REGION 6
DALLAS, TX 75270

Ms. Cindy Hollenberg
Air Quality Bureau Chief, Air Quality Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
525 Camino de los Marquez, Suite 1A
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Dear Ms. Hollenberg:

Thank you for the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Air Quality Bureau's (AQB) submission the New Mexico 2026 Annual Monitoring Network Plan (NMED 2026 Plan), which we received on July 1, 2026. We appreciate the Bureau's continued efforts to operate, maintain and improve New Mexico's ambient air monitoring network in accordance with federal requirements. EPA has completed its review of the 2026 Plan, including proposed network modifications, to ensure the monitoring network continues to meet minimum requirements of 40 CFR Part 58, including Section 58.10 and Section 58.14. Based on our review, EPA approves the NMED 2026 Plan as meeting these requirements. Our technical comments are enclosed, and my staff and I are available to discuss any aspect of our review should questions arise.

We value our partnership with NMED and appreciate the commitment to maintaining a comprehensive and approvable monitoring network. If you have any questions, please contact me at (214) 665 3150, or your staff may contact Taim Shaikh, Acting Air Permitting, Monitoring & Grants Branch Manager, at (214) 665-7181 or at Shaikh.Taimur@epa.gov .

Sincerely,

JAMES MCDONALD
Digitally signed by JAMES MCDONALD
Date: 2026.08.10 07:03:18 -05'00'

James McDonald
Director
Air and Radiation Division

ENCLOSURE: Technical comments

Technical Comments
2026 Annual Monitoring Network Plan

The New Mexico 2026 Annual Monitoring Network Plan was received on July 1, 2026 (2026 Plan). In accordance with the requirements of 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 58 and its appendices, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the 2026 Plan, and our comments are provided below. These comments reflect the EPA's efforts in collaboration with the New Mexico Environment Department to maintain minimum monitoring requirements required under Part 58.

General Comments

We appreciate the NMED's submittal of the 2026 Plan in accordance with 40 CFR §58.10.

Equipment Upgrades
We thank the NMED's for its work to upgrade aging equipment, including replacing aging air monitoring site calibrators, as well as aging meteorological towers within the network since 2024.

Operation of monitoring network in accordance with 40 CFR Part 58 and Appendices A, B, C, D and E.
We appreciate the NMED's operation of the ambient air monitoring network in accordance with minimum federal requirements defined in 40 CFR Part 58 and Appendices A through E.

Air Quality System (AQS). Thank you for your efforts to ensure that the information in the AMNP and the AQS is complete and consistent. Please continue to update the AQS, and to correlate the details of each monitoring location in the ANP with the AQS.

Ozone (O_3) Monitoring (40 CFR Part 58, Appendix D Section 4.1)

The NMED is currently meeting the minimum network design requirements for ambient air quality monitoring for ozone (O_3). No changes were proposed to the O_3 network in the 2026 Plan.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) Monitoring (40 CFR Part 58, Appendix D Section 4.2)

The NMED is currently not required to operate ambient air quality monitors for CO.

Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2) Monitoring (40 CFR Part 58, Appendix D Section 4.3)

The NMED is currently meeting the minimum network design requirements for ambient air quality monitoring for NO_2. No changes were proposed to the NO_2 network in the 2026 Plan.

Sulfur Dioxide (SO_2) Monitoring (40 CFR Part 58, Appendix D Section 4.4)

The NMED is currently meeting the minimum network design requirements for SO_2.

Lead (Pb) Monitoring (40 CFR Part 58, Appendix D Section 4.5)

The NMED is currently meeting the network design requirements for ambient air quality monitoring for lead (Pb). At present, there are no Pb monitors operated by the NMED. No source-oriented monitors are presently required because there are no sources in New Mexico that exceed the 0.50 tons per year threshold.

Particulate Matter (PM) Monitoring (40 CFR Part 58, Appendix D, Sections 4.6 and 4.7)

The NMED is currently meeting the minimum network design requirements for ambient air quality monitoring for PM.

Particulate Matter of 10 Micrometers or Less (PM_{10}) (40 CFR Part 58, Appendix D Section 4.6)

The NMED operates a network of seven sites with PM_{10} State or Local Air Monitoring Stations (SLAMS) monitors and one site with a PM_{10} Special Purpose Monitor station. The NMED currently operates seven Method 122 BAM-1020 PM_{10} continuous samplers throughout their monitoring network. The Anthony site (AQS ID 35-013-0016) continues to be designated as the primary site for PM_{10} with the Met-One BAM 1020 FEM continuous monitor using pre-approved EPA funding through the American Rescue Plan since 2024.

Particulate Matter of 2.5 Microns or Less ($PM_{2.5}$) (40 CFR Part 58, Appendix D Section 4.7)
NMED operates a network of seven sites with a total of nine $PM_{2.5}$ SLAMS monitors.
We understand that the NMED operates eight Method 209 BAM-1022 $PM_{2.5}$ samplers in their air monitoring network.

Regarding the $PM_{2.5}$ Federal Reference Method (FRM) collocation requirement (CFR 40 part 58 App. A 3.2.3) the EPA and the NMED have been communicating regarding this requirement, and the EPA appreciates the work by the NMED to address this requirement as soon as possible. The NMED installed and is operating a Met One Instruments Environmental Sequential Sampler at the Anthony monitoring site to meet the FRM requirement. EPA understands that this instrument has been in operation since January 4, 2025.

Updates to the PM2.5 Network

Santa Fe Airport Site
The EPA understands that the Santa Fe Airport site is being relocated due to construction at the airport. The EPA understands that the NMED has a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Santa Fe Community College (SFCC) campus to establish a new air monitoring site. The EPA asks that the NMED please keep us updated on the progress of the relocation.

Proposed Alamogordo Site

The EPA understands that the NMED is requesting approval to establish an air monitoring site at the Alamogordo airport in Alamogordo, NM for $PM_{2.5}$. The EPA understands that no additional funding is required for the proposed new site. The EPA thanks the NMED for providing us with the proposal and will be in touch regarding our decision on the site.