on how to request additional materials in another language or how to request other communication assistance through NMED.

The following table offers information on how the public will be invited to participate in this project. Note that dates may be approximate. Notices will contain final dates, and specific locations and times.

Table 2: Timeline of public involvement opportunities.

Date(s)	Activity	Venue / Location	Time	Language service
July 16	Announcement of upcoming rulemaking and availability of draft rule for public comment through July 29	AQB Website and Listservs, including Oil and Gas Announcements, Regulatory and SIP Announcements, and Small Business Environmental Assistance Program Announcements	n/a	English and Spanish
August 13	Petition and Statement of Reasons filed with the EIB	n/a	n/a	n/a
August 17	Announcement of filing of petition and request that EIB consider petition at its August 28 meeting	AQB Website and Listservs, including Oil and Gas Announcements, Regulatory and SIP Announcements, and Small Business Environmental Assistance Program Announcements	n/a	English and Spanish
August 28	EIB meeting to consider hearing request	Hybrid – NM State Capital Building and Webex	9:00 a.m.	Services provided by EIB
August 31	Announcement of EIB decision to schedule public hearing beginning on December 1	AQB Website and Listservs, including Oil and Gas Announcements, Regulatory and SIP Announcements, and Small Business Environmental Assistance Program Announcements	n/a	English and Spanish
September 18	Web posting of hearing notice	AQB Website	n/a	English and Spanish
September 20 – September 24	Publication of hearing notice in local newspapers	Albuquerque Journal, Tri-City Record, Carlsbad Current-Argus, Roswell Daily Record, Artesia Daily Press, Hobbs Daily Sun, Santa Fe New Mexican, Las Cruces Sun News	n/a	English and Spanish
September 22	Publication of hearing notice in NM Register	NM Register	n/a	English and Spanish
September 22	Posting of rulemaking information on the	Sunshine Portal	n/a	English

Date(s)	Activity	Venue / Location	Time	Language service
	New Mexico Sunshine Portal			
September 22	Distribution of hearing notice via email	AQB Listservs, including Oil and Gas Announcements, Regulatory and SIP Announcements, Small Business Environmental Assistance Program Announcements	n/a	English and Spanish
September 22	Sending of proposed rule to Small Business Regulatory Advisory Commission	n/a	n/a	n/a
December 1 – December 8	Public Hearing	Hybrid – NM State Capital Building and Webex	9:00 a.m.	English and Spanish; other languages upon request

Public notices and outreach materials will inform the public that they can receive email updates through NMED's listserv by signing up at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/NMED/subscriber/new>, then choosing which topics they are most interested in. This project will periodically send updates to the AQB *Regulatory and SIP Announcements* listserv and other AQB listservs.

The following web sites will provide access to the official notices electronically, per the publication outlets described above:

New Mexico Register
<https://www.srca.nm.gov/nmac-home/new-mexico-register/>

Albuquerque Journal
<http://legals.abqjournal.com/>

Tri-City Record
<https://www.tricityrecordinm.com/classifieds/>

Carlsbad Current-Argus
<https://www.currentargus.com/submit-a-legal-notice/>

Las Cruces Sun News
<https://www.lcsun-news.com/>

Artesia Daily Press
<https://artesianews.com/>

Hobbs Daily Sun
<https://www.hobbsnews.com/>

Roswell Daily Record
[https://www.newmexicopublicnotices.com/\(S\(m1pyydogfqlnlvnbsjazaz4f\)\)/default.aspx](https://www.newmexicopublicnotices.com/(S(m1pyydogfqlnlvnbsjazaz4f))/default.aspx)

Santa Fe New Mexican
[https://www.newmexicopublicnotices.com/\(S\(m1pyydogfqlnlvnbsjazaz4f\)\)/default.aspx](https://www.newmexicopublicnotices.com/(S(m1pyydogfqlnlvnbsjazaz4f))/default.aspx)

There are many land grants within the state. Notices will be sent to active land grants via the New Mexico Land Grant Council:

NM Land Grant Council
1634 University Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87102
nmlandgrantcouncil@unm.edu

Notices will be sent to the five Councils of Governments and two Economic Development Districts listed below:

- Northwest NM COGs
- North Central NM Economic Development District
- Mid-Region COGs
- Eastern Plains COGs
- Southwest NM COGs
- Southeastern NM Economic Development District
- South Central COGs

Notices will be sent to the 25 Pueblos, Nations, and Tribes listed below:

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Pueblo of Acoma | • Pueblo of Santa Clara |
| • Pueblo of Cochiti | • Pueblo of Santo Domingo (Kewa) |
| • Pueblo of Isleta | • Pueblo of Taos |
| • Pueblo of Jemez | • Pueblo of Tesuque |
| • Pueblo of Laguna | • Pueblo of Zia |
| • Pueblo of Nambe | • Pueblo of Zuni |
| • Pueblo of Ohkay Owingeh | • Pueblo of Ysleta Del Sur |
| • Pueblo of Picuris | • Navajo Nation |
| • Pueblo of Pojoaque | • Navajo Nation Council |
| • Pueblo of San Felipe | • Jicarilla Apache Nation |
| • Pueblo of San Ildefonso | • Mescalero Apache Tribe |
| • Pueblo of Sandia | • Fort Sill Apache Tribe |
| • Pueblo of Santa Ana | |

Document Repositories

The following is a list of locations where copies of relevant documents will be available to the community. Public notices and outreach materials will inform the public of these locations, as appropriate.

NMED District I Field Offices

Albuquerque

5401 Watson Dr. SE
Albuquerque, NM, 87106
Phone: (505) 222-9500

Clovis Field Office

100 E. Manana Blvd. Unit 3
Clovis, NM 88101
Phone: (575) 762-3728

Gallup Field Office

1720 East Aztec Ave
Gallup, NM 87301
Phone: (505) 470-2473

Milan

708 Uranium Ave.
Milan, NM 87021
Phone: (505) 209-4042

Los Lunas

475 Courthouse Rd SE, Suite B
Los Lunas, New Mexico 87031
Phone: (505) 841-5280

Rio Rancho

4359 Jager Drive NE, Suite B
Rio Rancho, NM 87144
Phone: (505) 771-5980

Tucumcari

113 W. Center
Tucumcari, NM 88401
Phone: (575) 461-1671

NMED District II Field Offices

Santa Fe

2540 Camino Edward Ortiz
Santa Fe, NM 87507
Phone: (505) 827-1840

Española

912 N. Railroad Ave, Espanola,
NM, 87532
Phone: (505) 753-7256

Farmington

1800 East 30th St., Suite B
Farmington, NM 87401
Phone: (505) 566-9741

Las Vegas

2538 Ridgerunner Road
Las Vegas, New Mexico 87701
Phone: (505) 454-2801

Raton

1277A South Second Street
Raton, NM 87740
Phone: (575) 445-3621

Taos

145 Roy Road, Suite B
Taos, NM 87571
Phone: (575) 758-8808

Los Alamos

1183 Diamond Drive, Suite B
Los Alamos, NM, 87544
Phone: (505) 7476-3031

NMED District III Field Offices

Las Cruces

2301 Entrada del Sol
Las Cruces, NM 88001
Phone: (575) 288-2050

Alamogordo

811 E. First St, Suite D
Alamogordo, NM 88310
Phone: (575) 437-7115

Carlsbad

406 N. Guadalupe St. Suite C
Carlsbad, NM 88220
Phone: (575) 885-9023

Hobbs

2120 N Alto Dr.
Hobbs, NM 88240
Phone: (575) 397-6910

Roswell

1914 W. 2nd St.
Roswell, NM 88201
Phone: (575) 624-6046

Ruidoso

1216 E. Mechem, Building 2
Ruidoso, NM 88345
Phone: (575)-258-3272

Silver City

3082 32nd St Bypass Road, Suite D
Silver City, NM 88061
Phone: (575) 388-1934

Deming

918 E. Pear Street Deming, NM,
88030
Phone: (505) 670-5112

Electronic copies will be available at the following link, which will be included in public notices and outreach materials as appropriate: <https://www.env.nm.gov/air-quality/proposed-regis/>.