

**MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, GOVERNOR**James C. Kenney, *Cabinet Secretary*Jennifer J. Pruett, *Deputy Secretary***NEWS RELEASE****Dec. 19, 2019**

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The Environment Department's mission is to protect and restore the environment and to foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations.

Environment Department reviewing Stage 1 Abatement Plan to investigate groundwater contamination from pipeline spill in Anthony

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has received a Stage 1 Abatement Plan proposal from Kinder Morgan for the continued investigation and subsequent clean-up of groundwater contaminated by a December 2018 Santa Fe Pacific Pipeline spill in Anthony. A failure of the pipeline resulted in a massive release of gasoline into the environment.

The Stage 1 Abatement Plan was submitted in accordance with state regulations. Kinder Morgan reported the release in a timely manner and performed response activities per Subsection 1203 of 20.6.2 NMAC. Groundwater in the vicinity of the spill is located between 10 to 12 feet below the surface and is used for both potable drinking and irrigation water. No drinking water sources have been impacted by this contamination.

The spill occurred on Dec. 18, 2018, when approximately 400,000 gallons of gasoline were released from the 12-inch pipeline into the Anthony Drain (Drain), located approximately 300 feet north of 4220 Three Saints Road in Anthony. The release affected approximately 1,300 linear feet of the Anthony Drain, owned by the Elephant Butte Irrigation District, as well as portions of privately-owned property east and west of the Drain.

To date, Kinder Morgan has recovered approximately 283,000 gallons of LNAPL, which is liquid floating on top of the water table, from the Anthony Drain and excavated and properly disposed of approximately 38,600 cubic yards of contaminated soil at two permitted facilities under direction of Kinder Morgan's consultant and verified by NMED.

Kinder Morgan has summarized its previous response and investigation activities in the Stage 1 Abatement Plan, along with all corrective actions they have completed to date. Once Kinder Morgan completes the characterization activities, NMED will require a Stage 2 Abatement Plan that outlines clean-up strategies to remediate groundwater contamination at the site. While the abatement process is iterative, NMED expects that Kinder Morgan will submit a Stage 2 Abatement Plan in 2020.

NMED continues its investigation into this spill and is evaluating the possibility of assessing civil penalties and additional injunctive relief against Kinder Morgan for violations of applicable state and federal laws.

The Stage 1 Abatement Plan proposal can be found at:

<https://www.env.nm.gov/gwb/NMED-GWQB-PublicNotice.htm>. For more information, contact Dezbah Jesus, State Cleanup Program Project Manager, at 505-222-9555 or dezbah.jesus@state.nm.us.

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